

Jesus on the Throne

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 4:2–5:14

MAIN POINT: All people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision. Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. John wrote about what he saw in the Book of Revelation. John saw a vision of the future. John saw a throne in heaven and the Lord was on the throne.

John saw a scroll in the Lord's right hand. A mighty angel asked, "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" But no one in heaven was worthy. No one on earth was worthy. No one under the earth was worthy either.

John began to cry loudly because no one was worthy! Then John saw Jesus, the resurrected Lamb. The elders threw their

crowns at His feet. They worshiped Him and sang a new song. John heard every creature, everywhere, worshiping the Lamb together.

Revelation 4:11 says, “Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”

John’s vision gives us a glimpse of our future and also reminds us of a present reality: The Lord is on His throne. After His death and resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (Heb. 10:12)

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is worthy of our praise. All the creatures in John’s vision worshiped Jesus. As you teach kids, hold up Jesus as our treasure who is worthy of all honor. Worship Him together in song.

Jesus was killed on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus deserves all praise, honor, and blessing. We look forward to the day we will join with all the saints in worshiping Jesus forever.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

• **Stand and shout:**

Emphasize declarations of praise by moving to another position or standing and telling the words of the creatures, elders, or angels in a loud voice.

• **Use gestures:** Move your hands as you tell the story to convey the telling of a vision and of a future reality.

Jesus on the Throne

Revelation 4:2–5:14

John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision. Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. John wrote about what he saw in the Book of Revelation.

John saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The One seated looked like fiery red stones. A rainbow like an emerald surrounded the throne. He saw 24 thrones around it, and 24 elders sat on the thrones. Each elder wore a gold crown.

John saw four living creatures around the throne. “The first creature was like a lion; the second creature was like a calf; the third creature had a face like a man; and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. Each creature had six wings. **All day and night they said:**

**“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God, the Almighty,
who was, who is, and who is coming.”**

John saw the creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One on the throne. **The elders fell down and worshiped. They said to God:**

**“You are worthy to receive
glory and honor and power,
because You have created all things.”**

Then John saw a scroll in the Lord’s right hand. A mighty angel asked, “Who is worthy to open the scroll?”

No one in heaven was worthy. No one on earth was worthy. No one under the earth was worthy either. John began to cry loudly because no one was worthy! **At last, one of the elders said, “Look! The Lion of Judah may open**

the scroll. He is worthy!”

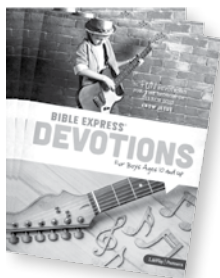
Then John saw someone near the throne. He was standing like a slaughtered lamb. **He took the scroll, and the elders and living creatures fell down before Jesus, the Lamb.** The elders threw their crowns at His feet. They worshiped Him and sang a new song.

John heard thousands and thousands of angels around the throne. They said in a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

John heard every creature everywhere worshiping the Lamb together.

Christ Connection: John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus was killed on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids 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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BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 4:2–5:14

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KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to imagine entering the throne room of a king. What might it look like? Who would be there? What would everyone be doing?

SAY • Those are some interesting ideas. We'll hear today about what John saw in the throne room of heaven.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Praise Code" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "Praise Code" on the activity page. Kids should use the code to uncover some words of praise. Invite kids to share the words they found.

SAY • Praise is one way people can respond to God. The Bible tells us to praise the Lord. We can praise Him through giving offerings, praying, and telling others what He has done for us.

We can also praise God with music as we sing or play songs on musical instruments. In today's Bible story, we will hear about some of the words of praise John heard in a vision about the end of time.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: What does heaven look like?

Distribute pieces of paper. Ask the kids to spend a few minutes drawing what they think heaven looks like. After several minutes, allow a few kids to describe their pictures for the rest of the group.

SAY • The Book of Revelation describes a little about heaven: streets of gold, gates made of precious gems, a place of genuine beauty. We don't know exactly what heaven looks like—it's far greater than we can imagine—but the greatest thing about heaven is not that it is beautiful. The greatest thing about heaven is that Jesus is there. We will be with Him forever.

OPTION 2: Crown toss

Before the session, cut strips of heavyweight paper or poster board to form a crown. Prepare one per kid.

