



TEACHER BOOK

YEAR 3 • BOOK 3

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Generations of Grace
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

www.generationsofgrace.com

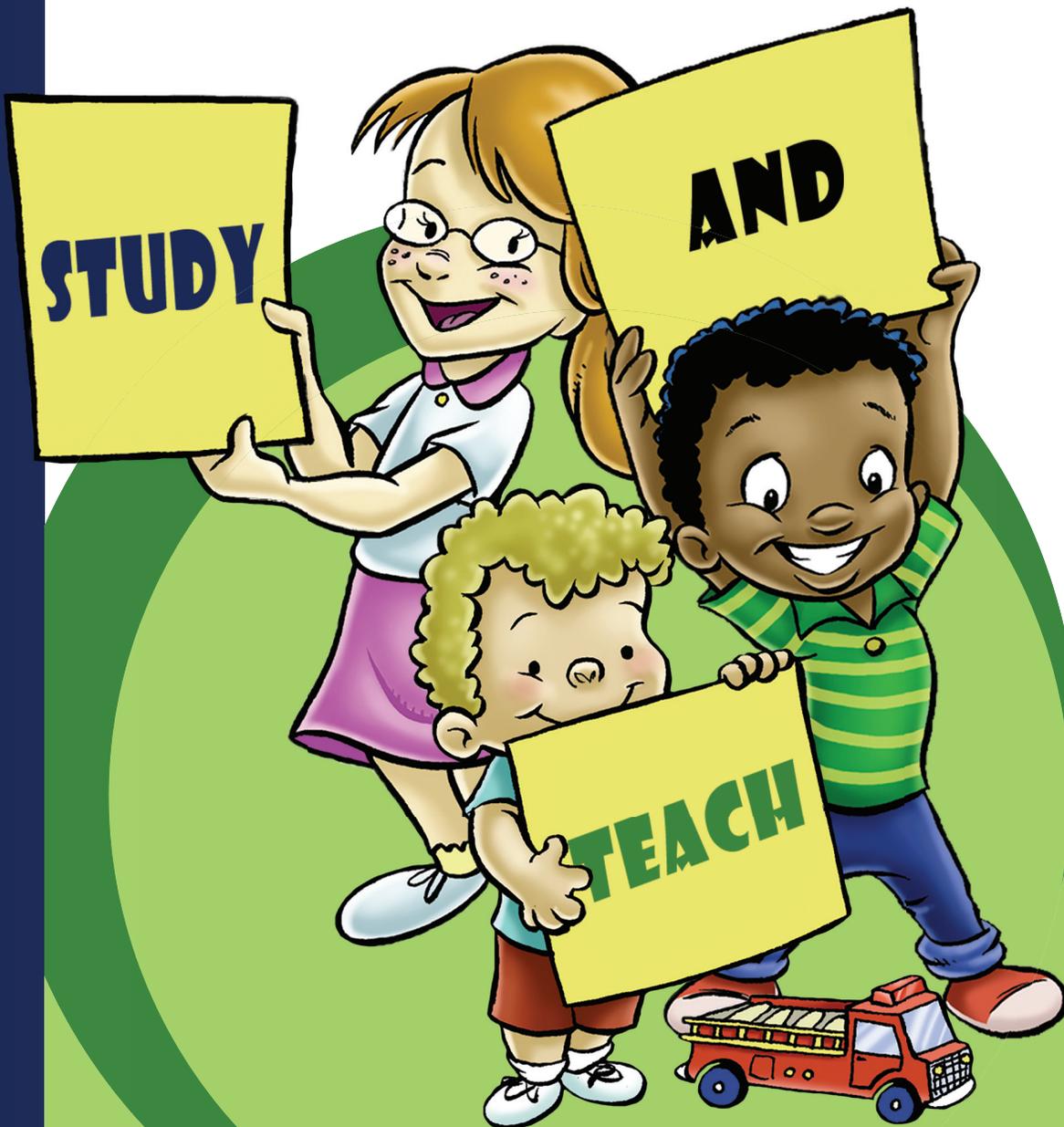
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WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to edify your teachers, evangelize your children, and encourage your families.



Study the Lesson

This section is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide you through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.

- **Central Truth** – Identifies the theme and focal point of lesson.
- **Supporting Truths** – Provides appropriate objectives for mastering the central truth.
- **Spotlight on the Gospel** – Explains how each lesson connects to the gospel.
- **Lesson Commentary** – Communicates the truth of each lesson to the teacher's heart and mind.



Teach the Lesson

Use the child involvement resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.

- **Outlines** – Guide both teachers and children through the lesson.
- **Lesson Questions** – Foster greater interaction between teacher and child.
- **Activities** – Creative opening ideas, visual aids, and crafts to introduce, illustrate, and apply lesson.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Family Devotional**

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LESSON 40

John testifies to the exalted Jesus

REVELATION 1:1-20



When trouble comes, stand firm in Jesus.



“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades” (Rev 1:17b–18).

Supporting Truths

1. Stand firm because Jesus is coming to make things right.
2. Stand firm because Jesus is in control.
3. Stand firm because Jesus gave us His Word to bless us.
4. Stand firm because Jesus' love makes us His own.
5. Stand firm by finding peace in the Triune God.

Objectives

1. State that Jesus is coming soon—at any time.
2. List several things Jesus controls.
3. State that those who believe and obey are blessed.
4. Contrast who we were before and after experiencing Jesus' love.
5. Explain how Father, Son, and Spirit are all at work for the sake of the church.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

John testifies to the exalted Jesus • Revelation 1:1-20



Lesson Summary

After all the other apostles had died, John received one last message from Jesus. It was a message to a struggling church, to encourage them to stand firm in their faith despite trouble. John describes this message as one that brings blessing to all who believe. It gives grace and peace from the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. But it especially reveals the Son, who personally appeared to John, showing that He is glorious and that He is coming soon.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Revelation continues the gospel message: what Jesus began when He came the first time He will finish when He comes the second time. This brings fear and grief to many, since He will judge all who reject Him, including false believers who deny Him. But His coming gives great hope to those who believe. The One who saved them by His death will keep them by His love, and in the end, He will rescue them from every enemy, even from death.

LAST WEEK



Paul testifies to the gospel
in Rome

Acts 28:11-31

THIS WEEK



John testifies to the
exalted Jesus

Revelation 1:1-20

NEXT WEEK



John sees the worthy
Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14

THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO THE
REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Commentary

When trouble comes, stand firm in Jesus.

It had been about 60 years since Jesus ascended. Jerusalem had been destroyed and Israel ravaged, and the church was losing its love for Jesus in the face of false teaching, temptation, and growing persecution. All the apostles were dead except John, and he was in exile. Things did not look good. So Jesus Himself appeared to encourage the church to endure because He is in control and is coming soon.

John received from Jesus a message that blesses (1:1–8)

Jesus gave John a message that is, first, trustworthy. It came from a trustworthy source, from God Himself (Rev 1:1). It also came through a trustworthy messenger (1:2), since John was a faithful witness (John 21:24). He was also a humble witness, describing himself simply as a brother and partner like all believers (Rev 1:9a). Even though he was an apostle, John knew it was all about Jesus. Finally, John was an experienced witness. He could write to persecuted Christians because he was facing persecution himself, exiled to the prison island of Patmos near Ephesus (1:9b).

Second, this is a message we can understand. Even though it uses many signs and symbols, we can still understand it because it is *revelation, something that uncovers or unveils details of God's plan that were not known before* (1:1).

Third, this message is a prophecy about the future (1:1, 3). These future events were coming “soon” even though they still have not yet happened. The events connected with Jesus’ return are soon because they are the next major event on God’s timeline. These “latter days” (Dan 2:28) were not soon in Daniel’s time, since Jesus had not yet come the first time. They were not even soon during Jesus’ lifetime, because the temple had not yet been destroyed (Luke 21:9, 20, 28). But now the events of Christ’s return are soon: they are *imminent, the very next thing prophesied*.

Fourth, this message brings a blessing to those who believe and obey (Rev 1:3).

It blesses with grace and peace from the whole *Trinity*—from

Father, Holy Spirit, and

Son (1:4–5a). We can have peace even when things get worse and worse, because God is still the same now as He always has been; He is still King on His throne, and He is even now in the process of coming to us through His Son (1:4b). He is the *Alpha and Omega, the A to Z, the One who starts and ends it all*, the Almighty God who rules with absolute power (1:8; Isa 41:4). Along with the Father, the Holy Spirit brings grace (Heb 10:29) and peace (Gal 5:22). He is pictured as seven spirits to show that He fully empowers and blesses the church (Isa 11:2).

But this message especially blesses us in Jesus.

First, He blesses us because He is the faithful *witness* (Rev 1:5a). He is the eternal Word, the *one who testifies to the truth* by showing us God (John 1:1, 18). Persecuted believers can also follow His example because He never compromised even when attacked (18:37). Second, He blesses us because He is the *firstborn* from the dead (Rev 1:5b). This not only shows that He has the *highest rank*, but it also *guarantees that those who hope in Him will rise from the dead* too (1 Cor 15:20, 23). Third, He blesses us because He has supreme *authority* (Rev 1:5c). No matter how wicked our earthly rulers may be, we need not fear them, for Jesus is ultimately *in charge*.

Jesus blesses us, fourth, because His love defines who we are (1:5d). We are free people, freed from sin by His past love and secure in His ongoing and never-ending love (Rom 8:38–39; Jude 21). We are also kingdom people, subjects of Christ who owe nothing to the world anymore (Rev 1:6a; Col 1:13). Despite our

THINK ABOUT IT

We must stay faithful to Jesus because He may return at any moment (Luke 12:40; 2 Pet 3:8–14).



