

Mission Accomplished

Bible Lesson: Revelation 5:9, 7:9-12

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will understand that, in the end, God will accomplish his purpose – all peoples will worship him.

Outcomes

1. Students will learn about the culmination of history as described in Revelation 5 and 7.
2. Students will understand that God desires full, not partial, commitment to him.

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2a “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Directions

1. Review verses for the “Bible Drill Challenge.” Consider how you will relate each to today’s theme.
2. Review the “Key Word Wheel” poster. Integrate these words as you notice them in any and all sections of today’s lesson. Suggested: “Purpose.”
3. Read the Bible Story references. Pray that God will guide you as you teach and apply this lesson to your unique group of students. Pray they will be challenged to a deeper commitment to Christ.
4. Locate two beautiful apples for the Pre-lesson activity.
5. Locate the “Hallelujah to the Lamb” song on the DVD.

**PREPARATION: 20 min.****TEACHING: 36 min.**

Materials

- Bibles
- “Key Word Wheel” poster (Introduction p. 6)
- “Key Word Cards” (Introduction pp. 7-8)
- two apples
- “Hallelujah to the Lamb” song (VF)
- TV/DVD player

TEACHING (CORE)

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY: THE WHOLE ... NOT PART

Directions

1. Warmly welcome students to your time of learning about God and his purpose.
2. Invite a student volunteer to come forward to receive a gift.
3. Shine the apple, polish it, and make it beautiful. Place it on your palm and offer it to the student.
4. Just as the student is ready to take the apple, whisk it back. Polish and prepare it a little more.
5. Finally, offer the apple again. This time, just as the student reaches for the apple, whisk it back and take a large bite. Offer it once again to the student. Feel free to take one more bite.
6. With a mouthful of apple, ask, *“Do you want it now? Why or why not?”* The student will probably comment that part of the apple is missing. It has your germs. Lead the student to admit that it is no longer a nice gift.
7. Say, *“This activity reminds me of the way in which some people give their love to God. They may try to make their love, worship, and commitment look good, but really, they keep back part of their love for themselves. They don’t give their whole heart to God.”*
8. Hold up the other, whole apple. *“Today’s Bible verse describes the kind of complete love and worship God is looking for from us.”*

BIBLE DRILL CHALLENGE

Romans 12:1-2a “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Directions

1. Give each student a Bible. Invite students to participate in a Bible drill. Say, *“Since the Bible has such an important purpose, we want to get more acquainted with the Bible itself. Today, we will practice finding verses and stories in the Bible that help us understand God’s purpose.”* (optional: *“We will also be practicing to challenge our parents to a ‘Bible Drill Challenge’ in our next lesson.”*)
2. Instruct students to hold their Bibles in a ready position, Bibles closed over their heads. Invite students to work in pairs if they are less familiar with their Bibles. Let students warm up for a speed competition by first looking for each item below, one at a time. As you name the item, adding theme-related questions or comments, students will lower their Bibles and quickly try to find what you have named. Say, *“Ready, begin”* after introducing each item.
 - Malachi 1:11a – *“Where will God be known?”* (review verse from Lesson 1)

