

Jesus on the Throne

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 4:2–5:14

MAIN POINT: Everyone and everything will worship Jesus.

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

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 preschoolers, 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

- **Singit:** Invite the children to help sing to the Lord during the story. Let them repeat the song when the creatures praise the Lord. Let them repeat the songs when the elders bow down to the Lord. Let the children sing songs of worship at the end like the angels and elders.

- **Use props:** Invite the children to sit in a circle around a large chair as a throne and place a scroll on the throne. The storyteller can tell the story from the middle using the props throughout the story.

Jesus on the Throne

Revelation 4:2–5:14

John was on a small island when he **had a vision of Jesus**. **Jesus showed John what will happen in the future.** **John wrote about what he saw** in the Book of Revelation.

John saw a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. He saw other thrones around it, and elders wearing crowns were sitting on them. He saw beautiful colors and four different creatures around the throne. The creatures were different, but they each had six wings.

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 an eagle. **All day and night they said:**

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

John said that **when the creatures worshiped the One on the throne, the elders fell down and worshiped too.** **They said to God:**

**“You deserve to have
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 shouted, “Who is good enough to open the scroll?”

No one in heaven was good enough. **No one** on earth

was good enough. John began to cry loudly because no one was good enough. Finally, one of the elders said, “Look! The Lion of Judah can open the scroll. He is good enough!”

Then John saw Jesus near the throne. Jesus took the scroll, and everyone fell down in front of Him. The elders threw their crowns at His feet. They worshiped Him and sang a new song.

Thousands of angels around the throne worshiped Jesus. John heard every creature everywhere worshiping Jesus together.

Christ Connection: John cried when he saw that no one was good enough to open the scroll. Then John saw Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus died on the cross so that we can have forgiveness and life forever with God. Jesus is good enough. He deserves all of our worship.



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

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

- “Who’s in Charge Here?” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle who is in charge in each picture.

SAY • Good job deciding who was in charge! Many different people are in charge of many different things. I am in charge of our class. Your parents are in charge of you, and my boss is in charge of me at work. But do you know who is in charge of every single thing in the whole universe? Jesus! In today’s Bible story, we will learn about something that is going to happen in the future—every single person will know that Jesus is in charge!

Play “Musical Chairs”

Set up a row of chairs for the preschoolers, making sure there is one less chair than children playing. Invite preschoolers to walk in a circle around the chairs while music plays. Instruct the children to find a seat when the music stops. Play again as time allows.

SAY • In our Bible story, Jesus showed John what will happen in the future. Part of what Jesus showed John was a throne—which is a fancy chair where kings sit! We’ll learn who sat on the throne in our Bible story.



- “I Stand Amazed” song (optional)
- “Making Everything New” song (optional)

Talk about life stages

Print out the “Life Stages” printable. Hold up each picture and tell children about how time passes as we grow up and enter each new life stage. Allow preschoolers to sequence the images.

SAY • In our Bible story, Jesus showed John what will happen in the future. We don’t know when it will happen, but we know that it will happen because we can trust everything Jesus tells us. We’ll learn what Jesus showed John in our Bible story.

- “Life Stages” printable
- scissors

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 the children to pretend they have wings and move to Bible study by flapping their arms at their sides.

- countdown video (optional)

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Introduce the Bible story

SAY • Can anyone tell me what the future is? [*Allow volunteers to answer.*] The future is a day that hasn't yet happened. We don't know a lot about the future because it hasn't happened yet! In our Bible story, Jesus showed John something that will happen in the future. Jesus knows what will happen because Jesus is God's Son!

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Revelation 4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Everything in the Bible is true because the Bible is from God. We can trust God because He is good. Our Bible 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.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • John cried when he saw that no one was good enough to open the scroll. Then John saw Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus died on the cross so that we can

- Bible
- bookmark
- "Jesus on the Throne" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

have forgiveness and life forever with God. Jesus is good enough. He deserves all of our worship. One day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**

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

1. What did Jesus show John? (*what would happen in the future*)
2. What were the creatures and elders doing? (*singing, worshiping the One on the throne*)
3. What was in the Lord's hand? (*a scroll*)
4. What did John do when he saw no one was good enough to open the scroll? (*He cried.*)
5. Who opened the scroll? (*Jesus, the Lion of Judah, the Lamb of God*)
6. Who will worship Jesus on the throne? (**Everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**)

Learn the big picture question

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

When Jesus went back to heaven, He promised He would come back. Jesus always keeps His promises.

• 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 • Jesus will come back and make all things new. Jesus is good enough to open the scroll, and Jesus is powerful enough to make all things new! One day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**

• Key Passage Poster
• "Making Everything New" song

Transition to experience the story

Experience THE STORY

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LOW PREP

Choose a side

Invite children to stand in the middle of the room. Inform the children that you will give them two choices. Point to one side of the room for each choice. Children will choose which they like better and run to that side of the room.

Consider using the following choices:

- Vanilla or chocolate
- Chewy fruit-flavored snacks or fish-shaped crackers
- Rainy days or sunny days
- Coloring or play dough
- Playing outside or playing inside
- Worshiping Jesus [*Point to only one side of the room.*]

SAY • Some of us like chocolate more than vanilla, and some of us like to color more than playing with play dough! But one day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus**. There will be no deciding between two things—only Jesus is worthy of our worship!



LOW PREP

Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Lead preschoolers in singing the hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune or lyrics, look them up online before the session. Define *holy* for preschoolers as “separate.” Consider allowing preschoolers to help you

develop movements for the song.

SAY • The creatures around the throne said “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is coming” all day and night. They were saying that God is set apart. He is different from every other created thing. He alone deserves worship, and one day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**

Sort crowns

Before class, print several copies on heavyweight paper. Cut out crowns from the “Crowns” printable. Invite preschoolers to sort the crowns according to their size and color. Then challenge preschoolers to count the number of crowns in each group.

• “Crowns” printable

SAY • Jesus showed John what will happen in the future. In John’s vision, the elders all wore crowns and then threw them at Jesus’ feet! They gave Jesus their crowns because Jesus is the one true King and Jesus deserves our worship. One day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**

Seal a scroll

Distribute a piece of construction paper to each child. Invite the children to decorate their paper with drawings and stickers. Write the main point on each child’s paper, and then guide him to roll up his paper like a scroll. Give him a large sticker to seal his scroll.

• construction paper
• crayons
• stickers

SAY • John cried when he saw that no one was good enough to open the scroll. Then he saw Jesus! Jesus is good enough to open the scroll. Jesus is worthy of our worship. One day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus!**

- plastic toss rings
- 2-liter bottles, 2
- permanent marker
- gold spray paint
- tape

Toss crowns

Before the session, use gold spray paint to paint plastic toss rings. Make sure the painted rings have dried thoroughly before the session. Remove the labels from two 2-liter bottles and draw a foot on each one. Set the bottles side by side on the floor. Use tape to make a line on the floor several feet away from the bottles. Tell preschoolers that the gold rings are crowns and the bottles represent Jesus' feet. Allow preschoolers to take turns tossing the "crowns" at "Jesus' feet."

SAY • John cried when he saw that no one was good enough to open the scroll. Then John saw Jesus, the Lamb of God. When Jesus took the scroll, the elders threw their crowns at His feet. Jesus died on the cross so that we can have forgiveness and life forever with God. Jesus is good enough. He deserves all of our worship. One day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus.**

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 jelly sandwiches cut into crown shapes using a crown cookie cutter for snack. Talk about how the elders in the Bible story gave Jesus their crowns. Remind the preschoolers that only Jesus was good enough to open the scroll. Only Jesus is worthy of our worship!

- 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 crown. Talk about Jesus loving us so much that He came to die on the cross for us. Remind the children that Jesus rose again and is alive. Inform the children that one day, **everyone and everything will worship Jesus** when Jesus comes back and makes all things new. Pray for the children.

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

SAY • God, thank You for showing us what will happen in the future. Jesus, You are worthy of our worship! Help us to love You more than anything else in the world. Give us hearts that want to follow You. 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.