THINK ABOUT IT

Revelation is the only book of the Bible that promises to bless those who hear and obey its message.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

John testifies to the exalted Jesus • Revelation 1:1–20



weakness and suffering, we can even now experience the victory of Christ's kingdom by enduring, lasting, continuing without giving up, and overcoming (Rev 1:9). Finally, we are priests, people with direct access to God through Jesus, and we have received a mission from God to make Him known to the world (1 Pet 2:9). When we see what Jesus' love has done for us, we long to proclaim the excellencies of His glory, rejoicing in His never-ending reign (Rev 1:6b).

But there is more: the fifth blessing is that Jesus is coming (1:7). He will certainly arrive in the future because He is even now in the process of coming. He comes with the clouds, descending from heaven and shining with God's own glory (Matt 17:5). He comes to complete salvation for some, especially for Jews who truly repent for piercing their own Messiah (Zech 12:10). But since most people keep resisting Him, the majority of the world will mourn when Jesus comes to judge them (Dan 7:13–14; Matt 24:30). To believers, His coming is a blessing. But to those who oppose Christ and His followers, His coming is dreadful. For Jesus will certainly win, as John says, "**Amen**": "This is firm and certain."

John heard and saw Jesus (1:9–20)

Revelation is an amazing message, and now John shows us the amazing One it is about. On Sunday, John was in the Spirit, in a state of clear spiritual insight and in direct contact with the invisible spiritual world. But before he saw anything, he heard a voice that was loud, clear, and authoritative (Rev 1:10–11). This voice spoke from among seven lampstands, which represented the seven churches in modern-day Turkey where John had served for many years (1:12, 20). Since these seven represent the whole church, this sign encourages us: it shows us that Jesus is active and present with the church on earth (Matt 28:20).

The one present with the church is the "Son of Man," the Messiah who judges with authority and glory

equal to the Father (Rev 1:13; Dan 7:9–13). His long robe and golden sash picture His high rank (Rev 15:6). His blazing white hair—like the cloud of God's own glory—pictures His holiness (1:14; Dan 7:9). His flaming eyes see with piercing holiness into every heart (Heb 4:13). His glowing bronze feet show that judgment belongs to Him (Rev 1:15; Exod 38:1–7). His voice roars with divine power and authority (Ezek 43:2). His hand has control of seven stars, the primary human leaders of the seven churches (Rev 1:16, 20); thus He cares for them but also will judge those who are unfaithful. The sword of His mouth is His Word that judges (Isa 11:4; Heb 4:12). And His face blazes like a warrior fighting eagerly for God's glory (Judg 5:31).

What does this all mean? John rightly responded with fear, for Jesus is a fierce judge who must be taken seriously (Rev 1:17; Dan 8:17). But Jesus said, "Fear not," since He uses His great power and holiness for the good of those who trust Him. We need not fear when times get worse, since He is "the first and the last," the eternal God who is in control over all of history (Isa 44:6). We need not fear death either, since He is the Living One who conquered death and controls who lives and dies (Rev 1:18; Ps 42:2; Rom 6:9). Even though we live long after John, we can still be comforted, because this message covers all time (Rev 1:19): past (Rev 1), present (Rev 2–3), and future (Rev 4–22). And though we are not one of the seven churches, these seven represent the whole church, so we also can receive the blessing of Revelation. As we hear, believe, and obey, we learn to see things from God's perspective and to live in the hope of Christ's soon return. When we live that way, we can have peace in the middle of great trouble.

THINK ABOUT IT

Like lampstands burning oil to give light, the church shines by the power of the Holy Spirit to show God's glory to a dark world (Zech 4:1–10; Matt 5:16).



Lesson Outline

When trouble comes, stand firm in Jesus.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

When trouble comes . . .

1. Find peace through God's Word (1:1–3, 19–20).
2. Find peace in the Father's control (1:4a).
3. Find peace in the Spirit's power (1:4b).
4. Find peace in the Son's love (1:5–6).
5. Find peace because the Son is coming soon to make things right (1:7–16).
6. Find peace because the Son can rescue you from death (1:17–18).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. John received from Jesus a message that blesses (1:1–8).
 - It is a message about the future (1:1–2).
 - It brings blessing to everyone who reads, hears, and obeys (1:3).
 - It brings the church grace and peace from the Father and the Spirit (1:4).
 - It brings the church grace and peace from the glorious Son (1:5–8).
2. John heard and saw Jesus (1:9–20).
 - John wrote what he saw as one sufferer to encourage others (1:9–11).
 - Jesus appeared as the glorious Judge (1:12–16).
 - Jesus has power over history and over life and death (1:17–18).
 - Jesus' message was about the past, present, and future (1:19–20).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. How can you be blessed by God's Word?**
By hearing it, believing it and obeying it.
- 2. When is Jesus coming back?**
Soon: at any time.
- 3. When John saw Jesus, what did His face look like?**
It was shining like the sun in the middle of the day.
- 4. What did Jesus tell John?**
Do not be afraid.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why is this book called Revelation?**
It reveals. It shows us the glory of Jesus and the events surrounding His second coming.
- 2. Why did the church need this message?**
The church was struggling against temptation, false teaching, and persecution.
- 3. How can we find grace and peace in the Father during trouble?**
By remembering that He is always alive, always on His throne, always in control.
- 4. How can we find grace and peace in the Holy Spirit during trouble?**
By trusting in His power to fully bless and empower us to live as lights in this world.
- 5. What three things does John call Jesus?**
Faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler of the kings of earth.
- 6. When Jesus returns, what will people do?**
They will mourn, some in true repentance, but most because He will judge them.
- 7. What did Jesus' voice sound like?**
Like a trumpet and like the roaring of crashing waves.
- 8. What does it mean that Jesus has the keys of death?**
He decides who lives, who dies, and when.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

BIG REVEAL

Hide an object under a small blanket. Begin describing the object, and see if any of the children are able to correctly identify it. After a few children have offered their guesses, remove the blanket and reveal the item to the children. Use this as an opportunity to introduce today's lesson: the book of Revelation "reveals" (uncovers, shows) Jesus at His second coming.

WRITE WHAT YOU SEE

John was instructed to write down the vision he saw and send it to the seven churches (Rev 1:11). Begin the lesson by talking about letters. Bring in a pen, piece of paper, envelope, stamp, and mailbox. Write a brief note on the piece of paper, and ask the children to help you get it ready to be mailed. Address it to "The Seven Churches" and place it in the mailbox. Be sure that the flag is up! In today's lesson, we will learn about a vision John was supposed to write down and send to other Christians.



ILLUSTRATE

VISUAL AIDS

Use the following props to illustrate aspects of the lesson: white wool or yarn (the Son of Man's hair), something the color of bronze (the Son of Man's feet), a golden sash, a recording of rushing water, a sword, a picture of a star, a lampstand (the churches), a heart (Jesus loves believers), a cross (Jesus has freed believers), a crown or a group of people (Jesus has made believers kings and priests), the letters A and Z (Jesus is the first and the last), an empty tomb (Jesus is the living one who was dead and is alive forever more), and keys (Jesus holds the keys to death).

RETURNING SOON

Bring a jack-in-the-box children's toy to class. Use this to illustrate the imminence of Christ's return: it can happen at any moment. A jack-in-the-box that opens at random times when cranked is the most effective. Explain that Jesus may return at any time.



APPLY

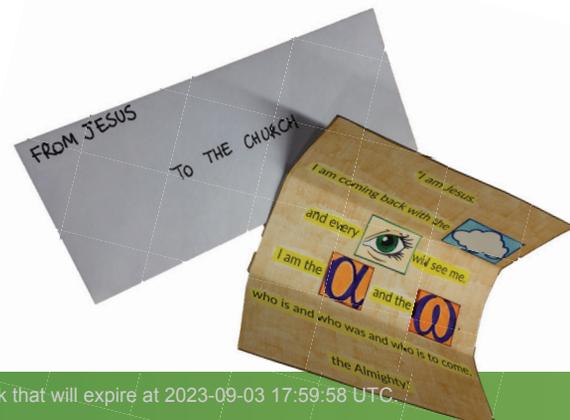
A LETTER FROM JESUS

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheets, crayons, glue stick, scissors, envelope.

Directions: Color the images, cut them and past them in the letter in the right order. Fold the letter and put it in the envelope. On the envelope write the sender (Jesus) and the receiver (the church).

A Letter from Jesus
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

John testifies to the exalted Jesus • Revelation 1:1–20



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

PROPHECY

A prophecy is God’s message about the future. Prophecies tell about future events before they happen, but their purpose is to encourage holy living. In today’s lesson, John’s prophecy is meant to encourage the church to endure because Jesus is in control and will return soon. Explain that this is somewhat similar to weathermen trying to predict the weather. Though they are not always right (unlike a true prophet), we use weather forecasts to help us plan what we will do and wear that day. A weatherman’s forecast has the potential to impact our daily lives.

PERFECTION

The object of this board game is to put all the pieces into their corresponding holes on the board before the timer runs out. Bring this game to class and allow the children to play it before the lesson. Use it to introduce the concept of Jesus’ “imminent” return. We must be ready for His return at any moment.



ILLUSTRATE

A REVELATION

Before teaching time, write out the main points of the lesson onto butcher paper with invisible ink. During the lesson, use the revealing markers to “reveal” each point.

