

Acts-Revelation

Revelation

Revelation 1-22

Younger Verse

God will bless everyone who reads this prophecy. Revelation 1:3 (CEV)

Older Verse

God will bless everyone who reads this prophecy to others, and he will bless everyone who hears and obeys it. The time is almost here. Revelation 1:3 (CEV)

Welcome Time

How many of you have ever been to an island? What do you think about islands? They are usually very sunny, with lots of tropical fruit and beautiful beaches. Well, the author of the book we are going to talk about this week wrote it from an island. Sounds fun, huh?! Well, his experience was a little different. Listen closely to the story so you can find out how it was different.

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

Who remembers what the first book of the Bible is? Genesis! And which book is the last? It's Revelation, and it's where we are studying from this week. And that man on the island, the one who wrote Revelation, was John, the disciple that Jesus loved. He wrote it many years after he wrote the book of John, in fact, John was an old man by the time he wrote Revelation.

John was on the island of Patmos as punishment, not for vacation. Revelation 1:9 tells us why John was on the island. He was there because he was teaching from the Bible and was sharing about Jesus. That doesn't seem like anything to be punished for, but the rulers back then didn't like hearing about Jesus and so they made it hard for the people who trusted Jesus and taught about Him.

John also tells us in the very first verse of this book why he wrote Revelation. He explains that God gave this revelation to Jesus who then showed John so that those of us who serve Him will know the things that will happen soon. Do you know what? It has been almost 2,000 years since John wrote this book. Does that mean it's not really going to happen, then? Well, do you remember one of the things we talked about in 2 Peter (3:9), that God isn't slow about His promise, He's patient. He wants all of us to have the chance to choose to follow Him. That's why He is waiting - He wants to make sure we are with Him in heaven forever and ever! What a patient and loving God He is!

Just like John told us why he wrote Revelation, he also told us how we can understand it. In Revelation 1:19 John explains that chapter one is about what John has seen, chapters two and three are about what was happening then, while John was living, and chapters four through twenty-two are about what will happen after that. And you know, we are still waiting, so we can know

the things that are going to happen one day. And just like our verse says, God blesses those who read, hear and obey what is written in this book! This book is written a little differently from the other books we have studied, though. It's written in code. For example, in the first couple of chapters John tells about lampstands that look a little like candlesticks and about stars. Well, when John talked about the lampstands, he was really talking about churches and stars really meant angels!

Who remembers what John 3:16 says? (Allow students to quote this verse - helping them if necessary.) What does the part about "eternal or everlasting life" mean? It means forever. And who eternal life for? The verse says it's for *whoever* believes in Jesus. Well, what's it going to be like? That's one of the things John explains in Revelation, and it's awesome! There will be gates made out of pearl and walls made out of beautiful stones like emerald and topaz and amethyst. And the streets will be made of gold and an amazing river that comes from God's throne! Can you imagine?! But you know what is best of all about eternal life in heaven with God? We will be with God and Jesus forever and ever! And because of that there will be no more crying or dying and no more pain.

What an amazing, true story John wrote down for us of the things he saw! And we can be a part of these amazing things if we believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him in obedience. John tells us what happens to those who choose to follow the devil instead of God and it's not a pretty story. Those who don't choose God will suffer with the devil forever and ever. What is amazing is that we have a choice, every one of us. Will you choose God?!

What a great ending for the Bible, a great ending that lasts forever and ever. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Preprint the memory verse on paper, one sheet per student. Either have students illustrate this verse with crayons and markers or provide magazines to use in finding ways to explain read, hear and obey. Pictures that can be found for "read" would include eyes, those for "hear" would include ears, and those for "obey" might include people doing good things, or walking as if they are going to obey.

Prayer Time

Pray thanking God for His wonderful gift, for making a way through His Son for us to live with Him forever.

Preschool Lesson for Revelation

No More Tears

Do you ever get scared? Or do you ever fall and hurt yourself? Have you ever cried about something? Maybe you wanted your mom, or maybe you were tired or hungry. Or maybe even someone you know was really sick. You know, all of us have cried about something before. And sometimes I still cry about things.

But you know what?! One day, if we decide to follow God's Son, Jesus, we could live with them forever in a place where we would never cry again! Wouldn't that be wonderful to live in a place where nothing will ever scare us, where nothing sad will ever happen - ever.

We can learn about this place in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. John, Jesus' friend, wrote the book of Revelation. Near the end of this book John describes what this place will look like - and it's amazing! The city is in the shape of a square (show your preschoolers a square shape). There is a wall around the city made out of beautiful stone. There are twelve big amazing stones of purple and gold and red and blue and green. Can you count to twelve with me?

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12

There are also twelve gates, each made out of one great big pearl. (Bring a pearl or a picture of one to show your preschoolers.) Can you count the number of gates?

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12

The street in that city is pure gold - very shiny and bright! And God's throne is there. There is even a river, as clear as crystal, that comes out of God's throne and is in the middle of the street of gold.

Doesn't that sound like a beautiful place? And it is even more beautiful because God will be on His throne and being around Him forever and ever will be wonderful!



Activities for Revelation

- Be sure to continue practicing the books of the Bible, adding books as you learn them. (Only one remains, Revelation.)
 - Play Bingo with the books of the Bible.
 - Be prepared with any pictures you might have that are representations of Revelation, especially the new heaven and earth. Show them to your students and ask them review questions from this week's lesson.
 - Remind your students of John's secret code in the book of Revelation and have them develop their own secret code. Then have them change this week's verse, or another verse that they know from memory, into secret code. They can then trade papers with a friend to decode the message.
 - Have your students illustrate heaven from your explanation of the pearly gates, etc.
 - Provide word puzzle pages and bible verse coloring pages for your students.
 - Bring a special item to class. Cover it with a towel, tablecloth, etc . . . Ask your students to guess what could be covered. As they guess and guess, share with them that they will never really know what it is until you uncover it. Explain to them that the book of Revelation is exactly like that - it is something special from God that is uncovered for us because God told John to write it down so that we could read it. Reveal the item you brought!
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