

John's Vision of Jesus

1

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 1:9-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to John in a vision.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. Patmos was a small Greek island where the Roman emperor often exiled prisoners. John was likely sent to Patmos as a prisoner, arrested for preaching the gospel.

With this session, introduce preschoolers to the Book of Revelation—the last book of the Bible. Other Bible books tell us about things that happened in past, but Revelation tells about things that will happen in the future. A glimpse of the future kingdom of God gives believers hope and encourages them to remain faithful to Christ.

In Revelation 1, Jesus appeared to John in a vision to tell about the end of time. John was on the island of Patmos when he heard a voice telling him to write what he saw. John turned and, in a vision, saw Jesus: He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash wrapped around His chest. His head and hair were as white as snow, and His eyes were like a fiery flame. Because the Book of Revelation is highly symbolic, avoid dwelling on the physical description of Jesus. Jesus' appearance to John reveals what Jesus is like: worthy of all honor, powerful, and victorious.

John saw Jesus walking among seven lampstands, symbols for the seven churches. Explain to the boys and girls you teach that lampstands are used to bring light into dark places. That is the purpose of the church—to bring the light of the gospel into a dark world.

When John saw Jesus, he fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus reached down and put His hand on John. He said, "Don't be afraid" (Rev. 1:17). Jesus explained that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Now Jesus is lifted up in glory and honor. We can look forward to a future with Him forever.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

John's Vision of Jesus

Revelation 1:9-20

- **Draw it:** While reading the Bible story aloud, a second volunteer will draw pictures from the Bible story on either a large dry erase board or sheet of paper. You may also draw the pictures before hand.
- **Pantomime it:** Invite a volunteer to dress up as John in plain Bible times clothes. Invite another volunteer to dress up as Jesus with a long white robe and golden sash. Volunteers will pantomime the Bible story as you tell it.

Like many people who believed in Jesus, **John was hurt and hated because he told people about Jesus. The leader of Rome punished John by sending him to a small island. When John was on the island, he had a vision. A vision is like a dream, but John was awake.**

John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. The voice said, “Write on a scroll what you see. Then send the message to the seven churches in Ephesus (EF uh suhs), Smyrna (SMUHR nuh), Pergamum (PUHR guh muhm), Thyatira (THIGH uh TIGH ruh), Sardis (SAHR diss), Philadelphia (FIL uh DEL fih uh), and Laodicea (lay AHD ih SEE uh).”

John turned around and saw seven gold lampstands. Then he saw who had spoken to him: it was Jesus! Jesus was wearing a long robe with a gold sash wrapped around His chest.

When John saw Jesus, he fell down at Jesus’ feet. Jesus put His hand on John and said, “Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever.”

Jesus said that the seven lampstands were the seven churches. He told John to write about everything he had seen.

Christ Connection: Jesus showed Himself to John. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce THE STORY

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Welcome time

- "I Stand Amazed" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "That's Silly!" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle the eight silly things in the picture.

SAY • Good job finding the things that did not belong.

In today's Bible story, John saw something that was not silly at all. He saw Jesus! Jesus showed John important things and told John to write down everything he saw.

Line up

Play the key passage song, and invite the preschoolers to wander about the classroom. Instruct them to get in line as quickly as they can as soon as the music stops. When they are in line, ask preschoolers to tell you who is first in line. Then ask preschoolers to tell you who is last in line. Play again as time allows.



LOW PREP

- "Making Everything New" song (optional)

SAY • In our game, was anyone able to be both first and last at the same time? No, we could only be one or the other. In our Bible story, Jesus told John that He is the First and the Last. We'll learn more in our Bible story.

Play with water and rocks

Cover a table with towels. Set a large plastic tub filled with a few inches of water on a table. Place rocks inside the tub with the water. Set out various accessories such as basters, cups, funnels, and tongs for preschooler to use as they play.

SAY • In today's Bible story John, one of Jesus' disciples, was on an island. An *island* is a piece of land that has water all the way around it. This island was very rocky. John was there as a prisoner for telling people about Jesus. Something amazing happened to John on that island. We will find out in today's Bible story.

- towels
- plastic tub
- water
- rocks
- basters (optional)
- cups (optional)
- funnels (optional)
- tongs (optional)

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to count to seven as they walk to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

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Introduce the Bible story

Tell preschoolers about a friend you have not seen in a long time. Ask preschoolers to tell you about someone they have not seen in a long time.

