

# LOWER ELEM Flight Plan May 10<sup>th</sup>



<p><b>Lesson</b></p>	<p><b>Letters to the Seven Churches</b></p>
<p><b>Bible Passage</b></p>	<p>Revelation 2-3</p>
<p><b>Story Point</b></p>	<p>Jesus told churches to not give up.</p>
<p><b>Key Passage</b></p>	<p>“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15</p>
<p><b>Big Picture Q &amp; A</b></p>	<p><b>What is the hope of the church?</b> The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make things new.</p>



## Church Crossroads



WORD SEARCH  
UNITE 20 - Session 2  
Letters to the Seven Churches

**WORD SEARCH**  
• Find the words listed below in the word search.  
• The letters are arranged in a grid.  
• Some words are written horizontally and some vertically.  
• Some words are written diagonally.

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# leader bible study

The Book of Revelation opens with John's description of a vision. In the vision, Jesus gave John messages for seven local churches. Jesus told John to write these messages on a scroll and send them to the churches.

In most cases, Jesus commended the church for their good work, warned them about the areas in which they needed correction, and urged them to return to Him. Among other things, He warned the churches not to forget their love of the Lord. He encouraged them not to be afraid of being tested. He urged those who were surrounded by evil to not deny their faith. Each time, Jesus promised to reward those who remain faithful to Him.

The church is made up of people who have trusted in Jesus, who are committed to one another, and who meet together to worship Jesus and share the gospel. Jesus loves the church as His bride. (See Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-9.) Jesus' message called the churches to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. The Lord is slow to anger (Ex. 34:6-7) and patient, wanting everyone to repent (2 Pet. 3:9).

Jesus warned specific churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), but the problems they faced can still be found in churches today. Help kids understand some of the problems the early churches faced: They did not love like they should, they believed false teaching and did wrong things, and they were lukewarm—useless to the cause of Christ.

We can pray for our churches to be faithful, effective instruments in spreading the gospel. We should love the church because Jesus loves the church. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God's plan. Finally, Jesus warned believers to stay alert because He will come like a thief when no one is expecting Him. Believers—then and now—must always be ready!

**Vision for Grace Airways**  
**We navigate the scriptures,**  
**training up bold disciples,**  
**on our ongoing journey to Jesus!**

## Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

### After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is the gospel in this story?

## May Focus: Jesus Will Return



### MAY 3rd: John's Vision of Jesus *Revelation 1*

**Story point:** Jesus appeared to John in a vision.



### MAY 10th: Letters to the Seven Churches

*Revelation 2-3*

**Story Point:** Jesus told churches to not give up.



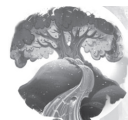
### MAY 17th: Before the Throne *Revelation 4-6*

**Story Point:** All people and creatures will worship Jesus.



### MAY 24th: Jesus will Return *Revelation 19-22*

**Story Point:** Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.



### MAY 31st: End of Year Celebration!

## Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

### Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

### Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

### Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with \_\_\_\_\_.
- You really helped me while I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for being \_\_\_\_\_'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

# Sunday Morning Flight Plan



## Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

## Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

## Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story  
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

## Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:  
Around 9:45

Second Service:  
Around 11:45



# 10 min Take Off

*Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.*

## Open in Prayer

### Hook

Prompt kids to think about a time they built a sandcastle or a block tower. Was it strong? What did they do to help it stand firm? Today we will hear a message Jesus had for 7 churches needing to stand firm in their faith.

### Big Picture Question

The stories we talk about each week help us answer a big picture question. During our time together, we have been thinking about the question: ***What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.*** Believers can have hope in hard times because we know that Jesus is coming back soon.

### Key Passage

Lead the boys and girls to read together Revelation 11:15. Believers will face difficulties in this world. The good news is that we can live with hope, knowing that one day soon, Jesus will return and reign forever. As our verse says, the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Knowing this truth, believers can keep turning away from sin, following Jesus, and working together to do God's plan by sharing the good news of the gospel.

### Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Last week we read that **Jesus appeared to John in a vision**. Jesus instructed John to write down everything his vision. Jesus is the First and the Last, the Living One. This week we'll be learning what Jesus wanted the seven churches to know. .

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



# 15 Min Journey

*Where we travel into God's word*

## Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Revelation 2-3** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Some of Jesus' messages to the churches were fairly straightforward. Jesus told the church at Ephesus to love Him as they used to, which isn't too hard to understand. Over time, we all may drift away from loving Jesus as our top priority. But some of the messages were kind of confusing.

Why might Jesus tell the church in Sardis they were dead? Do you think Jesus meant all the believers in Sardis were actually dead? [Allow responses.] No, of course not. Remember that James said faith without works is dead. So it's possible Jesus was telling the church in Sardis to put their faith into action—to live in a way that shows they love Jesus.

And what would it mean to be lukewarm? Think about water temperatures. Cold water is refreshing, soothing, and good to drink. Hot water is good for cleaning or cooking. Jesus was likely trying to help the church in Laodicea see that they had become useless because they had turned away from Him. In fact, Jesus told that church that He was on the outside, knocking to get in! In a way, they had tried to lock Jesus out of His own house. Jesus is the head of the church, and they were leaving Him out of their gatherings.

Thankfully, none of the warnings were without instruction and encouragement. Jesus wasn't telling the churches that it was too late for them, but that they needed to love and obey Him before it was too late. Jesus told churches to not give up.



*Jesus loves the church. His message to the seven local churches called them to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. We can learn from those churches. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God's plan.*

# Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: JESUS TOLD CHURCHES TO NOT GIVE UP.

The apostle John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision of Jesus. Jesus told John to write down a message for seven churches. So that is what John did. “To the church in Ephesus: You do not love well like you did when you first believed. Turn back and love like you used to.

“To the church in Smyrna: You are poor and are suffering, but really you are rich!

“To the church in Pergamum: You are faithful to Me, and you tell others about Me even when it is hard. But not everyone in the church is doing the right thing. Turn away from your sin and turn back to Me!

“To the church in Thyatira: I know about your love, faithfulness, and service. Keep believing the truth until I come.

“To the church in Sardis: People think you are alive, but you are actually dead. Turn from your sin and remember the gospel.

“To the church in Philadelphia: You have little power, but you listen to Me and obey My word. I am coming soon. Be ready and keep believing.

“To the church in Laodicea: You are lukewarm—not hot or cold, so you are not good for anything. I will spit you out!”

Jesus said, “See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.” Jesus will reward every faithful and obedient believer.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus loves the church. His message to seven local churches called them to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. We can learn from those churches. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God’s plan.*



## Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Revelation 2–3. Remind them that Revelation is the last book of the Bible. Instruct kids to read Revelation 2–3 to find the locations of each church Jesus told John to write to: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Consider finding each out on the New Testament Mediterranean Map. (D6–7) Lead the group to discuss:

1. **What was Jesus' message for the church in Smyrna?** (*"You may be poor and suffering, but really you are rich! Do not be afraid when you face prison or death"; Rev. 2:8-10*)
2. **What was Jesus' message for the church in Pergamum?** (*"Some of you are living like those who do not believe. Turn away from your sin and turn back to Me!" Rev. 2:12-16*)
3. **What was Jesus' message for the church in Laodicea?** (*"You are lukewarm—not hot or cold. I will spit you out of my mouth!" Rev. 3:14-18*)
4. **Who is the church?** *The global church is all people throughout history who have trusted in Jesus. The local church is a group of believers who live near one another; are committed to one another; and who gather regularly to worship Jesus, serve others, and share the gospel.*
5. **Why did Jesus send messages to the churches?** *Jesus was reminding them that it wasn't too late. They still had time to love and obey Him. He was encouraging them to live for Him.*
6. **How can we be faithful to remain in Him until His return?** *Discuss different ways we can build up our faith to remain in Christ.*



**God's attributes-** helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

**-With Us**

## Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



# 15 min Flight Lab

*Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible*  
**CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY**

## Key Passage Activity

Before the session, write each word or key phrases of the key passage on sticky notes. Make two or three sets of sticky notes. Stick the sticky notes to individual blocks (building blocks, large interlocking bricks, or magnet tiles). Divide the kids into two or three groups. Provide each group with a set of blocks with attached sticky notes. Instruct the groups to put the blocks in order and recite the key passage. Challenge the groups to build a church with the blocks.