BEDTIME BANDIT

Talk about the raccoon’s remarkable ability to open trash cans and doors in search of food. You might show a picture or brief video from the internet of a raccoon breaking into something. These animals most often come out at night, under the cover of darkness, and have earned both by their actions and appearance (dark “mask” around the eyes) the reputation of a thief. This animal provides a picture of how the day of the Lord will come: “like a thief” (2 Pet 3:10). It will come like a raccoon on the prowl—at a time we did not expect.

Write What You See
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2



APPLY

WRITE WHAT YOU SEE

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, yarn, tan construction paper, tape.

Directions: Color the craft page. Make a hole in the dot and have a yarn pass through it. Cut a square with the construction paper and fold it to make a letter. Use the tape to keep the letter together. Taper the yarn in the back of the letter so that it can go up and down. (You can insert a piece of paper in the letter with “Revelation” written on it.)



AGES 9–11



WHO DOES THAT?

Do any of the children read the last page of a book first because they just have to know how it all ends? The book of Revelation is the last chapter in God's redemptive story, telling us how it all ends. From the Old Testament up until this point, we have seen God working out His plan of redemption through Adam, the patriarchs, the prophets, right on up to His beloved Son Jesus Christ. Now that we are at the end of this revealed redemptive plan, it is this Jesus Christ that we see once again: Jesus is the central theme of the entire book.

FROM A TO Z

Have any of the children ever noticed where the arrow begins and ends in the Amazon logo? It starts at the letter "a" and ends at "z," a picturing the company's capacity to sell almost anything: everything from "A to Z." Jesus used this phrase long before Amazon included it in their logo to describe Himself: He is the "Alpha and the Omega" (Rev 1:8), the A to Z, the One who starts and ends it all, the Almighty God who rules with absolute power (Isa 41:4).



SYMBOLISM

A symbol is an object used to represent an idea, person, or event. For instance, an American flag is the symbol for our country. A "+" is the symbol for addition. The book of Revelation uses symbols often to help us picture what it is talking about. Symbols stand for something else. Draw some common symbols on the board and see if the children can identify what they represent: a musical note, the Olympic rings, skull and crossbones, peace sign, recycling sign, symbol for Pi, cross, etc.

WHERE WERE THE CHURCHES?

Bring in a large map or project a map on the screen or board of the region where the seven churches were located in today's lesson. The church's locations could be located and identified with an icon such as a small church sticker or laser pointer. Be sure to also point out John's location: the island of Patmos.



Amen

We hear this word uttered at the end of almost every prayer. What does it mean? It means "so be it" or "this is firm and certain." In today's lesson, John says it after describing the return of Jesus. While some will mourn (in repentance) over Him whom they pierced, most will mourn in anticipation of judgment (Rev 1:7). They fear the just punishment their sins deserve. Yet Jesus' return is certain: "Amen." Are you ready for Jesus' return? Next time you hear the word "Amen" at the end of a prayer, ask yourself the following question: Will I rejoice or wail at Jesus' return?



LESSON 41

John sees the worthy Lamb

REVELATION 5:1-14



Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.



"And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals'" (Rev 5:5).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is worthy to open the scroll.
2. Jesus is worthy because He is the Lion and Lamb.
3. Jesus is worthy because He redeemed by His death.
4. Because Jesus is worthy, He is our great Savior.
5. Because Jesus is worthy, every created thing praises Him.

Objectives

1. Explain that Jesus causes the events in the scroll to happen.
2. Define "worthy" and show that this fits who Jesus is.
3. Explain that Jesus' death was victory.
4. Explain why John wept loudly when no one could open the scroll.
5. List who praises Jesus in this chapter.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

John sees the worthy Lamb • Revelation 5:1-14



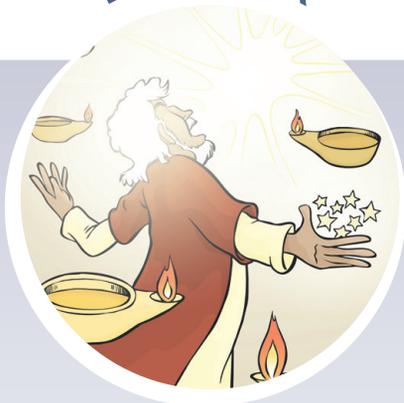
Lesson Summary

As John watched what was happening in God's heavenly throne room, he saw a scroll in God's right hand. But like many important documents, it could only be opened by someone special. In this case, only Jesus has the right character and authority to open the scroll, for only He is able to execute all that the scroll contains. And when He opens it, heaven and earth erupt with praise. From the highest angel to the lowest created thing, everyone praises the Lamb.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The Lamb is worthy of praise because He died as a loving sacrifice, giving up His life to purchase people for Himself. So the way to escape the coming judgments is by trusting in Jesus' death and by honoring Him above all. Also, the way to stay faithful in the midst of every trouble is to remember that Jesus is worthy. We can cast all our cares on Him, for He is able to complete God's perfect plan.

LAST WEEK



John testifies to the exalted Jesus

Revelation 1:1-20

THIS WEEK



John sees the worthy Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14

NEXT WEEK



God will judge the world

Revelation 19:11-20:15

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.

When we see a world infested with wickedness, disaster, grief, and pain, it is tempting to give up or abandon hope. Yet there is one thing that gives hope and strength to press on: someone is coming to defeat every enemy, punish the wicked, undo the curse, and welcome every faithful believer into a new and perfect world. We can be sure of this, since Jesus is worthy and able to accomplish God's perfect plan.

Only the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll (5:1–7)

God's perfect plan is represented by the scroll (Rev 5:1). Since it is in His right hand, this plan is completely owned and controlled by God. Since the writing continues onto the back and since it has seven seals, it is the full and perfect message: it covers everything to the very end so that no other message is needed (22:18). Like Daniel's scroll (Dan 12:4, 9), it contains the final phase of history, but now this final phase is coming soon, without any prophesied event having to come first (Rev 1:1, 3). Like Ezekiel's scroll (Ezek 2:9–10), it is mostly full of judgment, with the first six seals each revealing one judgment (Rev 6) and the seventh seal containing all the rest (Rev 8–9, 16). But like Jeremiah's scroll (Jer 32:10), it is a title deed that gives ownership. Sure enough, Revelation ends with a joyful and glorious inheritance (Rev 21:1–22:5). This scroll is God's perfect plan to finally defeat all evil and set up a new and perfect world.

But a title deed isn't just something to read. It is full of actions that can only be accomplished by the one with authority to open it. So John cried and cried when no one anywhere—no angel, no demon, no human, no animal—had the ability to open the scroll (5:2–4). For centuries humans had come and gone, but not even the most godly man or woman could open that scroll. If no one could open it, then none of the things in the scroll would happen.

Wickedness, pain, sorrow, and death would not be defeated. The curse would keep festering and the devil would triumph. The hope of new life in a new world would be lost. No wonder John wept in utter despair!

But then he stopped, for there was one who is **worthy** and **deserves** to open the scroll. But who? It has to be someone who is good, has the right to be in charge, and has the power to make it happen. Jesus meets these requirements (5:5–6). He is the lion-like king prophesied by Jacob long ago (Gen 49:9–10): strong, majestic, courageous, and wise, able to defeat His enemies and rule over all. He is David's human descendant (2 Sam 7:12–16; Isa 11:1–10), which is important because only a human can finish man's job of ruling over the earth (Gen 1:26–28; Ps 8). But He is also God (Ps 110:1), which is important because only God can undo God's curse on earth. In fact, as the Lion of Judah and chosen Root of David, Jesus has already won the victory.

What victory? The victory of His sacrificial death as the Lamb of God (Exod 12:3–6; Isa 53:7; John 1:29). He is alive, but the power of His self-sacrifice never stops. His death proved that He is perfectly good and loving (John 15:13), and His death proved His power over sin (Rom 8:3), death and the devil (Heb 2:14–15), rulers (Col 2:15), and hell (1 Pet 3:19). He could have used His power as the Son of God to get off the cross and annihilate His enemies, but He did not (Matt 26:53–54).

He faithfully obeyed the Father to the point of death (26:39), so that He would be worthy to open the scroll and do everything written in it.

The Lamb's seven horns symbolize His complete power and authority (Dan 7:8, 20, 24). His seven eyes reflect His omniscience as He sees all and knows all. He does so by means of the seven spirits, which represent the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent into

THINK ABOUT IT
Because Jesus is worthy, it is worth it to love and trust Him.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

John sees the worthy Lamb • Revelation 5:1–14



the world (John 14:16; Isa 11:2; Zech 4:1–10). So as the all-powerful and all-wise Lamb, Jesus has taken the scroll and will now accomplish all the events to come in the rest of Revelation (Rev 5:7; 1:1).

Everyone praises the Lamb who is worthy (5:8–14)

When Jesus took the scroll, all heaven erupted in praise. It began with those closest to the Lamb (5:8). The four living creatures are like the cherubim that Ezekiel saw (Ezek 1), and their job is to glorify God in connection with all living things. The 24 elders may be human believers already in heaven, or they may be angels whose job it is to glorify God alongside believers (Heb 1:14). The 24 elders hold harps, which are associated with worship (Ps 71:22), and bowls of incense, which are prayers of believers. Because of

what this chapter is about, these prayers are especially about punishing the wicked, rescuing the righteous, and finishing God's kingdom plan (Matt 6:10). These prayers seek God's honor, so they please God like sweet-smelling incense (Ps 141:2).

to God in order to know Him and proclaim how amazing He is (1 Pet 2:9). It is also a blessing because one day redeemed people will reign along with Jesus (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 20:6). Jesus is worthy to finish God's plan because the One who redeemed people in the past is able to keep them and bless them in the future too.

The praise keeps increasing. First countless angels and then every created thing joins in. This includes not just the redeemed, but also all of God's enemies—everyone proclaims the worthiness of the Lamb (Phil 2:10–11). Like the creatures and elders, the multitude of angels know Jesus is worthy because of His death. Because of His death, He possesses everything He needs to make the Father's plan happen (Rev 5:12). He has power both in who He is and in what He is able to do. He owns every resource and understands everything. He has majesty both inside and out, so that He is worthy of all praise. Because of this, all creation proclaims that He is completely equal to the Father forever (5:13). And if that were not enough, the four living creatures kept saying “**Amen**,” “*it is true*,” after each song (5:14), confirming beyond any doubt that the Lamb is absolutely worthy.



THINK ABOUT IT

As we pray for God to finish His plan of judging and saving, we become part of the worship that is happening in heaven.

The living creatures and elders sing a new song (Rev 5:9). Even though we have it written down now, it will be new because they will sing it in a new and greater way than ever before. They will sing about **redemption**, about how Jesus gave His own life to buy back people. Unlike the original Passover lambs (Exod 12:3–6), Jesus' death purchased people from every lineage, language group, race, and nation. By purchasing them, Jesus set them free from slavery to sin and Satan (Col 1:13). But He also bought them to be His own (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23). They are now God's kingdom, God's subjects (Rev 5:10). This is a huge blessing, because God's subjects are also **priests**, people with direct access

When you are weak, oppressed, and tempted, when you are ready to give in and feel as though you cannot go on, have hope. Instead of looking to yourself, look to Jesus, your great Savior and champion. Stay true to Him, because just as He has redeemed you in the past, so He will finish God's plan for the future. You can endure now because one day evil will be destroyed and you will receive a perfect reward: to live forever with the one who is worth all love and glory and praise and honor.

THINK ABOUT IT

One day everything that has breath will praise Jesus, because He is worthy (Ps 150:6).



Lesson Outline

Jesus is able to complete God's perfect plan.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Love Jesus as your great Savior because . . .

1. He will finish God's perfect plan (5:1–4, 7).
2. He is the Lion who is in charge (5:5).
3. He is the Lamb who defeated death (5:6).
4. He paid the price for sin to make you His own (5:8–10).
5. He is worthy of all praise (5:11–14).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Only the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll (5:1–7).
 - God held a scroll with seven seals (5:1).
 - No one was worthy to open the scroll (5:2–4).
 - The Lion and Lamb is worthy (5:5–7).
2. Everyone praises the Lamb who is worthy (5:8–14).
 - The four living creatures and 24 elders praise the Lamb (5:8–10).
 - Countless angels praise the Lamb (5:11–12).
 - Every created thing praises the Lamb (5:13–14).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was in God's hand?**
A scroll.
- 2. What was on the scroll?**
Seven seals.
- 3. Who is the only one who can open the scroll?**
Jesus.
- 4. Who praises Jesus after He takes the scroll?**
Everyone: four living creatures, 24 elders, countless angels, every created thing everywhere.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What does the scroll represent?**
It is God's perfect plan for the final stage of history: defeat and judgment of the wicked and salvation and a new world for the righteous.
- 2. Why did John cry so loudly?**
If no one can open the scroll, then evil will not end and the new world will not come.
- 3. What two animals is Jesus like?**
The Lion of Judah and the Lamb who has been sacrificed.
- 4. How is the Lion of Judah worthy?**
He is the human descendant of David, the divine Messiah, and the promised ruler.
- 5. How is the Lamb who has been sacrificed worthy?**
He proved His character and His power. His character is perfect love—obeying the Father and rescuing sinners. His power is the greatest—defeating sin, Satan, death, and hell.
- 6. What did Jesus do for people by dying?**
He buys them to set them free and make them His own.
- 7. Why do the countless angels list seven things Jesus rightfully has?**
To show that He is perfectly worthy and able to make God's plan happen.
- 8. How much do all created things praise Jesus?**
They praise Him exactly the same as they praise the Father.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



SEVEN STICKERS

A seal was like a sticker placed on the scroll. The seal could be opened only by someone with authority. Demonstrate by putting seven stickers on a rolled-up piece of paper. Choose seven children to break the seven stickers. Talk about how only these children were able to break the seals. In today's lesson, we are going to see another scroll with seven seals, but only one person is able to open it: Jesus.

LION AND LAMB

Bring a stuffed lion and lamb to class. Ask the children to describe what each is like (strong, fluffy, etc.). In today's lesson, Jesus is called both a lion and a lamb. Jesus is called a lion because He is strong and powerful. He is called a lamb because He, like the Passover lamb, died as a sacrifice for sin. Ask the children what animals they are like. Are they fast like a cheetah? Strong like an elephant? Smart like a dolphin?



ROOT OF DAVID

Jesus is also called the "Root of David" because He was a descendant of King David (Rev 5:5). Show the children a picture of a tree's roots, draw them on the board, or bring in a potted plant and reveal its roots. Explain how the branches, leaves, and fruit are all connected to and come from the root. Ask your children if they know the names of their grandparents. Using their grandparent's name, call them the child of the root of _____.

WORTHY

Only Jesus was "worthy" or able to open the scroll. Illustrate this by making a closed fist and challenging the children to pull it apart with their fingers. Are they worthy (able) to do it? What kind of a person would be able to open your hand? Jesus was able to open the scroll because of who He is—God and man, and because of what He has done—overcome sin, death, and Satan.



PRAISE THE LAMB!

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, paper bags, crayons, scissor, dried beans (or rice), colored tape, glue stick.

Directions: Color the craft image and cut it. Glue it to the bottom of the paper bag. Put the dried beans inside (use at least two paper bags). Fold the paper bags so to have a handle for the maraca, and tape it. (You can décor the maraca with stickers.)



Praise the Lamb!
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

John sees the worthy Lamb • Revelation 5:1-14



AGES 6-8



INTRODUCE

ABLE TO OPEN

John was sad because no one was found worthy to open the scroll. To illustrate this, either glue or very tightly seal a jar shut. As the children enter the classroom, have each of them try to open the jar. This will serve as a great opportunity to introduce He who is both the focus and center of today's lesson. He is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the worthy Lamb of God. The only one able to open the scroll.

WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE

Ask the children to identify the different ways we show appreciation or honor. We might clap (loudly at a football game, softly at a golf tournament), shout, sing, chant, jump up and down, etc. Have the children ever cheered so loudly that they lost their voice? What or who caused them to cheer so loudly? In today's lesson, we'll meet the One most deserving of our praise: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



ILLUSTRATE

RIGHT HAND

Ask your children how many of them are right-handed. Those who are have more strength and ability in their right hand than their left. Demonstrate by having a right-handed child write their name on the board with their left hand. In the Bible, the right hand stands for strength and authority. It is the strong hand, the hand with the most power. The scroll was in God's right hand (Rev 5:1).

SEVEN SEALS

Before class, make a scroll with writing on both the inside and outside. Seal it with seven seals made from paraffin wax or clay. During the lesson, break the seals using a letter opener.



APPLY

THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet, crayons, tape, scissors, yarn, glue stick, tan construction paper, red copy paper.

Directions: Color the images, cut them and glue them to the tan construction paper. Roll the paper and close it with the yarn. Cut seven red circles to make the seals.



The One Who Is Worthy
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*

AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

"I am not very happy today. I have not been allowed to compete in the Olympics. I think I should. I think I would do great in _____ (fill in the blank with a funny or least likely competition). I think I might even get a gold medal! Why shouldn't I get to compete in the Olympics?"

Because I have not earned a spot. To go to the Olympics, you have to qualify at the Olympic trials. You have to prove that you are good enough, and you have to do it in the right way at the right time. Since I cannot, I am not worthy.

HEIGHT REQUIREMENT

Have you ever been excited to go on a ride at a circus or amusement park, only to discover that you are not tall enough to ride? Did you try and stand on your tippy toes, or put tissues in your shoes, or spike your hair in order to meet the height requirement? Talk about why certain rides have height requirements and why we must follow them.

Today's lesson is about the only One who qualifies to open the scroll that is in God's right hand.



ILLUSTRATE

TROPHY TIME

Bring in a medal or trophy. Explain what it was created as a reward for. Now ask if you should give it to someone in the class. No—no one in the class deserves it. They have not met the requirements to be worthy of it.

RESTORATION

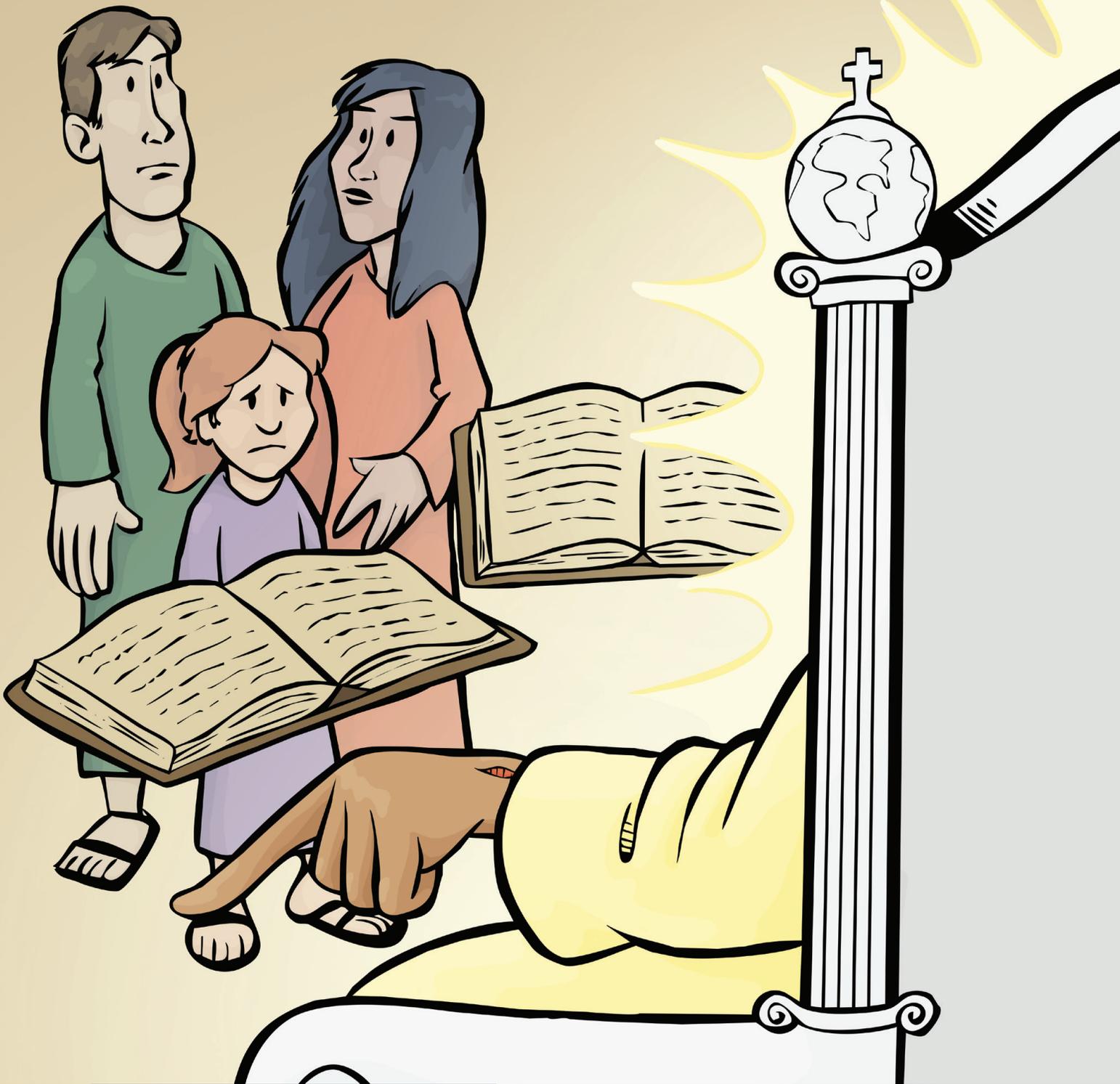
The reason John desired to see who was worthy to open the scroll is that he was eager to see the earth restored. He was ready to see who would be able to defeat Satan, wipe away sin, and make all things new. To illustrate the effect that the Fall of man had on the world (Rom 8:19–22), purchase an inflatable globe and show it to the class. Begin describing the way the earth once was and then when man's sin enters the world, quickly deflate the globe, reducing it to a pile of plastic upon the table. This will provide a physical illustration of the effect of sin upon the earth and the need for one to come and restore it.



APPLY

EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Read Philippians 2:9–11 as a class. Is there anyone that will be able to oppose God in the end? Since everyone will worship God in the end (Rev 5:13), why is it foolish to oppose God now? What are the blessings of worshipping God now (salvation, peace, joy, reigning with Jesus forever in heaven)? What are the consequences of resisting Jesus now (judgment, war with God, sadness, eternity in hell separated from God)? We will all worship Jesus in the end, but are you worshipping Him now?



LESSON 42

God will judge the world

REVELATION 19:11-20:15



Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.



“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war” (Rev 19:11).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is coming back one day.
2. Jesus is God's Warrior, conquering the wicked.
3. Jesus is the great King, controlling the wicked.
4. Jesus is the great Judge, condemning the wicked.
5. Jesus destroys Satan and everything evil.

Objectives

1. Describe what Jesus will look like when He returns.
2. Describe what happens to both armies that try to fight against Jesus.
3. State that Jesus will rule over the earth for 1,000 years with a rod of iron.
4. Identify who is cast into the lake of fire and why.
5. Explain how the fate of the wicked motivates true faith that does not give up.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God will judge the world • Revelation 19:11–20:15



Lesson Summary

One day, Christ will return, not as a baby born to suffer and die, but as God's invincible Warrior King. He will slaughter all those who fight against Him, then He will imprison Satan and rule for 1,000 years in perfect righteousness. After that, He will release Satan, defeat him, and throw him into the lake of fire forever. Then Christ will condemn all those whose names are not in the Book of Life and cast them into the lake of fire.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Revelation is such an important book because it motivates us to live godly lives today. It shows us the end so that we will have godly fear and unwavering hope. Revelation 19–20 warns us to submit to Christ now, because when He returns, He will kill and judge all His enemies. But it also encourages us to stay loyal to Christ even when wickedness surrounds us, because He will not allow the wicked to go unpunished.

LAST WEEK



**John sees the worthy
Lamb**

Revelation 5:1–14

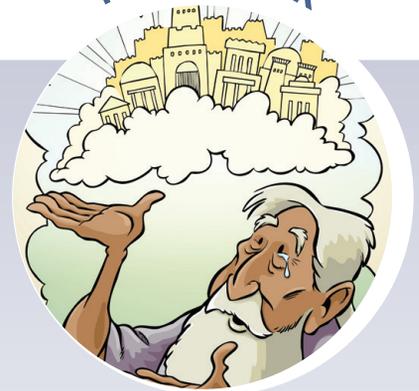
THIS WEEK



**God will judge the
world**

Revelation 19:11–20:15

NEXT WEEK



**God creates a new
heaven and new earth**

Revelation 21:1–22:21

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Commentary

Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.

Sometimes the news we hear is so wicked that it sickens us. The innocent suffer unjustly and the guilty press on unrestrained. We wonder how long the wicked will go unpunished (Ps 94:3–7). When injustice prospers, it is easy to become discouraged and wonder, “Is it even worth it to live a godly life?” (Ps 73:13). That is why we need Revelation. We need to see that God does in fact see what the wicked are doing, and one day He will execute justice (Gen 3:15; Deut 32:35). When we see that righteousness will win in the end, we find new strength to stay true to Christ to the very end (Rev 1:1–3).

The Second Coming: Christ returns as God’s righteous warrior (19:11–21)

It is good to stay true to Christ, because He will come again to accomplish His mission as God’s conquering King (Rev 19:11; Matt 24:30). He rides a white horse, a sign of purity and righteous victory. He is called “Faithful and True,” because He is keeping His promise to return and execute the wicked (Matt 24:50–51). Unlike the beast, who waged war with boasting and blasphemy (Rev 13:5–7), Jesus will judge and make war in righteousness.

The King’s appearance matches His mission (Rev 19:12–13a, 16). His eyes are like fiery flames because He judges with burning purity and nothing is hidden from His sight (Heb 4:13). Many crowns are on His head, and the name “King of kings and Lord of lords” is on His robe. Both of these show that He has absolute authority over all the earth (Dan 4:37). He also has a name written on Him that no one knows, because no one knows all that will be revealed about Him. Because of that, no one—not even the Devil—is able to control or overcome Him. Finally, His robe is stained with blood, showing what will happen to any who oppose Him (Isa 63:1–3).

The King’s rank matches His mission (Rev 19:13b–14). Because He is the **Word of God**, He functions as God’s agent, the one who does God’s will. He is God’s agent in judgment (John 5:19–22), and because He is God’s chosen agent, He is also the great Captain of all the armies of heaven. While this may include angels (Matt 25:31), this verse is especially about redeemed humans (Rev 17:14), the raptured church (19:8), who ride with Jesus to witness His victory.

The King’s weapons match His mission (19:15). A double-edged sword comes out of His mouth, since with His breath He will slay the wicked (Isa 11:4). After this slaughter, He will shepherd the nations with an iron scepter, shattering those who oppose His kingdom (Ps 2:9). He will swiftly judge all sin and force rebels to submit (Zech 14:17–19). In the end, He will crush all who oppose God, like someone trampling grapes to make wine (Isa 63:3–6).

With the description of the King complete, an angel announces the coming battle (Rev 19:17–18; Ezek 39:4, 17–20) and the beast gathers the ten kings for war (Rev 17:12–14; 19:19). But the battle is over before it begins. The **beast—the Antichrist** (Rev 13)—becomes the first to be tossed into the lake of fire, along with his false prophet (19:20). Christ slaughters the rest single-handedly (19:21). For most people, Christ’s second coming will be terrible (Matt 24:28, 30).

The Millennium: Christ reigns as God’s supreme king (20:1–6)

After the battle, the Devil and all demons are imprisoned for a thousand years (20:1–3). During that time, the earth will flourish, since the Devil will no longer be able to deceive, harass, tempt, and devour (2 Cor 4:4; 11:14; 12:7; 1 Thess 3:5; 1 Pet 5:8). With the Devil’s kingdom ended, a new kingdom comes with new rulers (Rev 20:4). The rulers include the martyrs who stayed true to Christ during the tribulation (6:9; 18:24; 19:2). Their rule shows that even in the worst suffering, it is worth it to stay faithful, because God keeps His promise (6:9–11).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God will judge the world • Revelation 19:11–20:15



In order to reign with Christ, the martyrs must first be **resurrected**, brought back to physical life with new bodies (Job 19:26; 1 Cor 15:53; Phil 3:21). But there are two kinds of resurrection (Rev 20:5; John 5:29). The first resurrection is the resurrection to eternal life, and those who are part of this resurrection will not suffer the second death, which is hell (Rev 20:6, 14). The resurrected believers will rule with Jesus as the supreme King during the **millennial kingdom**, when Jesus rules from Jerusalem over the whole earth for 1,000 years (Isa 24:23).

The millennial kingdom will be a time of righteousness and peace (11:3–5; 32:17), since no one will be able to harm another (11:9). Spiritually, it will be a time of joy (12:3–4; 61:3, 7), when the remnant of Israel is restored to God and to the land promised to Abraham (Jer 30:5–8; Rom 11:26; Gen 15:18). Gentile nations will also worship the King, although not all will want to (Mic 4:2; Zech 14:16–19). Physically, the curse is neutralized (Isa 11:7–9; 35:1–2, 7), so that the earth is rejuvenated, food is plentiful (Joel 2:21–27), and people enjoy good health and very long lives (Isa 33:24; 35:5–6; 65:20).

The Last Battle: Christ conquers as God's promised seed (20:7–10)

After this, Satan is released and many unbelievers follow him (Rev 20:7–8). This is to show, first, that humans are desperately wicked. Even without Satan's deceiving influence, they still rebel against Christ's perfect reign, and they quickly follow Satan (20:8–9). Thus, humans have no excuse for rebelling against God (Rom 1:18–20), and God is perfectly just when He finally judges (3:4). Second, Satan's release shows that he is powerless before Christ (Job 1:8–12). Christ destroys Satan and his army in a moment, and Satan becomes the third to be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). This is exactly what God said would happen (Ezek 39:6–7).

The Great White Throne: Christ condemns as God's appointed judge (20:11–15)

After the Devil's defeat, it is time for all unbelievers to be judged. A righteous throne appears, with God the Son sitting as judge (Rev 5:1, 7, 13; 21:5–6; John 5:22–29). From His presence earth and heaven flee away (20:11). They cease to exist, or as Peter described it, they dissolve and melt with intense heat (2 Pet 3:10–13). Now the second resurrection occurs—the resurrection of the dead. The dead are gathered from the sea, from Death, and from Hades and brought back to life to be judged according to their deeds (Rev 20:12–13). The weight of their sin will crush them, because they will have nothing to say in their defense (Rom 3:19).

The place where all the condemned are thrown is the **lake of fire** (Rev 20:14). Before, Jesus had compared this place to Hell, or Gehenna (Luke 12:5), a valley of Jerusalem where trash was thrown and continually burned. The picture of constantly burning fire, foul smoke, and festering maggots provides a glimpse of what hell will be like. Its torment will last forever (Matt 25:41). After all, the beast and the false prophet are still burning after a 1,000 years (Rev 20:10). Sadly, this is the eternal destiny of all those whose names are not found in the book of life (20:15).

So when you look at the world today, and it seems like the wicked have all the advantages, think again. The God of heaven and earth will rise up and judge His creation. He will repay the proud and avenge His holy name (Ps 94:1–2). So how should you live today? What kind of person should you be (2 Pet 3:11)? Only those who overcome—only those who stay true to Christ to the very end—will escape the coming judgment.

THINK ABOUT IT

God's record books will expose every sin, even so called "secret sins" (Eccl 12:14)—every wrong motive, every impure thought, every unkind word, every selfish action.



Lesson Outline

Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Do not be discouraged by evil because . . .

1. Christ will defeat the wicked in battle (19:11–21).
2. Christ and His followers will rule over the wicked (20:1–6).
3. Christ will defeat wicked Satan and his followers (20:7–10).
4. Christ will send the wicked to hell (20:11–15).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Second Coming: Christ returns as God's righteous warrior (19:11–21).**
 - Jesus comes as God's righteous warrior King (19:11–16).
 - Jesus casts the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire (19:17–21).
2. **The Millennium: Christ reigns as God's supreme king (20:1–6).**
 - Jesus locks Satan up for 1,000 years (20:1–3).
 - Jesus reigns with His followers for 1,000 years (20:4–6).
3. **The Last Battle: Christ conquers as God's promised seed (20:7–10).**
 - Satan is released and gathers the nations for battle (20:7–8).
 - Fire burns up the army, and Satan is cast into the lake of fire (20:9–10).
4. **The Great White Throne: Christ condemns as God's appointed judge (20:11–15).**
 - Those not recorded in the book of life are judged by their deeds (20:11–12).
 - Death, Hades, and the unredeemed are thrown into the lake of fire (20:13–15).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What will Jesus use to kill the huge army that fights against Him?**
A sword coming out of His mouth—His own word or breath.
- 2. Will anyone be able to do evil when Jesus is King on earth?**
No. If anyone does not want to obey, He will make them obey.
- 3. Where will Satan go after the last battle?**
He will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.
- 4. What will happen to everyone whose name is not in the book of life?**
They will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What is Jesus riding when He returns?**
A white horse, a sign of purity and righteous victory.
- 2. Why is Jesus' robe stained with blood when He comes again?**
It shows that He is coming to defeat all His enemies.
- 3. What will happen to Satan?**
He will be locked up for a 1,000 years, then he will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.
- 4. What will Jesus' 1,000-year reign be like?**
He will reign from Jerusalem over the whole earth. He will enforce perfect justice. There will be peace, prosperity, health, and long life. All Israel will worship Him and live in the Promised Land.
- 5. What are the two kinds of resurrection?**
The first resurrection is when believers are given immortal bodies to live with God forever. The second resurrection is when unbelievers are given immortal bodies to suffer in the lake of fire forever.
- 6. What does Jesus do when He sits on the Great White Throne?**
He acts as Judge and condemns all those whose names are not in the Book of Life.
- 7. How will unbelievers be judged?**
They will be judged according to their deeds.
- 8. What should we learn when we see what Christ will do to His enemies?**
To stay true to Christ to the very end, even when wicked people seem like they are winning.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

THE GUEST BOOK

Ask the children to write their names in a guest book on their way in to class. Ask them only once and do not remind them. At the beginning of the lesson, open this book and read all the names written in it. Is everyone's name there? In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the Book of Life. This book contains the names of every Christian. Use this book later in the lesson as an illustration of the Book of Life.

DONKEY AND HORSE

Do the children remember the type of animal that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on? Hold up a stuffed donkey (Matt 21:5). Can anyone remember what this taught us about Jesus? That He came to earth the first time as a humble king in order to die on the cross for sinners. But in today's lesson, Jesus returns to earth a second time. What kind of animal do you think He rides this time? Show a picture of a white horse (Rev 19:11). What do you think this teaches us about Jesus? That when He comes to earth a second time it will be as a conquering king.



ILLUSTRATE

VISUAL AIDS

Use the following props to bring the lesson to life: white horse, crowns, red robe, sword, scepter (metal rod), grapes, stuffed birds, water-based ink stamp (mark of beast), flame (lake of fire), key, chains, toy dragon, calendar, number 1 (first resurrection), number 2 (second death), crown on globe (Christ's earthly reign), throne, two books.

SATAN REMOVED FROM POWER

Bring in a bowl and fill it with cereal. Add small metal nails or screws or metal shavings to the cereal. Show it to the children and ask them how the metal can be removed. Explain that it's wrecking your cereal. Using a magnet, remove all the metal from the dry cereal. Use this illustration to show how Satan and the demons' evil influence will be removed during the millennial kingdom when they are bound, removed from the earth and thrown into the pit.



APPLY

JESUS WILL REIGN

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet, craft stick, glue, stickers, tape.

Directions: Color the crown and use to tape to close it. Make a cross with the craft sticks and tape it in the back of the crown. Décor the crown with stickers.

Jesus Will Reign
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God will judge the world • Revelation 19:11–20:15



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

FIRST VERSUS SECOND

While the children listen, read Luke 2:1–7. Now, with that in mind, ask them to compare what they just heard with Revelation 19:11–16. Are there any similarities between these two passages (both describe Jesus coming to earth)? What are some differences (one describes His first coming and the other His second; Jesus came as a child first and a conquering king second; Jesus came alone the first time but was followed by the armies of heaven the second; etc.)? Today we'll learn about His second coming.

BREATH OF YOUR MOUTH

Give each child a balloon. After all the balloons have been inflated, see who can keep their balloon in the air the longest using nothing but the breath of their mouth. Can the children think of anything else they can do with just their breath? In today's lesson, Jesus obliterates His enemies with the breath of His mouth (Rev 19:15, 21).



ILLUSTRATE

EARTHLY REIGN

Bring several paper crowns. Ask the kids what responsibilities they have at home or at school: cleaning room, clearing dishes, caring for pets, etc. Write a word on each crown for these various responsibilities, and let the kids wear them. Explain that humans were given a job to rule over the earth (Gen 1:26), but we have failed. God's plan for humans and the world will only be finished when Jesus, as a man, perfectly reigns on earth for 1,000 years.

I THOUGHT GOD WAS LOVE?