Materials

- two apples

Materials

- Bibles

- Isaiah 45:22 – “What does God want for all people?” (review verse from Lesson 2)
 - Psalm 67:1-2 – “Why does God bless us?” (review verse from Lesson 3)
 - Exodus 9:16 – “Who does God use to reveal himself?” (review verse from Lesson 4)
 - 1 John 4:9 – “How did Jesus reveal God to us?” (review verse from Lesson 5)
 - Acts 1:8 – “Who gives us strength to make God’s name known everywhere?” (review verse from Lesson 6)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Is it always easy to make God known? Explain.” (review verse from Lesson 7)
 - Romans 10:14 – “How will people hear about Jesus?” (review verse from Lesson 8)
 - 2 Peter 3:9 – “Who does God want to hear about him?” (review verse from Lesson 9)
 - Ephesians 2:10 – “Why did God create you?” (review verse from Lesson 10)
 - Romans 1:16 – “Why was Paul unashamed of the gospel?” (review verse from Lesson 11)
 - Romans 12:1-2a – “These verses talk about giving God our all.”
3. Read the verse aloud. Discuss its meaning together.
 4. Say, “The apostle Paul wrote these verses.” Ask, “Where do you see the ‘blessing’ part of this verse?” (God’s mercy) “Paul spent the first eleven chapters of Romans talking about God’s loving treatment and provision for sinful human beings. Such love demands a response on our part.”
 5. Say, “Paul invites us to consider offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God. A living sacrifice! Imagine if the Old Testament priests put a lamb or bull on the altar while it was still alive! The problem with a living sacrifice is that it can crawl off of the altar. When we willingly choose to stay in the place where God can use us, we are showing our worship. Worship is not always a song. It is our life – how we live.”
 6. “Verse two challenges us to break away from the way the people of this world think, allowing God to change our minds ... to think God’s way, not our own way.”
 7. Ask, “Why would anyone want to make this kind of whole-life commitment to Christ?” Allow responses.
 8. Summarize by saying, “God is totally worth it! In fact, he is the only one worthy of all this sacrifice, service, and love. He is above all!”

BIBLE LESSON: THE END OF THE STORY

Directions

1. Remind students that the Bible is one story with a beginning, middle, and end. Say, “We began at creation, in the Garden of Eden. We looked at

Materials

- Bible

the world in Bible times and explored history since New Testament times. We have heard about people all around the earth coming to know God. Now what?"

2. Say, *"Let's look more closely at the end of the story. Really, it is a beginning in itself. It takes place in heaven."*
3. Read Revelation 5:9-10. Explain these verses. *"Jesus is the main character in this part of the story. The creatures in heaven have gathered in front of God's throne and are singing a new song about why Jesus is worthy: '... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'"*
4. Ask, *"How does this song of praise match with God's purpose?"* (Jesus made it possible for all people to know him.)
5. Turn to Revelation 7. Read verses 9-10. Ask students to describe this crowd. Then say, *"This is a description of peoples from all nations joining in worship. All believers will be part of this group."*
6. Discuss large celebrations. Ask, *"What is the largest gathering you have ever been part of? How many people were there? Were they celebrating anything?"* Enjoy listening to your students' experiences with crowds.
7. Invite your students to close their eyes for a minute. *"Imagine the crowd you were with. Now multiply it by ten ... by 100 ... by 1000. Now imagine that you are all worshiping and celebrating Jesus together at the same time, in all different languages. What will it be like?"* Allow several responses. *"Won't it be amazing!"*
8. Read Revelation 7:11-12 aloud. Explain that, *"All created beings in heaven will be giving God the honor and glory that he deserves – and has always deserved."*
9. Say, *"We don't know all the other events God has planned for us in heaven. The Bible says we will rule and reign with him for ever and ever."*
10. *"And people from every nation, tribe, and language will be there, too, knowing God and worshiping him."*

RESPONSE ACTIVITY: "HALLELUJAH TO THE LAMB" SONG

Directions

1. Say, *"Let's watch this video with pictures of people from all around the world. Think about what it will be like in heaven, to worship God, together with all of them ... and millions more."*
2. Watch the video together.

IN CLOSING ...

Close in quiet, thankful, reflective prayer.

