series review:

Let’s see how much you’ve learned with a simple little “fill in the black” quiz. *Everyone gets a quiz card with the fill-in-the-blank sentences below to first complete as best as they can on their own. Then go over the answers.*

1. The Bible indicates that there are over 100 _________ angels in existence!

2. Angels cannot reproduce and they will never ____.

3. Demons have __________ power.

4. God’s people should not be ________ of demons because they have no power over Christ Followers.

5. A ouji board is a potential doorway for __________ activity.

6. Pharaoh released God’s people from slavery after _____ plagues.

7. The last plague brought upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians was death of every ____________ son.

8. A mysterious __________ wrote a message on a wall to King Belshazzar.

9. King Belshazzar had taken items from the God’s holy ____________ and used them for partying.

10. ______________, the prophet, interpreted the writing on the wall and told the king what it said.

11. The message told the king that doom and _______________ were just around the corner for him.

12. _________ was a prophet who disobeyed God’s command to preach to the people of Nineveh.

13. God caused this prophet to be swallowed by a _________.

14. After _____ days, he was vomited out of the large fish.

15. Jonah wanted ________ for himself, but _________________ for the people of Nineveh that he didn’t like.
Lesson intro: The sky is falling

Like I said, today we come to the END of our teaching series on Scary, Gross and Weird Stuff with a lesson about THE END OF THE WORLD.

Let’s begin with a little movie clip. See if you recognize this.

Show a clip from “Chicken Little” where he’s yelling “The sky is falling. The sky is falling.” (I’ll pick up the movie and mark the exact spot.)

Chicken Little thought that the event that would bring the world to an end would be the sky falling. Hmm, I wonder what your thoughts are about the end of the world. Do you think we’re close to the end of the world – and how do you think it will happen? (see if you get any responses)

Well, let’s take a look at what some people in downtown Frederick thought about this idea of the end of the world. (show video clip of “man on the street” interviews – same one being shown in adult service this Sunday)

no need to fear

We’ve had some gross stories in this teaching series. And we’ve had some weird stories. But today….without a doubt….is a very scary topic…the END OF THE WORLD.

But even though this is kind of a scary topic – we don’t need to be afraid. Let me explain why. Think about this.

What’s one of the scariest movies you’ve ever seen? (allow responses) Now think about the first time you saw that movie and how scared you were? Now if you watched that same movie a second time, or third, or fourth – were you as scared? Why not? (because you already knew what was going to happen!)

It’s the same way with this idea of the world coming to an end. We may not know exactly when or how the world is going to end, but God gives us enough information about that we essentially already KNOW what’s going to happen and therefore we don’t need to be afraid.

You see, the Bible tells us what to expect, so then it won’t take us by surprise like a scary movie where we don’t know what’s going to happen.

We're going to take a closer look at one of the Gospels: the book of Matthew – to see what it says about the end of the world and why we don't need to be afraid.

Matthew 24

Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him in private and asked, "When will this happen? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?"

Jesus answered: Don't let anyone fool you. Many will come and claim to be me. They will say that they are the Messiah, and they will fool many people.

You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. People will starve to death, and in some places there will be earthquakes. But this is just the beginning of troubles.

You will be arrested, punished, and even killed. Because of me, you will be hated by people of all nations. Many will give up and will betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will come and fool a lot of people. Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others.

This will be the worst time of suffering since the beginning of the world, and nothing this terrible will ever happen again. If God doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive. But because of God's chosen ones, he will make the time shorter.
See, there’s nothing to be afraid of! Well, okay, that part does sound a little scary, I’ll admit. But God doesn’t leaving us hanging there. Look what he goes on to tell us about what happens.

But if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved. When the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come.

Right after those days of suffering, “The sun will become dark, and the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall, and the powers in the sky will be shaken.” Then a sign will appear in the sky. And there will be the Son of Man.

Do you know who the Son of Man is? That’s Jesus! He will physically come down from out of the sky and return to the earth!

At the sound of a loud trumpet, he will send his angels to bring his chosen ones together from all over the earth.

Do you know who the chosen ones are?

That’s all the people who have CHOSEN to trust and follow Jesus. He will send out his angels – the angels we learned about in lesson 1 of this series – and they will gather up all the people from all over the world who have made that decision to trust Christ and they will physically take us to meet Jesus in the sky first and then return to the earth with Him!

It sounds wild, but it’s true! It’s not just some fairytale.

3 important things we know for sure

So while some of the end times will be a bit scary and difficult for those of us on this earth at that time, here are the 3 most important things we know to be true and are going to happen that can take away all the fear and anxiety:
1. We (God and His people) win!

**Revelation 20: 9-10**

...fire will come down from heaven and destroy the whole army (of Satan). Then the devil ... will be thrown into the lake of fire and burning sulfur. He will ... be in pain day and night forever and ever.

2. Jesus returns!

**John 14: 1-3**

Jesus said: "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together!"

3. A brand new world begins!

**Revelation 21: 1-5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, all these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
When is all this going to happen?

So, WHEN is all this going to happen? Well, the Bible tells us this about WHEN it’s all going to happen:

1 Thessalonians 5

I don’t think, friends, that I need to deal with the question of when all this is going to happen. You know as well as I that the day of the Master’s coming can’t be posted on our calendars. He won’t call ahead and make an appointment any more than a burglar would.

So what’s the answer to WHEN the world will come to an end? The answer is:

No one but God knows. And since we don’t know, we just need to be sure we’re prepared and ready. There are 2 things we all NEED to be prepared and ready:

1) We need to be sure that we are safe – and the only way to be safe is through Jesus Christ and a personal relationship with Him. That means we’ve made our decision to put our faith and our trust in Him and become one of His followers. Have you made that decision yet?

2) We need to hold onto and remember the 3 big important things that we already know for sure about the end of this world:

   a. We win! (God and His people)
   b. Jesus returns!
   c. A brand new world begins!