God is a God of love. He loves perfectly. However, He is perfect in every other area too. God cannot allow sin to go unpunished because He is perfectly holy and just (Rom 3:24–26). Illustrate justice by asking the children if it would be fair if their parents did not punish a sibling for anything he did wrong. What if he hit you or took something that wasn't his? It would only be right to punish him. God punishes sinners too. However, God does offer forgiveness. If we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior, God punishes Jesus in our place. Christ is the only way to escape God's just wrath and judgment.



APPLY

JESUS THE JUDGE

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet, Craft stick, crayons, tape, coffee cup lid, paper bag.

Directions: Color the image and cut it. Use a craft stick to reinforce the judge hammer, and use tape to keep it together. Cover the coffee cup lid with the paper bag and taper it in the back of it.

Jesus the Judge
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



AGES 9–11

**THAT'S NOT FAIR!**

Have you ever seen someone cheat at school or in sports and get away with it? How did that make you feel? Does it make you feel discouraged for trying to do things the right way? Does it tempt you to try to cheat too? Do you begin to feel bitter against the cheaters and want to pay them back? The lesson today shows us we can be encouraged to do what is right and not pay back on our own, because one day Jesus will make everything right.

CLASS-MADE GRAPE JUICE

Set a bunch of red grapes in a clear tub and let those who want to squish them with bare feet. Be careful not to stain clothing and be ready to clean off feet. Pour out the grape juice into another clear container. Do any of the children want to drink it (don't let them)? Describe how a winepress works. Explain that this is a vivid image of what Jesus will do to those who keep resisting Him (Isa 63:3–6).

**PERMANENT RECORD**

Have you ever done something embarrassing in front of someone else? Have you ever had an embarrassing moment recorded by someone on their phone or other device? Did they show this video to others? Did they post it to their social media site? Did you know that everything you've ever done is seen and known by God? In fact, the Bible says that God will judge unbelievers "according to what they had done" (Rev 20:13). Unbelievers will have no excuse before God, and because they will be judged "by what was written in the books" (20:12), their judgment will be fair.

SATAN

Satan was once one of God's angels; however, he rebelled against God, so God threw him and many other rebellious angels out of heaven. Satan is an evil angel who continues to fight against God. He wants to be just like God and opposes everything God wants. Satan does not know everything like God does, cannot be everywhere like God is, and is not all-powerful like God is. He is very powerful, though, and constantly tries to deceive believers. He is a liar and an accuser, charging believers with sin when he talks to God.

**THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!**

Is this a true statement? Can we really blame Satan for our sin? No! Today's lesson provides clear proof. Despite the removal of Satan's deceiving influence during the millennial kingdom, there will still be many who reject Christ during His righteous 1,000-year reign. And these Christ rejecters will be quick to follow Satan upon his release (Rev 20:8–9). We sin, but not because the Devil makes us. We sin because we have wicked hearts (Jer 17:9). However, that does not mean that the Devil and his evil world system do not provide us with opportunities to sin. Satan is our enemy. He is like a lion, prowling around looking for someone to devour. But we are able to resist him as we depend on God and rely on the power of His Spirit that lives within us (1 Pet 3:8–9).



LESSON 43

God creates a new heaven and new earth

REVELATION 21:1-22:21



Heaven is a perfect home for perfect people with their perfect God.



“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God’” (Rev 21:3).

Supporting Truths

1. Heaven is a real world.
2. Heaven has nothing sinful in it.
3. Heaven is where God lives with His people.
4. Heaven is where redeemed people will live the way God created them to live.
5. Heaven encourages us to live godly lives now.

Objectives

1. State that heaven is the New Heaven and New Earth.
2. List the kinds of evil and kinds of people who will not be in heaven.
3. Recite Revelation 21:3.
4. Compare Eden (Gen 1:26–2:15) to the New Eden.
5. Decide the proper response to the promise of heaven.



Lesson Summary

The last part of John's vision shows us heaven—not the spiritual place where departed believers are with God now, but the eternal place where resurrected believers will live with God forever. This place is a New Creation, a real world like our own but much better. It is a New Jerusalem, the shining capital city where God lives with His perfect people in glory. And it is the New Eden, a lush place full of life where redeemed people will serve in God's presence forever.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The gospel is the good news of God's plan for mankind—and even for all creation. It began in Genesis, when God made man in His image for His glory. God put man in a wonderful creation, but man sinned, and everything since then is the story of God restoring His original purpose—and making it even better. So Revelation ends where everything began: with mankind restored to God's image, living with God in a perfect creation.



**John sees the worthy
Lamb**
Revelation 5:1–14



**God will judge the
world**
Revelation 19:16–20:15



**God creates a new
heaven and new earth**
Revelation 21:1–22:21

Lesson Commentary

Heaven is a perfect home for perfect people with their perfect God.

Jesus never said that life as a Christian would be easy. In fact, it is very hard. If you are a Christian, expect to be tested, tempted, and persecuted as Jesus was (John 15:20). But if it's so hard, why stay true to Christ? We saw last week that one reason is godly fear: persevere through trouble now in order to escape the lake of fire. Now this week, we see an even greater reason: hope. When the Christian life is hard, fix your hope on heaven, where you will live forever as a perfect person in a perfect home with the perfect God.

Heaven is the New Creation (21:1–8)

The Bible uses the word “*heaven*” to describe four ideas: 1) the sky (Gen 1:20), 2) outer space (1:14), 3) the place where God and the souls of dead believers are now (2 Cor 12:2; Phil 1:23; Rev 6:9–11), and 4) the *eternal home of believers after they receive resurrected bodies* (Rev 21:1–22:5). The first two are physical, the third is spiritual, and the fourth—the one we are talking about now—is both physical and spiritual. It is “*a new heaven and a new earth*”

(Rev 21:1). Since it is called “heaven” and “earth,” it will be something like God’s original creation (Gen 1:1). But since it is “new,” it will be drastically superior (20:11; 2 Pet 3:10).

But the new world we will one day live in is only the setting for the main thing—God’s own presence (Rev 21:3). God’s purpose from the very beginning was for mankind to live in a close relationship with Him. In God’s presence, and in His presence alone, you find life, peace, security, and joy (Ps 27:4; 73:25–28). Only in His presence will all your crying and pain go away forever—He will personally dry your tears (Rev 21:4). You can get a taste of His presence now (2 Cor 6:16; Gal 2:20), but you will only fully live in God’s presence in the New Creation.

It sounds so good, but it seems so far away that we have doubts. That’s why God says, “Write this down”—this is certain (Rev 21:5).

God is faithful and true (Num 23:19). When He promises heaven, it’s a done deal (Rev 21:6a). He will make it happen because He is *the beginning and the end, the sovereign one in control of all history*. Let His power and faithfulness drive your doubt away.

But who is heaven for? It is for the one who thirsts for salvation (21:6b). It is not for those who thirst for sin (21:8; Jer 2:13). It is for the one who *overcomes, who trusts Jesus to the very end* (Rev 21:7; 1 John 5:5). That’s hard, very hard. But it is worth it, because if you overcome by faith, God will look at you and say, “I am your God, and you are my very own child” (Rev 21:7).

Heaven is New Jerusalem (21:9–27)

New Jerusalem is the capital city of the New Creation. This city shows us that the people who live there are perfect. First, they are loved, because New Jerusalem is the wife of the Lamb (Rev 21:9; Isa 62:5). Second, they are redeemed, because they belong to the Lamb who died to set them free (1 Pet 1:18–19). Third, they are glorious, living in a city that sparkles with the radiance of God (Rev 21:10–11). Fourth, they are complete. All the redeemed of Israel (21:12) and the church (21:14) are united there in perfect harmony.

The city itself is perfectly designed for its people (21:15–17). First, it is a real city with real, human dimensions. Second, it is huge: large enough to cover most of the United States and five times taller than our current atmosphere! Third, it is totally secure. Its walls remind us that those who live there are free from all danger forever. Fourth, it is beautiful (21:18–21). God’s glory shines through its translucent gold walls. Its gates are giant pearls, costly and pure (1 Pet 3:18). Even its foundations sparkle in hues of red, green, blue, yellow, orange, brown, purple, and white.

THINK ABOUT IT

Try teaching just one of the three parts of this lesson. Try describing all of it in your own words, then go back to focus on one or two truths.



THINK ABOUT IT

Heaven will be like our world, but with everything good improved and with nothing bad at all.



Perfect neighbors in a perfect city—but it gets even better! God's perfect presence is the best part (Rev 21:22–27). God and the Lamb will personally live in New Jerusalem with His people. There will be no temple building, for God's presence will fill it completely. Since God is perfectly present there, the whole city will shine brilliantly with His glory. His shining glory will be so great that no one will seek their own glory—even kings and nations will lay their glory at His feet. Also, because heaven is the place of God's glory, it is a perfectly pure place. Nothing detestable or wicked will be there (21:27). No evil will spoil the glory of heaven.

Heaven is the New Eden (22:1–5)

Inside New Jerusalem John saw the new Garden of Eden. God originally created mankind to live in Eden, but Adam failed to keep and guard it as God commanded him (Gen 2:15). Although the first Eden was lost, the prophets looked forward to a time when Eden would be restored (Isa 51:3; Ezek 36:35). In all, there are nine ways the first Eden is made new and better in heaven.

The first three ways show that New Eden is a land of full and unending life (Rev 22:1–3a). First, there is a river that gives life, just like the river in Eden (Gen 2:10). This river shows that eternal life is something like a pure, never-ending river that sparkles with the glory of God (John 4:14; Isa 12:3; Rev 21:6). Second, there is a tree of life, as there was in Eden (Gen 2:9). Third, there is no curse, just as there was no curse in Eden before Adam's sin.