SAY • In today's Bible story, one of Jesus' disciples, John, saw Jesus. The last time John saw Jesus was many years before when Jesus went up to heaven. When John saw Jesus in today's Bible story, John fell down in worship. Let's listen to what Jesus said to John.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Revelation 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • We can trust everything we read in the Bible because it is true! God gave us the Bible and God is trustworthy.

Our story today comes from the Book of Revelation.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- Bible
- bookmark
- "John's Vision of Jesus" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • **Jesus appeared to John in a vision.** Jesus had a special message He wanted John to write down and

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

send to seven churches. Jesus told John that He was the First and the Last, the Living One!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Where was John when he had the vision? (*an island*)
2. Why was John on the island? (*He told people about Jesus.*)
3. How many churches was John supposed to write to? (*seven churches*)
4. How many lampstands did John see? (*seven lampstands*)
5. Whom was talking to John? (*Jesus*)
6. What did John do when he saw Jesus? (*He fell down at Jesus' feet.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, ***What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.***

Jesus can make all things new because He already won the fight against sin and death. Jesus is the First and the Last, the Living One!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Revelation 21:5. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, “Making Everything New.”

SAY • The words in our key passage are Jesus’ words! Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Jesus is alive, and He is the One seated on the throne! We can believe today’s story because it is true and comes from Jesus.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Making Everything New” song

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

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• masking tape

Turn around

Place a strip of masking tape on the ground before class. Invite the children to line up single file at one side of the classroom in front of the masking tape strip. Guide the first child in line to spin in a circle seven times, finishing with her back towards the tape. The child will then try to turn around and walk in a straight line on the tape. Play again with the next child in line. If your classroom has many children, consider using two strips of tape and forming two lines of children to play at once. Keep an adult helper close by to prevent children from falling over.

SAY • It was hard to turn around and walk in a straight line after spinning! In our Bible story, John had a vision where he heard a voice behind him. He turned around and was surprised to see Jesus! **Jesus appeared to John in a vision.** Jesus wanted John to write down everything he saw.

Make trumpets

Before the session, poke through the bottom of a paper cup to create a large hole. Give each preschooler a paper towel tube and a foam cup. Help a preschooler use colorful duct tape to attach the bottom of her cup to one end of the

- paper towel tubes
- foam cups
- colorful duct tape
- stickers
- markers

paper towel tube. Show a preschooler how to blow through the other end of the paper towel tube like a trumpet. She may decorate her trumpet with stickers and markers.

SAY • John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. It was Jesus!

Jesus appeared to John in a vision. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Sort and count stars

Before class, print the “Stars” printable on different colors of paper. Cut out the stars. Invite the preschoolers to sort the stars by size or color. Once preschoolers have finished sorting, guide them through counting how many stars are in each grouping.

SAY • The Bible says that when **Jesus appeared to John in a vision**, He had seven stars in His hand. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

- “Stars” printable
- scissors (adult use only)

Make a scroll

Before class, fill a medium-sized plastic bin with water and place three or four tea bags in the water to steep. Distribute sheets of white paper to each child. Children may decorate their paper with crayons. Invite the preschoolers to dip their paper into the tea, and then lay them aside to dry. Once the papers have dried, guide the preschoolers to roll up their scroll, and tie a string or ribbon around it.

- Allergy Alert download
- paper
- crayons
- plastic bin
- water
- tea bags, 3 or 4
- string or ribbon

SAY • Our scrolls look so old after being dipped in tea! In our Bible story, **Jesus appeared to John in a vision.** Jesus wanted John to write down everything he saw in a scroll and send the scroll to seven churches. Jesus wanted John to tell the churches that He is the First and the Last, the Living One! Jesus won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Look for living and non-living things

• books depicting things
that are living and
non-living

Set out an assortment of books that contain images of both living and non-living things. Open the books and ask preschoolers to point out things that are living and non-living in the pictures.

SAY • Jesus appeared to John in a vision. Jesus had died on the cross for sin, but He came back to life and is alive! Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve cookies or toast cut into star shapes for snack. Explain that the Bible says that Jesus held seven stars in His hand when **Jesus appeared to John in a vision**. Remind the children that Jesus called Himself the Living One because Jesus is alive! He died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Jesus is alive forever!

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a man on an island. Remind the children that John was on the island because he wouldn't stop telling people about Jesus. John knew Jesus is alive and the only One who can save us from our sins! Pray for the children.

SAY • Jesus, thank You for appearing to John! You are the Living One because You rose from the dead! Help us to believe that You already won the fight against sin and death. Give us hearts that trust in You alone. We love You. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers