

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

Jesus on the Throne

Revelation 4:2–5:14

• Before the throne:

Decorate a large chair to look like a throne. Place it at a focal point on the stage, and gesture to it reverently when speaking about Jesus.

• Kid participation:

Write the lines of worship somewhere the kids can see it, and encourage them to join you in saying the lines of God's worshipers.

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
ADVENTURE!**

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

SESSION TITLE: Jesus on the Throne

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. As kids arrive, ask the kids to describe a time they felt important.

SAY • It feels good to be important, but in our story today we're going to learn that Jesus is the most important person of all time. He is the greatest! We'll learn that **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Connect the Scroll" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Connect the Scroll" activity page. Kids must draw lines to connect the dots in numerical order to reveal a picture.

SAY • What does it mean to be worthy? If someone is worthy of something it means that he or she is good enough, or that he or she deserves it. Today we'll learn about a scroll that will be opened before the rest of God's story unfolds. At first, it will seem as though no one is worthy to open it. But that's not the case. Who do you think will be worthy?

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Who is on the throne?

Distribute sticky notes and pencils to all the kids and encourage them to write down a person's name or title who deserves to sit on a throne. Set up a chair in the middle of the room to be the "throne" and instruct the kids to stick their sticky notes to the chair. When everyone is finished read the answers out loud.

SAY • How would you act toward someone who was sitting on a throne? Would you feel like you could go up and talk to him? Today we'll learn more about John's vision of Jesus in heaven. Who do you think will sit on heaven's throne? Let's find out!



- sticky notes
- pencils
- chair

OPTION 2: Four-square

Use tape to make a large square split into four quadrants. Label the squares 1, 2, 3, and 4. The kids will line up near the court. The first four in line will each stand in a quadrant of the court. They must keep the ball bouncing between squares, not letting the ball bounce in their square more than once before being pushed to another square. If the ball bounces twice in a player's square, that player is out and moves to the end of the line of players. Each player moves up a spot, and a new player joins in square 4. Kids will try to reach square 1 and stay there as long as possible.

SAY • The number 1 square was like the throne of the four-square court. If you played well, you could stay there for a while. Today we will hear about a different throne, but the person who sits there will never be bumped out. Who will it be?

- tape
- playground balls

Tip: For a large group of kids, you may wish to make more than one Four-square court.

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)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing pilot gear and carrying binoculars.]

LEADER • Good morning, boys and girls! My name is *[your name]*, and I've just returned from yet another amazing adventure in my hot air balloon. This trip was fun because I got to float right over my house! You know, it's funny. No matter how big something looks when I'm on the ground, up in my hot air balloon it looks tiny!

I love soaring high in the sky in the hot air balloon. It makes me think of being a king, looking out over a kingdom from my castle tower. It would be very fun to be a king, I think. But it would be a lot of pressure too! You would have to make sure everything works smoothly for your people. Thankfully, I don't have to be a king. Instead I can rest at ease knowing I have a perfect King—Jesus!

That reminds me of our Bible story. Compared

to Jesus, even being up high in the balloon is pretty unimpressive. Jesus' kingdom is not just what I can see from the sky, it's the whole universe!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Before we begin let's remember our big picture question. *What will happen when Jesus returns?* [Allow responses.] That's right! ***Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.*** That means that even though we face troubles, pain, and sadness now, one day those things will be totally gone. We know that Jesus will come back because He always keeps His promises. He promised to return and He is faithful.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • Who remembers which book of the Bible we've been learning from? That's right, Revelation. Two weeks ago we learned that **Jesus appeared to John in a vision to tell about the end of time.** We have heard quite a bit about John's amazing vision of Jesus and the future. Last week we learned that **Jesus told the seven churches to stand strong in the faith.** Today we'll hear more about John's vision. Our story is called "Jesus on the Throne."

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

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 • This is such an incredible story. John saw some amazing things in this vision. Who can name

• Bibles
• "Jesus on the Throne"
video
• Big Picture Question
Poster
• Bible Story Picture
Poster

something that John saw? [*Allow time for kids to respond.*] There are lots of descriptions of heaven in this passage. It's almost like John is seeing something that is indescribable, and he is trying his best to put into words the incredible things he is seeing.

Have you ever seen an amazing sunset but just couldn't find the right words to describe it to someone else? I bet that's how John felt. He had a vision and saw Jesus in His glory! He saw countless angels praising the one true King. He saw strange creatures also praising God. Heaven will be amazing because we will see Jesus face to face. All sin will be totally wiped away and we will be able to worship God with our whole hearts!

It's important to realize that John cried when he thought no one could open the scroll. The scroll had to be opened before the rest of God's story could be told. It was sealed shut, and only a worthy person could open it. No one was worthy except the Lamb who was slaughtered. That's Jesus! John wanted to understand the rest of God's story, and only Jesus could open the scroll to make that happen. That is why **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.**

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.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

Key passage (5 minutes)

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

- Key Passage Poster
- “Everything New” song

LEADER • Jesus is the one true King. He is worthy of all our praise and honor. Though sin has hurt every part of God’s creation, Jesus has promised to make everything new and right again. Let’s continue working on memorizing our key passage this week. Lead boys and girls in singing “Everything New.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Are there any famous people you wish you could meet? How would you react to seeing them? Think about that as we watch this discussion starter.