Distribute the crowns, markers, and stickers or stick-on jewels. Encourage each kid to decorate his crown.

While the kids decorate their crowns, tape a circle in the middle of the room. When a kid finishes, instruct him to staple the ends of the crown together. Then guide all of the kids to line up a few feet away from the circle. Position a plastic cone in the center of the circle and challenge them to toss their crowns onto the cone.

SAY • Today's Bible story is about a vision John had about the end of time. People put their crowns at Jesus' feet. Why would they do that? Let's find out more.

LOW PREP

- paper
- crayons or colored pencils

- heavyweight paper or poster board
- markers
- stickers or plastic stick-on jewels
- stapler
- masking tape
- scissors
- plastic cone

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• sunglasses

• large, heavy Bible

[Leader enters, panting as if out of breath. Leader's hair is disheveled with sunglasses slightly askew.]

Option: Invite a multilingual volunteer to say the phrase from Revelation 4:8 in another language.

LEADER • Oh, wow. I am so glad to be back on the ground!

This just happened: I was up in my hot air balloon, taking in the beautiful views of the city, when all of a sudden ... whoosh! I was nearly blown right out of the sky by a strong gust of wind! I probably would have blown away if I hadn't been holding onto this heavy Bible. This here is a lifesaver—literally! The big hot air balloon festival is in a couple of weeks. I hope we don't run into any windy days. I really do not want to have an experience like that again!

[Open the Bible to the Book of Revelation.] Anyway, it sure is good to see you all again. I can't wait to share with you another Bible story from the Book of Revelation. Let's get started.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • The big picture question we've been learning with each of our Bible stories from Revelation is, ***What will happen when Jesus returns?*** I'm going to ask the question, and then I want you to say the answer. Ready? ***What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.***

This is something we look forward to! We have seen how, since sin first entered the world, sin has affected everything. Sin brought death and suffering and pain, but Jesus is going to change all of that.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle. Point to previous stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

LEADER • Take a look at our timeline. Here are all the Bible stories we have heard so far. The Bible contains so many stories, and they all fit together to tell one big story—the story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. That's what the Bible is all about.

The last couple of weeks, we have been talking about how John had a vision of Jesus. Last week, we learned that Jesus had specific messages for the seven churches. **Jesus told the seven churches to stand strong in the faith.** After that, John saw a glimpse of what heaven is going to be like. That's what we are going to talk about today.

In his vision, thousands and thousands of people were singing at the throne of Jesus. It will be an amazing experience when we see and worship Jesus on His throne.

- Bibles
- “Jesus on the Throne” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Revelation 4:2–5:14. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus on the Throne.”

LEADER • After John wrote down the letters to the seven churches, John had another vision. This one was of heaven. In it, Jesus was sitting on a throne of glowing precious stones.

Around Him were 24 elders wearing gold crowns and four different types of creatures were around Him, praising Him and singing “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, who is and who is to come.” The elders bowed down and worshiped the Lord, giving Him honor and glory.

Then John saw a scroll in the Lord’s right hand. An angel asked if anyone was worthy to open the scroll. There was no one worthy in heaven or on earth, so John cried. But then one of the elders told John to stop crying because the Lion from the tribe of Judah—Jesus!—was victorious. He alone was worthy to open the scroll.

When Jesus took the scroll, everyone began praising Him again, singing songs of worship and praise. John heard every creature in heaven, on earth under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say: “Blessing and honor and glory and dominion to the One seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

One day, **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Revelation 21:5.

Form two groups of kids. Prompt the first group to say the first half of the key passage. Then prompt the second group to say the second half of the key passage. Finally, guide everyone to say the entire key passage together.

LEADER • Jesus is seated on the throne, and He is making everything new! Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls in singing "Everything New."

- Key Passage Poster
- "Everything New" song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Think about how people react when they see a famous actor or musician. Why do people get so excited? Think about how people will react to standing before Jesus one day. Watch this video.

Show the "Unit 36, Session 3" discussion starter video.

Then lead kids to discuss the following questions:

- Why does Jesus deserve all glory and honor?
- How can we show honor and glory to Jesus?
- What can we most look forward to about eternal life?

LEADER • God calls us to worship Him here on earth, looking forward to our worship of Him in heaven.