Materials

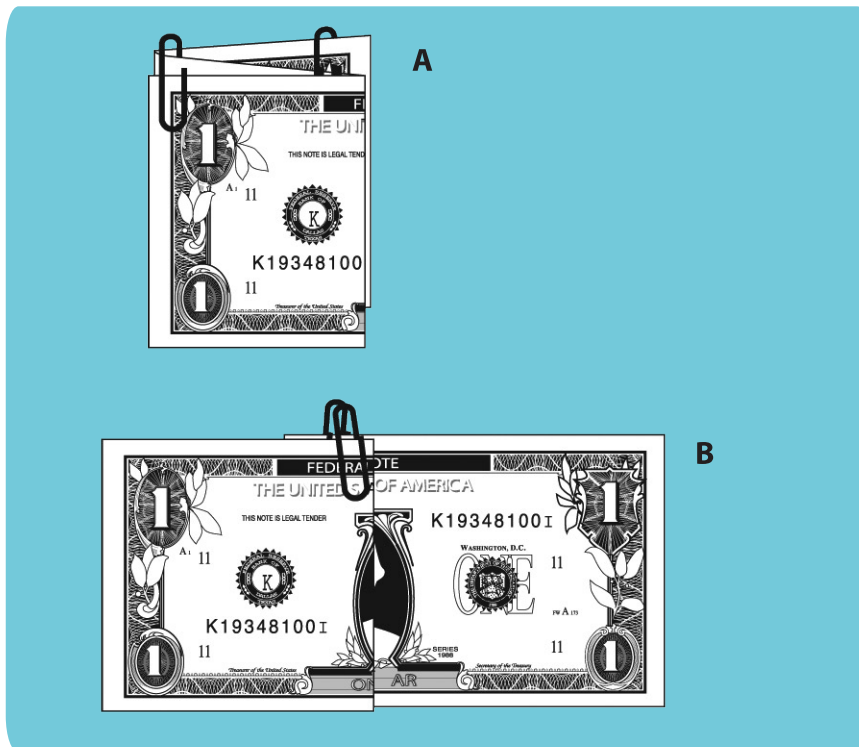
- "Hallelujah to the Lamb" song (VF)
- TV/DVD player



PRAYER ACTIVITY: CAN WE DO IT?

Before the Activity Directions

1. Practice connecting the paper clips on the dollar bill for the activity. Fold the bill in thirds. Slide the paper clips onto opposite ends of the bill, catching part of the nearest fold as well. (See A below.)
2. Hold onto the ends of the bill and pull slowly and gently outward, in opposite directions. The two paper clips will link when they meet in the middle. (See B below.)
3. After practicing, prepare the bills for the students. Remove the paper clips and unfold the bills.
4. Set up the DVD player.



Directions

1. Invite two volunteers, a guy and girl, to help you with a demonstration.
2. As they are coming up say, *“I’ll give each of you a dollar bill and two paper clips to attach to it. Your task is to link the two paper clips without holding or touching them.”*
3. *“Before you begin, I’ll ask our audience to voice their opinion. If you think this task is possible to complete, raise your hands.”* Pause. *“OK, if you think this task is impossible, raise your hands.”*
4. Turn to the two volunteers and say, *“Are you ready? You only have one minute to figure out if this task is possible or not. You can arrange the paper clips on the dollar bill any way you want, but when you’re ready to link*



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- four paper clips
- two \$1.00 bills
- Infobyte #8, “Can We Do It?” (IB)
- TV/DVD player

them together, you may not touch either one of them in the actual linking process. Ready? Go!"

5. If the students solve the puzzle, have them demonstrate the solution for the group.
6. After about one minute, if students cannot solve the puzzle, demonstrate the solution. Say, *"First, fold the bill into thirds, but do not crease it. While holding the bill in one hand, attach the two paper clips like this."* Demonstrate as in Figure A.
7. *"Now gently pull the two ends of the bill outward. Keep pulling slowing until the paper clips link."* (See Figure B.)
8. Say, *"Sometimes tasks seem impossible, but with the right strategy, they can be accomplished. Today we learned about heaven. What must happen before people from every culture can worship God in heaven?"* Allow responses.
9. *"Thousands of people groups still do not know about Jesus. Many do not have a Bible in their language. Is it possible to reach them all? Can we do it?"*
10. *"God has chosen the body of the church worldwide to partner with him in completing his purpose of bringing all people groups to worship him. Remember that God's ways are not our ways. What seems humanly impossible is always possible with our all-knowing, all-powerful God."*
11. Show Infobyte #8, "Can We Do It?"
12. Ask, *"Now how do you feel about the task God has given to us?"* Allow responses.
13. Break students into pairs or small groups. Lead them in three short sessions of prayer, using the topics shown below.
14. Introduce each topic. After a few minutes of prayer, direct students to draw their prayers to a close and introduce the next topic. Continue in this way until the three topics have been covered.

Prayer Session Topics

- Praise God for his ability to do what he says he will do.
- Pray for unreached peoples to have the opportunity to hear the gospel.
- Ask God to show you how he wants to use you for his purpose.