

leader bible study

While he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos, the apostle John had an amazing vision of heaven. Jesus told John to write down everything he saw. John saw things that will happen when Jesus comes back to earth.

In the final chapters of the Book of Revelation, John described a vision of the new heaven and the new earth. He wrote about the beauty of the New City—the New Jerusalem. The streets will be pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the city wall will be adorned with precious stones. The city will not need the sun or the moon because God’s glory lights up the city. There will be no darkness, and nothing evil will ever come into the city. There will be no sadness, crying, or pain. Even though there will be no sun or moon, there will be no darkness because the glory of God will be its light. The Lord will reign forever and ever. What an amazing place heaven will be!

Even with John’s descriptions, we can’t imagine exactly what it will be like when Jesus returns. Use this session to emphasize what we do know, using the unit big picture question and answer: What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.

The promised return of Christ should fill believers with hope, strengthening them to persevere through the trials of this life and remain faithful to the Lord. When Christ returns, those who trust in Him will be with Him and enjoy Him forever. God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears.

Christ’s return should also give believers a sense of urgency to share the gospel with the world. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes! (Rom. 1:16) Jesus is coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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.



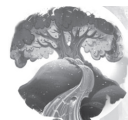
MAY 17th: Before the Throne *Revelation 4-6*

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 discuss something special they are looking forward to, such as a birthday or special holiday. • Sometimes, waiting for something exciting can feel extremely difficult. You may find yourself wishing the fun event would just arrive immediately. Can you think of any ways to pass time so the waiting doesn't feel so difficult?

Big Picture Question

Can anyone recite our big picture question and answer? [Allow responses.] Great job! **What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.** Just as you might do some special preparations to get ready for a special holiday or birthday party, we can do things to prepare for Jesus' return. We'll talk more about that after I tell you the story.

Key Passage

Lead the boys and girls to read together Revelation 11:15. When Jesus returns, He will make everything new. He will take all sadness away and replace it with joy. He will claim His throne and reign forever and ever! We can cling to the truth that Jesus is coming soon to undo all the damage sin has done and make everything right again. I hope that you have hidden this verse in your heart to remind you of the hope we have in Jesus.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

We've been learning about John's vision of Jesus. **Jesus appeared to John in a vision and Jesus told the churches to not give up.** In his vision, John saw that Jesus was the only One who was worthy to open the scroll. **All people and creatures will worship Jesus.** Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. Though we don't know when, we know that **Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.**

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 19-22** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

In the last chapters of Revelation, John wrote about the new heavens and the new earth that Jesus showed him. John's words help us imagine the incredible beauty and perfection of God's renewed world. John wrote about streets made of pure gold, and walls made of gemstones! The city needed no sun or moon, because God's glory shined bright enough to light up everything. These descriptions may not be pictures of what the world will literally look like, but they help capture the idea of a perfect city that God will provide to live with His people.

The promise of Jesus' return gives believers hope in this life. Setting our minds on the perfect promises we have in the future helps us stay faithful to Jesus in the present. What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.

God hasn't left us to wait in a broken world for no reason. We have work to do. As we love and obey Jesus and teach others to love and obey Him, our current world can begin to show hints of the perfect world to come. While we wait for Jesus to return we share the gospel, love our neighbors, and live in ways that glorify God.



HOW DO YOU
SEE JESUS
IN THIS STORY?

Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. When Jesus returns, those who trust in Jesus will be with Him and enjoy Him forever. God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears. Jesus is making all things new.

Age Appropriate Story

**STORY POINT: JESUS WILL RETURN
DESTROY EVIL, AND MAKE ALL THINGS
NEW.**

John had a vision from God of the end of time. John heard a large crowd of people praising God and rejoicing. John wrote about what he saw.

John saw a new heaven and a new earth. He also saw the Holy City, a new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven. He heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Look! God will live with His people. They will be His people, and He will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist. Sadness, crying, and pain will no longer exist."

The angel showed John the Holy City. It was shining with God's glory. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it. The glory of God gives light to the city, and there is no darkness.

The angel showed John the river of living water. The tree of life was on both sides of the river.

God's throne will be in the city. The Lord will reign forever and ever.

Jesus said, "Listen, I am coming soon!"

Jesus is the One who says that all of these things will happen. He is coming soon. "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

Christ Connection: Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. When Jesus returns, those who trust in Jesus will be with Him and enjoy Him forever. God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears. Jesus is making all things new.