- "Unit 36, Session 3" discussion starter video

• “I Stand Amazed” song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • We can look forward to the day when we will stand before God and His throne. **All people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.** Let’s sing now.
Sing together “I Stand Amazed.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Father God, thank You so much for Your Word.
We thank You that You sent Your Son to save us from our sins and that You are sending Him again to make all things new! Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- sticky notes
- marker

Before the session, write each word of the key passage onto a separate sticky note and put the sticky notes under chairs or around the room. Challenge the kids to find the sticky notes and put the words of the key passage in the correct order. Invite kids to recite the key passage from memory.

SAY • Great job. If you haven't yet memorized our key passage, keep working on it. Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true about God and about ourselves—even when we don't have a Bible with us. God's Word is faithful and true.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker

Distribute Bibles and guide boys and girls to open to the Book of Revelation. Remind them that Revelation is the last book in the Bible. Ask if kids remember who wrote the Book of Revelation. (*John*) Point out that today's Bible story comes from Revelation 4–5.

Form two or more teams and tell kids they are going to play a trivia game. Instruct them not to shout out the answer, but instead to raise their hands if they know the answer. Ask a volunteer to keep score on the board.

Ask the following review questions. Award a point for each correct answer:

1. How many elders were seated around Jesus? (*twenty-four, Rev. 4:4*)
2. How many creatures were around Jesus' throne? (*four, Rev. 4:6*)
3. How many seals were on the scroll? (*seven, Rev. 5:1*)
4. What was John's reaction when he thought there was no one who could break the seals? (*He cried, Rev. 5:4*)
5. Who was worthy to break the seals on the scroll? (*Jesus, the Lion from the tribe of Judah; Rev. 5:5*)
6. Who worshiped Jesus? (*every creature in heaven, on the earth, and in the sea; Rev. 5:13*)
7. ***What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.***

SAY • John wrote the Book of Revelation to tell believers about the vision he had from God. John received warnings for seven churches and also revelations about what will happen before the end of time. John saw that **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Who is greater?

Label one bucket *A* and another bucket *B*. Arrange the buckets in the center of the room, a few feet apart. Give each kid a handful of cotton balls.

Explain that for each set of options, kids should toss a cotton ball into a bucket depending on which option they think is greater. Give your own options or use the following.

- Sharks or dinosaurs?
- Cats or dogs?

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- cotton balls
- buckets, 2
- marker
- masking tape

- Football or basketball?
- Strength or speed?
- Ketchup or mustard?

Compare the buckets after each round to determine which option kids preferred. Play additional rounds. Invite volunteers to announce their own options. If kids run out of cotton balls, gather them from the floor or from the buckets and play again.

SAY • Even though we don't necessarily know which of these things is the greater, we can be sure of one thing: Jesus is greater than any of these things! No one is greater than Jesus, and one day, **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

OPTION 2: Tribe and tongue collage

Provide magazines and invite the kids to find and cut out pictures of all kinds of people. Then prompt the kids to glue these pictures onto the poster board.

As kids work, write on a chalkboard or dry erase board these words from Revelation 4:8: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty." Then write out translations in other languages. Encourage kids to copy the translations onto their poster. When kids finish, display the posters.

• Spanish: *Santo, santo, santo, es el Señor Dios*

Todopoderoso

• Bosnian: *Sveti, svet, sveti, Gospodine Bog Svemogući*

• Dutch: *Heilig, heilig, heilig, Heer God, Almachtige*

• Swahili: *Mtakatifu, mtakatifu, mtakatifu, Bwana Mungu Mwenye Nguvu*

• French: *Saint, saint, saint, le Seigneur Dieu Tout-Puissant*

- Bibles
- poster board
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- markers
- kid-friendly magazines with pictures of people from various countries
- glue sticks

SAY • While we worship Jesus in English here, people all over the world worship Him in their own language. Jesus isn't just worthy of worship from people living in one area of the world; Jesus died for His people all around the world.

When Jesus comes back, people from every tribe and every tongue, every country, and every language will worship Him together. **All people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, telling God we look forward to the day we will worship Him on His throne. Thank God for creating people of every tongue and tribe and nation, for His glory.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The One Who Is Worthy" on the activity page. Kids should number the events in the order they happened in today's Bible story.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "The One Who Is Worthy" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.