The next three ways show God Himself lives in heaven. First, He is King there (Rev 22:3b). Second, He shows His face there (Rev 22:4a), as He did with Adam and Eve before they sinned and hid in shame (Gen 3:8). For now, no man can see His face and live (Exod 33:20), but in heaven, we will see Him face to face! Third, God gives light there (Rev 22:5a), just as He created light to shine in the first Eden (Gen 1:3).

The final three ways Eden is restored show that believers will perfectly live the lives God designed them to live. First, they will serve as slaves of God (Rev 22:3c). God created Adam to serve and guard the garden (Gen 2:15), but Adam failed. In New Eden, humans will finally do the job they were made to do. Second, they will have God's name on their foreheads (Rev 22:4b). That means they will be perfectly in His image, displaying and representing God just as they were originally created to do (Gen 1:26). Third, they will reign forever (Rev 22:5b). Mankind failed to rule over all creation as God intended (Gen 1:26; Ps 8), but one day, if you humble yourself before Him, you will inherit the earth to reign forever with Jesus (Matt 5:5; Rev 3:21).

John recorded his vision of heaven to give us hope. Life is hard, but if we have hope, we can persevere (Rom 8:24). Like an athlete persevering through the pain, set your eyes on the prize and do not give up. Let go of this world and live for your real home. Let go of your own glory and set your sights on God's glory. Let go of how others think of you or treat you, and look forward to living with redeemed humans made perfect forever. Above all, live for God now. Heaven is about Him, you were made to live for Him, and only by staying true to Him to the very end can you enter your true home. You are blessed if you keep His word, because He is coming (Rev 22:7).

Lesson Outline

Heaven is a perfect home for perfect people with their perfect God.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Heaven will be . . .

1. A New Earth, like our earth but without any sin or sinful people (21:1–8).
2. A New City, with strong walls and sparkling jewels (21:9–21).
3. A New Garden, with water and trees that give life (22:1–3a).
4. A New Home, where God’s people will live with Him forever (21:3, 7–8, 22–27; 22:3b–5).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Heaven is the New Creation (21:1–8).
 - The New Creation is a New Heaven and Earth (21:1–2).
 - The New Creation is where God lives with His people (21:3–4).
 - The New Creation is the new life God promised (21:5–6a).
 - The New Creation is for those who thirst and overcome (21:6b–8).
2. Heaven is New Jerusalem (21:9–27).
 - New Jerusalem is the home of perfect people (21:9–14).
 - New Jerusalem is a city with perfect proportions (21:15–21).
 - New Jerusalem is the place of God’s perfect presence (21:22–27).
3. Heaven is the New Eden (22:1–5).
 - The New Eden is a land of life without limit (22:1–3a).
 - The New Eden is the realm of the God of glory (22:3b, 4a, 5a).
 - The New Eden is home to people with a purpose (22:3c, 4b, 5b).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. After God ends this world, what will He do?**
He will create a new heaven and earth.
- 2. What city will come down from heaven?**
The New Jerusalem.
- 3. What will be in the New Jerusalem to make it like a beautiful garden?**
The river of life and the tree of life.
- 4. What is the most special thing about heaven?**
God will live there with His people.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Is heaven just an imaginary or spiritual place?**
No. It will be a real world, a world like this one but made perfect.
- 2. Why is God's presence the best thing about heaven?**
We were created to be with Him. We will never feel right until we are with Him. When we are with Him, He will wipe away our tears and end all pain.
- 3. Who is heaven for? Who is it not for?**
It is for people who thirst for God, who overcome by trusting Jesus without giving up. It is not for people who live for their own pleasures.
- 4. What is the New Jerusalem called?**
The Bride and the wife of the Lamb. This shows that the people who live there are loved and made perfect by Jesus.
- 5. What is the city like? What is it made of? How is it designed?**
It is real, huge, secure, well-designed for God's people, and gloriously beautiful (see commentary for more detail).
- 6. Is there a temple building in the New Jerusalem?**
No. God and the Lamb are the temple, because He is fully present in the whole city.
- 7. How does Revelation end like Genesis began?**
It ends with a New Eden, where perfect people will glorify, enjoy, serve, and reign with God forever.
- 8. What difference does heaven make in the way you live today?**
It shows us that following Jesus is worth it, even though it is very hard. It gives us hope. It encourages us to stop living for the things of this world.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

Before today's class, deliberately make the room look different than usual. This can be done by putting up decorations or moving the furniture around. Explain that the New heaven and Earth will be like our current earth but also different. But it will not just be different—it will be much, much better! We'll find out how in today's lesson.

FAVORITE PERSON

Do the children have a favorite person they like to spend time with? Maybe a parent, or a sibling, or friend? Is it hard when they have to say goodbye to this person? Well, in the New Heaven and Earth, God will live with His people, and they will never have to say goodbye to Him (Rev 21:3)! Imagine that: spending all day every day with your favorite person!



ILLUSTRATE

NO MORE...

For today's lesson, bring in visuals to illustrate that there will no longer be sin in the New Heaven and Earth. Show objects or pictures of the following: tombstone, sun/moon, temple, Band-Aid, medicine, Kleenex, prison. Ask the children what these objects are and what they are used for. Explain that in the New Heaven and Earth God will be present with His people and there will no longer be any sin. Since there will no longer be sin there will no longer be the effects of sin such as crying, dying, prison, etc.

GOD'S PERSONAL POSSESSION

Do any of the children have a pet dog? Does their dog have a collar with tags to show that it belongs to them and is loved by them? God shows His ownership and love for all those in heaven by writing His name on their foreheads (Rev 22:4). Use a washable marker and mirror to write "Jesus" on your forehead.



APPLY

THE NEW JERUSALEM

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheet, crayons, yarn, tape, scissor.

Directions: Color the city and cut it. Color the background images. Cut the two dotted lines. Make a hole where indicated. Pass the yarn through the holes. Tape the city to the yarn so that it goes up and down.

The New Jerusalem
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates a new heaven and new earth • Revelation 21:1–22:21



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

What do you think of when you think of heaven? As children answer, listen for misconceptions to correct later (people with robes, wings, harps, and halos floating around on clouds doing nothing). We're going to learn the truth about what heaven will be like in today's lesson. Alternatively, read the description of "new Narnia" in the last few pages of C.S. Lewis' book *The Last Battle*. Will heaven be like that—a real place like earth but much better?

STREETS OF GOLD

Bring some jewelry to class: gold, diamonds, pearls, etc. Show these to the children and talk about how valuable they are. We normally only see these items in small quantities. But imagine living in a city with walls, and gates, and foundations made out of them! That's what heaven will be like!



ILLUSTRATE

THIRSTY FOR GOD

Give the children a salty snack but no drink. After some time, ask the children if they are thirsty. Pour a large class of cool water in front of them, but don't offer any of them a drink. Finally, pull out enough cups for each child and offer them a drink. Explain that the Bible uses the idea of "thirst" to describe someone who knows they have a need (sin) that only God can meet. God is the only One who can quench our spiritual thirst (Ps 42:1–2; Isa 55:1–2; John 7:37–38).

HOLY TO THE LORD

Use Exodus 28:36–38 as an illustration of having God's name on your forehead (Rev 22:4). Describe (and show pictures) how the priest had a gold plate fastened to his forehead. Engraved on it were the words "Holy to the LORD."



APPLY

HEAVEN

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheets, cardstock, yarn, tape.

Directions: Color the images and cut them. Tape the gate to the city. Hole punch where indicated. Pass the yarn through the holes, so to close the gate and connect the ticket to the gate.

Heaven

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

A WORLD WITHOUT SIN

Our present earth is imperfect, tainted with sin. To illustrate this point, collect several newspaper stories throughout the week that display the effect of sin (reports of starvation, crime, injustice, etc.). Read these with the class, discussing the damaging effect of sin on this present earth.

Take a moment to describe how, when Christ returns, the world will be made completely perfect. We will never read stories like these in heaven.

FINALLY HOME

Christians are called “strangers,” and “exiles,” and “pilgrims,” and “sojourners,” and “aliens” on earth (1 Pet 2:11; Heb 11:13). Why is this? Is it because Christians don’t own permanent homes? Today’s lesson will reveal the answer: a Christian’s true home is with God in heaven.



ILLUSTRATE

NEW JERUSALEM

Bring a globe to class. Construct a cube out of cardstock large enough to cover most of the United States on the globe. This will help the children have an idea of the size of New Jerusalem.

NO MORE GOODBYES

As we get older, we are forced to say more and more goodbyes. Have you ever had to say goodbye to a friend that moved away? Have you ever been separated from family members because of divorce or parents having to move the family for a job? What about death? Have you ever lost someone you loved? In heaven there will be no more goodbyes because there will be no more death (Rev 21:4).



APPLY

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

C.S. Lewis wrote, “In the truest sense, Christian pilgrims have the best of both worlds. We have joy whenever this world reminds us of the next, and we take solace whenever it does not.” What does he mean? According to Revelation, is Lewis right? What difference does this make in your life? Discuss with the children how even our current broken world brings us joy because it is a picture of our real home. Is there anything that the children enjoy about this world? The next world will be better! But then discuss how, when we suffer the effects of the curse, we can find comfort in looking forward to a curse-free home. Is there anything that the children don’t enjoy about this world? There will be nothing harmful, or sad, or discouraging in the next.