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Revelation 21. Remind the kids that the Book of Revelation is at the end of the Bible and this passage is near the end of Revelation. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **What will no longer exist in the new earth?** *(There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain; Rev. 21:4)*
2. **What will give light to the city?** *(The glory of God gives light to the city, Rev. 21:23)*
3. **Who did Jesus say He was?** *(“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end;” Rev. 22:13)*
4. **What part of the new Jerusalem would be the most exciting for you to see?** *Encourage the kids to think about the amazing things John describes. Remind them that we can’t know for sure if John was describing literal things, but that his descriptions show the restored world will be more wonderful than we can imagine.*
5. **How does the hope of heaven help believers to remain faithful to the Lord?** *the promise of Jesus’ return fills believers with hope. We know how things end, so we can be sure that our faithfulness will be rewarded. Our confidence in God’s promises helps us persevere through the trials of life because we will be with God and enjoy Him forever.*
6. **How should Christ’s return give believers a sense of urgency to share the gospel?** *Revelation helps us understand what will happen when Jesus returns, but it doesn’t say when those events will occur. We obey Jesus in the meantime so that the most possible people have had the opportunity to respond to the gospel.*



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:

-Holy -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

Instruct the kids to line up, all facing forward. Give the first kid in line a ball. The first kid will hold the ball, say the first word of the key passage, and pass the ball over his head to the second kid in line. The second kid will hold the ball, say the second word of the key passage, and pass the ball over his head to the third kid in line. Continue until the entire key passage has been recited. The ball should keep moving from the first of the line to the back of the line and back up to the first of the line (like the First and Last). Continue playing as time allows. Mix up the kids in different line order so they recite different words of the key passage..

Ready for Company

Invite the kids to help make a list of things they or their families do to prepare for dinner guests. Write the list on the whiteboard or on a large piece of paper. Be prepared to offer some examples, such as cleaning their homes, vacuuming their carpets, making dinner, setting the table, and so forth.

- We do a lot to prepare for dinner guests. Those preparations help our guests feel comfortable when they arrive. In today's Bible story, Jesus urged the church to be prepared for His return. What are some things we can do to be prepared for Jesus to return and make all things new?

Perfect Design

Discuss what makes a good amusement park. Form pairs of kids. Provide each pair with paper and a pencil. Challenge them to design their version of a perfect amusement park. Invite them to name their park. When the pairs are finished designing, encourage them to share their designs with the class.

- Those sound like amazing theme parks! As much fun as those designs would be, the Bible tells us about an even better place to live: the new earth. When Jesus returns, He will fix everything sin has broken and make the world perfect again. The Bible calls this the *new earth*. Today, we will learn more about it.

Fix it!

Prepare several stations of different broken items and repair supplies. Hold up each broken item and discuss why it won't work while it's broken. Invite kids to select a broken item and work to repair it the best they can. When kids are finished, allow them to share how they fixed their broken items. Discuss whether the items are truly fixed and whether or not they will work correctly now.

- We tried our best to fix these broken items, but they're not fixed perfectly. There are many things in our world that are broken because of sin. We can't fix them. Only Jesus can make all things new. He will return, destroy evil, and make all things new. There will be no more death, no more pain, and no more tears. Come, Lord Jesus!

All Things New

Distribute one sheet of paper to each kid. Prompt them to fold their paper in half. On one side encourage kids to draw some pictures depicting some bad things that are caused by sin. Some examples are a plant dying, people arguing, a person who is sad, or a person who is in pain.

On the other side of the page, prompt kids to take the bad things and turn them into something new, like Jesus will do when He returns. For example, the person who is sad can be changed to a person who is happy.

Once everyone has a chance to add some drawings to their papers, ask kids to share what they drew.

- Jesus promised that He will come back and make all things new. In the new heaven and the new earth, there will be no more sadness, tears, pain, or death. Everything painful or sad in life will be taken away. We will be filled with joy as we live with Jesus for all eternity.

Go, set, ready

Begin by encouraging the kids to stand up and spread out around the room. Explain that you will give them instructions on how they should go around the room: hopping, skipping, jogging, tiptoeing, jumping, and so on.

Kids must listen very carefully. Anytime they hear you say, "Go, set, ready," kids should freeze in a "ready" position—standing tall with arms to their sides and feet together. When you say "Ready, set, go," kids can "unfreeze" and move around the room. Repeat as time allows.

- Today's Bible story will remind us that Jesus is coming back soon. We'll hear about what to expect and why Jesus' return is such good news.



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.

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.

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.

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.*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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!