## Heads up, seven up

Choose seven kids to stand at the front of the room. The rest of the kids will put their heads down and stick their thumbs up. The seven kids with each touch another kid's thumb. Once touched, kid will put her thumb down. The seven will go back to the front of the room and say, "heads up, seven up!" The kids whose thumbs were touched will stand up and get one chance to guess who touched their thumb. If they guess correctly, they change places and become one of the seven in front. Play again as time allows.

- Seven is an important number in Scripture. God uses the number seven to show perfection and completeness. In today's story, Jesus instructed John to write a message to churches. Can you guess how many churches?

## Loving the Church

Choose a way that your class can serve the church: clean the room or another area, sing to a preschool class, make cards to pass out in a senior adult class, and so forth. Discuss with the kids why we serve and love our church. Explain that Jesus loves and serves the church, so if we love Jesus, we will love who He loves.

- Jesus loves the church. Because Jesus loved and served the church first, we can love and serve the church. What are some other ways you can serve the church?

## Notes of Encouragement

Discuss the role of the church leaders and pastors at your church. Make a list of ways the church leaders and pastors help believers in your church to remain faithful to Jesus and wait for His return.

Provide kids with construction paper, markers, and stickers. Instruct them to write notes of encouragement to church leaders and pastors thanking them for their instruction, leadership, and teaching. Allow kids to decorate their notes. Deliver the notes after class or let kids deliver their own notes.

- Jesus encouraged the churches when they were doing good work. He warned and corrected them about things they were doing wrong. Jesus urged the churches to repent, turn to Him, and remain faithful. The church is made up of believers who have trusted in Jesus. Leaders and pastors help the church remain faithful to Jesus and share the gospel. We can encourage our leaders and pastors in their work and thank them for helping us follow Jesus.

## Pen Pals

Kids will get to know one another by “interviewing” one another; however, kids can only ask and answer questions by writing them down—without talking. Begin by grouping kids into pairs. Start a timer for 8 minutes. Challenge the kids to learn at least one thing about as many kids as they can within the 8-minute time. When the timer starts, each kid will write down a question she would like to ask and show it to her partner. The partner will then write down his answer. They will then both find other kids to interview.

When time is up, invite kids to share what they found out about one another and determine who interviewed the most kids.

- Though it is less frequently used today, letter-writing was a common means of communication during the time of the early church. In our Bible story today, we will see how John wrote letters to seven churches to give them a message from Jesus.

## Start and Finish

Prepare to play partner charades by writing the following events on separate index cards: *playing a basketball game, mowing the lawn, talking on the phone, doing the dishes, reading a book, and getting a haircut.*

Invite two partners to draw an index card. The first partner should act out the beginning of the event. The second partner should act out the end of the event. Encourage the rest of the group to guess what the partners are acting out. (Example: When talking on the phone, the first player might begin by picking up a pretend phone and mouthing a conversation. The second volunteer should mouth a brief conversation and then hang up the phone.)

After kids guess, allow another pair to act out an event.

- In today’s Bible story, Jesus said, “I am the beginning and the end.” What do you think He meant by that?



# 5 min Pilot's log

*Where we prepare to depart.*

## **Pray:**

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

**ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.**

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

## **Waiting for parents/Activity Page:**

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

**Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.**

## Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

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Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

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Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

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Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

*Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.* Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

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Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

## Prayer Extra Ideas:

**Prayer Chain**—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

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**Painted Rocks**—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

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**Pointing to a Map**—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

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**Looking out the Window**—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

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**Head Shoulders Knees and Toes**—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

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**Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers**— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're  
ready  
for  
Sunday!