- “Unit 36, Session 3” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 36, Session 3” discussion starter video. Discuss why Jesus deserves all the honor and glory. What are some ways we can give glory and honor and praise to Jesus? Ask the kids to list some things we have to look forward to about being with Jesus forever.

LEADER • Jesus is our perfect King. He deserves to be seated on the throne of heaven because He created us with God the Father. He loved us even though we are sinners, and He gave up His life to save us. Without Jesus, we would all be doomed to live apart from God’s goodness forever. Because of Jesus, we can have a joyful life spent enjoying God’s goodness.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • This story is so amazing because it gives us a glimpse into heaven, where we will be able to sing praise to God for all eternity. What we do during our time on earth is sort of like a rehearsal for heaven.

- “I Stand Amazed” song

Nothing will compare to the day we stand amazed in
Jesus' presence, but we can sing praises to God here
and now anyway!
Sing together "I Stand Amazed."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for giving us Your Word and
for this amazing story that gives us a peek at what
heaven will be like. We look forward to the day when
we can worship You freely without sin in the world.
We thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue
us from our sin and make it possible for us to know
You. 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
- paper
- tape to keep scrolls rolled up (optional)

Before the session, prepare a set (or multiple sets if you have a large class) of papers rolled into “scrolls,” each containing a portion of the key passage. Hide the scrolls around the room, and instruct the kids to find them. When kids find each scroll, they can work together to put them in order.

SAY • In our story, we learned that John saw Jesus sitting on the throne. Jesus was the only One worthy to open the scroll. He is the only One who is perfect in every way and completely without sin. Our perfect King has promised to one day get rid of all the bad things and make everything new.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- poster board or cardboard
- beanbag
- marker

Distribute Bibles to the kids and help them find Revelation 4:2–5:14. Create a bull’s-eye using poster board or cardboard. Each ring is worth an increasing number of points the closer it is to the center. Divide the class into two teams. The first child will toss a beanbag to determine how many points they will win if they answer the review question correctly. If they answer incorrectly, the other team will have a chance to answer.

Questions:

1. What book of the Bible did our story come from? (*Revelation*)
2. What Testament and division is Revelation in? (*New Testament, Prophecy division*)
3. Where was John when he saw the vision? (*Patmos*)
4. In the vision John saw someone seated on what? (*a throne, Rev. 4:2*)
5. What were the 24 elders doing day and night? (*worshipping God, Rev. 4:10*)
6. What did John see in Jesus' right hand? (*a scroll, Rev. 5:1*)
7. Who is the only One worthy to open the scroll? (*Jesus, Rev. 5:5*)
8. What kind of animal did Jesus look like? (*a slaughtered lamb, Rev. 5:6*)
9. What does Jesus deserve? (*praise and honor, Rev. 5:12*)
10. ***What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.***

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

SAY • Great job, everyone! When John first saw the sealed scroll, he cried because no one could open it. When the Lamb who was slaughtered—Jesus—came to open it, **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.** He is the one true King, who is worthy of our worship and praise. He is a good King, and we can trust Him to care for us. He is also powerful and will one day defeat sin and death once and for all. Then sin will no longer have any hold over those who have put their faith in Jesus. We will be truly free to love God with our whole hearts.



• green and yellow paper

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Already, not yet

Give each kid a sheet of green and a sheet of yellow paper. Explain to the kids that you will read a series of statements, and they will raise a sheet of paper to respond. Kids will raise the green sheet if the statement describes something that has already happened. They will raise the yellow sheet to describe something that has not yet happened.

Statements:

- Jesus died on the cross for our sin. (*green*)
- Jesus rose from the dead. (*green*)
- Jesus has returned to make all things new. (*yellow*)
- Some people worship Jesus as their King. (*green*)
- **All people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus.** (*yellow*)
- We are free from sin. (*Either; Jesus defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and rising again, but we still live in a world broken by sin.*)

SAY • In some ways, Christians are living in a strange place of “already, but not yet.” What that means is that Jesus has already defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, but He has not yet returned to destroy all evil. We can be free from the punishment and power of sin in this life by trusting God and letting the Holy Spirit guide our lives, but someday we will even be free from the presence of all sin!

OPTION 2: Which is greater?

Assign one side of the room as “A” and the other side “B.” Instruct the kids to begin by standing in the middle of the room. Give them two options and ask them to decide which

is greater, and stand on the corresponding side of the room.

Suggestions:

A) sharks or B) dinosaurs

A) sports or B) video games

A) speed or B) strength

A) running or B) dancing

SAY • Did everyone agree which items were the greatest?

We all have different opinions about things like sharks and superheroes, but one thing is always true and that is Jesus is greater than everything! The Bible tells us that one day **all people and all creatures in heaven and on earth will worship Jesus**. He alone is worthy to sit on the throne, and He alone deserves all praise and honor!

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring 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.