



# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## YEAR 3

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

[www.generationsofgrace.com](http://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 encourage your family.



## Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

## 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**
- **Teacher Book**

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SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON  
**WEEK 40**

## John testifies to the exalted Jesus

Revelation 1:1-20



### DAY 1

John received from Jesus a message about the future •  
 Revelation 1:1-2

#### READ

Revelation 1:1-8

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of Revelation 1:1-2

Why study the book of Revelation? First, because it is trustworthy. It came from a trustworthy source, from God Himself. It also came through a trustworthy messenger, since John was a faithful witness (John 21:24). He could write to persecuted Christians because he was facing persecution himself, exiled to the prison island of Patmos near Ephesus (1:9b). Second, it is a message to help us 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. Third, it tells us about future, about the events connected with Jesus' return. Even though these events haven't happened yet, they were coming "soon" even in John's day because they are the next major event on God's timeline. These "latter days" were not soon in Daniel's time (Dan 2:28), since Jesus had not yet come the first time. They weren't 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.

#### ASK

1. Why is this book called Revelation?  
*It reveals. It shows us the glory of Jesus and the events surrounding His second coming.*
2. Who gave John this message?  
*Jesus.*
3. Why was John qualified to write to persecuted Christians?  
*John was facing persecution himself, exiled to the prison island of Patmos near Ephesus.*
4. What does "imminent" mean?  
*Soon. The very next thing.*

#### DISCUSS

1. Can we really know what's going to happen in the future?
2. What difference does knowing the future make in the way you live today?

## DAY 2

John received from Jesus a message that blesses •  
Revelation 1:3–8

### READ

Revelation 1:1–8

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 1:3–8

Why study Revelation? Because it blesses those who hear and obey. It reminds us that we can live in grace and peace because God is still the same now as He always has been and because the Holy Spirit fully empowers and blesses the church (1:4; Isa 11:2). But this message especially blesses us in Jesus. First, He blesses us because He is the faithful *witness*, the *one who tells the truth* by showing us God (John 1:1, 18). Second, He blesses us because He is the firstborn from the dead who gives us life. Third, He blesses us because He is in charge no matter how wicked our earthly rulers may be. Fourth, He blesses us because His love defines us. His past love has freed us from sin, and His ongoing and never-ending love secures us forever (Rom 8:38–39; Jude 21). His love has made us kingdom people, subjects of Christ (Col 1:13). We are even *priests*, *people with direct access to God* through Jesus. Fifth, we are blessed because Jesus is coming, giving us hope that one day when He will make everything right.

### ASK

1. How can you be blessed by God's Word?  
*By hearing it, believing it and obeying it.*
2. 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.*
3. 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.*
4. What three things does John call Jesus?  
*Faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler of the kings of earth.*

### DISCUSS

1. When bad things are happening in your life, how can the book of Revelation give you hope?
2. When things in this world are confusing and troubling, how can the book of Revelation help you see reality clearly?

## DAY 3

John heard and saw Jesus • Revelation 1:9–16

### READ

Revelation 1:9–20

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 1:9–16

Revelation is an amazing message because it is about an amazing person. John heard a voice that was loud, clear, and authoritative. This voice spoke from among seven lampstands, which represented the seven churches in modern-day Turkey where John had served for many years. Since these seven represent the whole church, this sign 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 (Dan 7:9–13). His long robe and golden sash picture His high rank. His blazing white hair pictures His holiness (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 (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. 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).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Who is the “son of man”?  
*Jesus—the Messiah who judges with authority and glory equal to the Father.*
2. What was in Jesus’ right hand?  
*Seven stars. The primary human leaders of the seven churches.*
3. What did Jesus’ voice sound like?  
*Like a trumpet and like the roaring of crashing waves.*
4. When John saw Jesus, what did His face look like?  
*It was shining like the sun in the middle of the day.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. In your own words, describe the vision John saw.
2. How would this vision have been an encouragement to John (Rev 1:9)? How does it encourage you?

**DAY 4***Jesus comforted John • Revelation 1:17–20***READ** 

Revelation 1:9–20

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Revelation 1:17–20**

What does this all mean? John rightly responded with fear, for Jesus is a fierce judge who must be taken seriously (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 (Ps 42:2; Rom 6:9). Even though we live long after John, we can still be comforted, because this message covers all time: 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.

**ASK** 

1. What did Jesus tell John?  
*Don’t be afraid.*
2. Why did John not need to be afraid?  
*Jesus is a fierce judge, but He uses His great power and holiness for the good of those who trust Him.*
3. What does it mean that Jesus has the keys of death?  
*He decides who lives, who dies, and when.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. If you had been in John’s place, what would you have done after seeing Jesus?
2. Whose perspective does Revelation gives us? How does seeing things from God’s perspective give you hope and peace?

# DAY 5

Why does God delay? • 2 Peter 3:9

## READ

2 Peter 3:1–13

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of 2 Peter 3:9

Jesus' return is imminent—it may happen at any moment. So why hasn't it happened yet? Why does God delay while all around us “scoffers” laugh at the idea that Jesus will return (2 Pet 3:3)? It's not because God is “slow.” God is not late or lacking in power. The reason has everything to do with God's mercy: the Lord “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” This does not mean that God is waiting for everyone to be saved—after all, the point of this passage is that God will destroy the world and the ungodly. It means that God is waiting for all those He has appointed to salvation to come to Him. It is to these people—the people of God—that God demonstrates His incredible patience. While scoffers mock and sinners insult His name, God waits patiently for all His children to return to Him. But there will come a day when God's patience has been exhausted (2 Pet 3:10). In that day there will be no scoffing, only fierce judgment.

## ASK

1. What do the scoffers say?  
*That Jesus isn't coming because it's been a long time.*
2. Why hasn't Jesus returned yet?  
*He is patiently waiting for people to be saved.*
3. How will the day of the Lord come?  
*Like a thief in the night.*
4. What will happen when Jesus returns?  
*The heavens will pass away, the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

## DISCUSS

1. How does this passage reveal God's immense patience? How does it reveal His fierce judgment?
2. Since God is patient but will judge one day, how should you respond now?

## NEXT WEEK

### John sees the worthy Lamb

Revelation 5:1–14





# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 41

### John sees the worthy Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14



## DAY 1

Who is worthy to open the scroll? • Revelation 5:1-4

### READ

Revelation 5:1-14

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Revelation 5:1-4

God's perfect plan is represented by the scroll. Like Daniel's scroll (Dan 12:4, 9), it contains the final phase of history. 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). So 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 had the ability to open the scroll. If no one could open it, then none of the things in the scroll would happen. The curse would keep festering and the devil would win. The hope of new life in a new world would be lost. No wonder John wept in utter despair!

### ASK

1. What was in God's hand?  
*A scroll.*
2. What was on the scroll?  
*Seven seals.*
3. 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.*
4. 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.*

### DISCUSS

1. What is a title deed? What does it show?
2. How do we know that God has a plan for the future? How often do you think about it? How much do you look forward to the end of His plan?

## DAY 2

The Lion and Lamb is worthy to open the scroll • Revelation 5:5-7

### READ

Revelation 5:1-14

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 5:5-7

John stopped weeping because Jesus is qualified to open the scroll. He is qualified, first, because He is the lion-like king prophesied by Jacob long ago (Gen 49:9-10). Second, He is both David's human descendant and also God (Ps 110:1). Third, He has already won the victory by His sacrificial death as the Lamb of God (Exod 12:3-6; Isa 53:7; John 1:29). His death proved that He is perfectly good and loving (John 15:13). His death also 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). Fourth, the Lamb's seven horns symbolize His complete power and authority (Dan 7:8, 20, 24). Fifth, 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 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.

### ASK

1. Who is the only one who can open the scroll?  
*Jesus.*
2. What two animals is Jesus like?  
*A lion and a lamb.*
3. How is the Lion of Judah worthy?  
*He is the human descendent of David, the divine Messiah, and the promised ruler.*
4. How is the Lamb who has been sacrificed worthy?  
*His death proved that He had the character to be trusted with the scroll and the power to do what the scroll said.*

### DISCUSS

1. How is Jesus like a lion? Take time to praise Him in prayer for this.
2. How is Jesus like a lamb? Take time to praise Him in prayer for this.

## DAY 3

The four living creatures and 24 elders praise the Lamb • Revelation 5:8-10

### READ

Revelation 5:1-14

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 5:8-10

The praise began with those closest to the Lamb. 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. The living creatures and elders sing about **redemption**, about how Jesus gave His own life to buy back people. 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. This is a huge blessing, because God's subjects are also **priests**, people with direct access 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).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Where did the praise begin?  
*With those closest to the Lamb—the living creatures and elders.*
2. What do the living creatures and elders have in their hands?  
*Harp and golden bowls full of incense.*
3. What do these represent?  
*The harps are associated with worship and the bowls of incense are prayers of believers.*
4. What do the living creatures and elders sing?  
*A new song about redemption.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What are some things you can do to praise God while here on earth?
2. Will true Christians ever get tired of praising Jesus for redeeming them?

**DAY 4***Every created thing praises the Lamb • Revelation 5:11–14***READ** 

Revelation 5:1–14

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Revelation 5:11–14**

The praise keeps increasing until it includes every created thing. This includes not just the redeemed, but also all of God's enemies—everyone proclaims the worthiness of the Lamb (Phil 2:10–11). But first, the angels praise Jesus because of His death. Because of His death, He possesses everything He needs to make the Father's plan happen. 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. And if that were not enough, the four living creatures kept saying "**Amen**," "*it is true*," after each song, confirming beyond any doubt that the Lamb is absolutely worthy. So when you are weak, oppressed, tempted, and feel like giving up, have hope. Instead of looking to yourself, look to Jesus, your great Savior and champion. Stay true to Him so that one day you will live forever with the one who is worth all love, glory, praise, and honor.

**ASK** 

1. Who praises Jesus after He takes the scroll?  
*Everyone: four living creatures, 24 elders, countless angels, every created thing everywhere.*
2. 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.*
3. How much do all created things praise Jesus?  
*They praise Him exactly the same as they praise the Father.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do you count Jesus as worth all your love and praise? What kind of person looks forward to praising Him forever?
2. Why is it foolish to oppose the Lamb?

# DAY 5

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! • Psalm 150

## READ

Psalm 150

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Psalm 150

One day everything that has breath will praise Jesus. That's the "who" of Psalm 150. This is a fitting conclusion for the final verse of the final Psalm. When all is said and done, every living thing will give honor to God. But this is not the only thing this Psalm has to say about praise. This psalm begins by describing where God is to be praised: "in his sanctuary" and "in his mighty heavens." It's likely that "sanctuary" refers to God's temple in Jerusalem. If that's the case, then these two descriptions reveal that God is to be praised everywhere: both in His temple on earth and in His home in heaven. Verse two provides the reason for praise: what God has done and who God is. Both His actions and His person are worthy of our praise. Verses three through five answer the question of how God is to be praised: with "trumpet," "lute," "harp," "tambourine," "dance," "strings," "pipe," "sounding cymbals," and "loud clashing cymbals." In other words, praise Him with everything you've got!

## ASK

1. Who will praise the Lord?  
*Everything that has breath.*
2. Where is God to be praised?  
*Everywhere. In His temple on earth and in His home in heaven.*
3. What is God to be praised for?  
*What He has done and who He is.*
4. How is God to be praised?  
*With "trumpet," "lute," "harp," "tambourine," "dance," "strings," "pipe," "sounding cymbals," and "loud clashing cymbals."*

## DISCUSS

1. How is Psalm 150 a fitting conclusion to the Psalter?
2. Why must worship be a way of life, not just something we do on Sundays?

## NEXT WEEK

### God will judge the world

*Revelation 19:11-20:15*



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON  
**WEEK 42**

**God will judge the world**

Revelation 19:11-20:15



**DAY 1**

*The Second Coming: Christ returns as God's righteous warrior • Revelation 19:11-21*

**READ**

Revelation 19:11-21

**EXPLAIN**

**The truth of Revelation 19:11-21**

Christ rides a white horse, and He is called "Faithful and True." His eyes are like fiery flames because He judges with burning purity (Heb 4:13). Many crowns are on His head, and the name "King of kings and Lord of lords" is on His robe, because He has absolute authority (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. Finally, His robe is stained with blood, because He will slaughter those who oppose Him (Isa 63:1-3). He is God's agent in judgment (John 5:19-22) and the great Captain of all the armies of heaven. A double-edged sword comes out of His mouth, since with His breath He will slay the wicked (Isa 11:4). An angel announces the coming battle (Ezek 39:4, 17-20) and the beast gathers the ten kings for war, 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. Christ slaughters the rest single-handedly.

**ASK**

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 Jesus use to kill the huge army that fights against Him?  
*A sword coming out of His mouth—His own word or breath.*
4. Who is the first to be tossed into the lake of fire?  
*The beast, along with his false prophet.*

**DISCUSS**

1. Will anyone or anything be able to resist Christ when He returns? Whose side are you on?
2. Compare Christ's second coming to His first coming (Luke 2:1-20).

## DAY 2

The Millennium: Christ reigns as God's supreme king •  
Nehemiah 9:38–13:3

### READ

Revelation 20:1–15

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 20:1–6

After the battle, the Devil and all demons will be imprisoned for a thousand years. 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. The rulers include the martyrs who stayed true to Christ during the tribulation (Rev 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). 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 (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).

### ASK

1. What will happen to Satan?  
*He will be locked up for a 1,000 years before being finally defeated.*
2. 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.*
3. What is the millennial kingdom?  
*When Jesus rules from Jerusalem over the whole earth for 1,000 years.*

### DISCUSS

1. How does future judgment and resurrection influence your attitude today (Job 19:25–26)?
2. Do any people simply cease to exist after they die?

## DAY 3

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

### READ

Revelation 20:1–15

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 20:7–10

Why is Satan released? This is to show, first, that humans are desperately wicked. They quickly followed Satan, showing that they were already seeking to rebel against Jesus even without Satan's deceiving influence. This shows that humans have no excuse for rebelling against God (Rom 1:18–20), and that 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. This is exactly what God said would happen (Ezek 39:6–7). To people who do not want Jesus to control their lives, this is very bad news. But if you are happy to have Jesus be the boss of your life, then this is very good news. Even when evil seems to be winning in this world, you can know that Jesus will win in the end. Therefore, what kind of person should you be today (2 Pet 3:11)?

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. How does Satan's release show that humans are desperately wicked?  
*Many people quickly followed Satan as soon as he was released, showing that they did not want to be under the reign of Jesus.*
2. How does Satan's release show that he is powerless before Christ?  
*Christ destroys Satan and his army in a moment and casts Satan into the lake of fire.*
3. Where will Satan go after the last battle?  
*He will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do you delight in God's laws for your life? Or do you do your own thing when you can get away with it? Whose side are you on?
2. Will Satan be the king who is in charge in hell, or a prisoner there like everyone else?

**DAY 4****The Great White Throne: Christ condemns as God's appointed judge • Revelation 20:11–15****READ** 

Revelation 20:1–15

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Revelation 20:11–15**

Before heaven comes, every last bit of evil must be taken away. 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. They cease to exist, or as Peter described it, they dissolve and melt with intense heat (2 Pet 3:10–13). Then the second resurrection occurs—unbelievers are brought back to life in order to be judged. Since they have not trusted in Jesus, they are judged according to their own deeds. The weight of their sin will crush them, because they will have nothing to say in their defense (Rom 3:19). Then they are thrown into the **lake of fire**, which Jesus compared to *Hell*, or Gehenna (Luke 12:5), a valley of Jerusalem where trash was 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). To escape this terrible fate, trust Jesus and stay true to Him to the very end, no matter how tempting sin appears to be.

**ASK** 

1. 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.*
2. How will unbelievers be judged?  
*They will be judged according to their deeds.*
3. What will happen to those whose names are not in the book of life?  
*They will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.*
4. 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.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do “secret sins” stay secret (Num 32:23b; Eccl 12:14)? Are there any sins in your life that you are still trying to keep hidden? What can you do (Ps 32)?
2. Why will those who are condemned have no excuse?

# DAY 5

The lame man shall leap like a deer • Isaiah 35

## READ

Isaiah 35

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Isaiah 35

The millennial kingdom will be a time of righteousness and peace (Isa 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 undone (Isa 11:7–9; 35:1–2, 7), so that the earth is rejuvenated and food is plentiful (Joel 2:21–27). These physical changes will be stunning: even the desert will “blossom” like a flower. Those with physical disabilities and deformities will be restored too: the lame will “leap like a deer” and the mute will “sing for joy.” People will enjoy good health and very long lives (Isa 33:24; 35:5–6; 65:20). There will also be the “Way of Holiness,” the highway of the redeemed leading back to Jerusalem. Those traveling on this road will be safe, singing, and full of joy as they return to the throne of their Messiah.

## ASK

1. What two things will mark the millennial kingdom?  
*Righteousness and peace.*
2. What will happen to the earth?  
*It will be free from the curse and very fruitful.*
3. What will happen to people?  
*The will be healed of diseases. They will enjoy good health and very long lives.*
4. Where will the Highway of Holiness lead?  
*To Jerusalem. To the throne of the Messiah.*

## DISCUSS

1. What normally grows in deserts?
2. How does the millennial kingdom fulfill God’s promise to Israel (Gen 15:8)? How does Jesus’ reign fulfill what God created humans to do (Gen 1:26–28)?

## NEXT WEEK

God creates a new  
heaven and new earth

Revelation 21:1–22:21





SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON  
**WEEK 43**

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

Revelation 21:1–22:21



**DAY 1**

*Heaven is the New Creation: a new heaven and a new earth • Revelation 21:1–2*

**READ** 📖

Revelation 21:1–8

**EXPLAIN** 👁️

**The truth of Revelation 21:1–2**

Jesus never said that life as a Christian would be easy. But if it's so hard, why stay true to Christ? We saw last week that one reason is godly fear; persevere through trouble 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. 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." Since it is called "heaven" and "earth," it will be something like our world today (Gen 1:1). But since it is "new," it will be far better.

**ASK** ❓

1. If life as a Christian is hard, why stay true to Christ?  
*To escape judgment and to enter your perfect home in heaven with God forever.*
2. What four things does "heaven" refer to in the Bible?  
*See explanation paragraph.*
3. After God ends this world, what will He do?  
*He will create a new heaven and earth.*
4. Is heaven just an imaginary or spiritual place?  
*No. It will be a real world, a world like this one but made perfect.*

**DISCUSS** 🗣️

1. What are some of your favorite things about our world today? Can you expect something like this (but even better) in heaven?
2. What are some bad things about our world today? Will these bad things be in heaven?

## DAY 2

Heaven is the New Creation: where God lives with His people • Revelation 21:3–8

### READ

Revelation 21:1–8

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 21:3–8

The new world will be amazing, but it is only the setting for the main thing—God’s own presence. In God’s presence, and in His presence alone, is life, peace, security, and joy (Ps 27:4; 73:25–28). In His presence all your crying and pain will go away forever—He will personally dry your tears. 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. When He promises heaven, it’s a done deal. 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. It is not for those who thirst for sin (Jer 2:13). It is for the one who ***overcomes, who trusts Jesus to the very end*** (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.”

### ASK

1. Why is God’s presence the best thing about heaven?  
*We were created to be with Him, so we will never feel right until we are fully with Him.*
2. What do we find in God’s presence?  
*Life, peace, security, and joy.*
3. Why does God say, “Write this down”?  
*Sometimes heaven seems so far away that we have doubts.*
4. 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.*

### DISCUSS

1. How does heaven fulfill God’s purpose from the very beginning for mankind to live in a close relationship with Him (Gen 3:8)?
2. Think about something that upset you this week. What does this show about what you are thirsting for?

## DAY 3

Heaven is New Jerusalem • Revelation 21:9–27

### READ

Revelation 21:9–27

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Revelation 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 (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. Fourth, they are complete. All the redeemed

of Israel and the church are united there in perfect harmony. The city itself is perfectly designed for its people: it is real, huge, totally secure, and beautiful. God’s glory shines through its translucent gold walls. Its gates are giant pearls, costly and pure (1 Pet 3:18). Even its foundation sparkles! Perfect neighbors in a perfect city—but it gets even better! God’s perfect presence is the best part. God and the Lamb will personally live in New Jerusalem with His people, so that the whole city will shine brilliantly with His glory. Because heaven is the place of God’s glory, it is a perfectly pure place. Nothing detestable or wicked will be there.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What city will come down from heaven?  
*The New Jerusalem.*
2. 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.*
3. 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.*
4. 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.*

**DAY 4**

*Heaven is the New Eden: the realm of the God of glory • Revelation 22:1-5*

**READ** 

Revelation 22:1-5

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Revelation 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 (Gen 2:15). But in heaven, Eden will be restored. 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. First, there is a river that gives life, just like the river in Eden (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. Second, He shows His face there, as He did with Adam and Eve before they sinned and hid in shame (3:8). Third, God gives light there, just as He created light to shine in the first Eden (1:3).

**DISCUSS** 

1. The New Jerusalem is large enough to cover most of the United States and five times taller than our current atmosphere. What does this show about heaven?
2. Think about what has made you most happy this week. Are you living for heaven or for something else?

**ASK** 

1. What will be in the New Jerusalem to make it like a beautiful garden?  
*The river of life and the tree of life.*
2. Is there any curse in the New Eden?  
*No. Just as there was no curse in the Garden of Eden before Adam's sin.*
3. Who gives light there?  
*God gives light there, just as He created light to shine in the first Eden.*
4. What is the most special thing about heaven?  
*God will live there with His people.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How can you experience a taste of heaven even now (Prov 14:27; 3:18; Gal 3:13; 2 Cor 4:5; 3:18)?
2. Right now, can anyone see God's face and live (Exod 33:20)? How will that change in heaven?

# DAY 5

Heaven is the New Eden: home to people with a purpose •  
Revelation 22:1-5

## READ

Revelation 22:1-5

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Revelation 22:1-5

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 servants of God, finally doing the job they were made to do. Second, they will have God's name on their foreheads. 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. 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. 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.

## ASK

1. What will the inhabitants of heaven have on their foreheads?  
*God's name. They will be perfectly in God's image.*
2. How long will the inhabitants of heaven reign with God?  
*Forever.*
3. How does Revelation end like Genesis began?  
*It ends with a New Eden, where perfect people will glorify, enjoy, serve, and reign with God.*
4. 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.*

## DISCUSS

1. How did you picture heaven before studying Revelation? How do people usually think about heaven? How is the picture of heaven in Revelation different?
2. Can you imagine a more perfect place than heaven? How can this encourage you when you feel like giving in to temptation?