

John's Vision of Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 1:9-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to John in a vision.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. Patmos was a small Greek island where the Roman emperor often exiled prisoners. John was likely sent to Patmos as a prisoner, arrested for preaching the gospel.

With this session, introduce preschoolers to the Book of Revelation—the last book of the Bible. Other Bible books tell us about things that happened in past, but Revelation tells about things that will happen in the future. A glimpse of the future kingdom of God gives believers hope and encourages them to remain faithful to Christ.

In Revelation 1, Jesus appeared to John in a vision to tell about the end of time. John was on the island of Patmos when he heard a voice telling him to write what he saw. John turned and, in a vision, saw Jesus: He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash wrapped around His chest. His head and hair were as white as snow, and His eyes were like a fiery flame. Because the Book of Revelation is highly symbolic, avoid dwelling on the physical description of Jesus. Jesus' appearance to John reveals what Jesus is like: worthy of all honor, powerful, and victorious.

John saw Jesus walking among seven lampstands, symbols for the seven churches. Explain to the boys and girls you teach that lampstands are used to bring light into dark places. That is the purpose of the church—to bring the light of the gospel into a dark world.

When John saw Jesus, he fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus reached down and put His hand on John. He said, "Don't be afraid" (Rev. 1:17). Jesus explained that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Now Jesus is lifted up in glory and honor. We can look forward to a future with Him forever.

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Welcome

Play the unit theme music CD. Invite free play while other preschoolers arrive (until about quarter after). You may use countdown video to help facilitate clean-up to transition to the activity page.

Activity page

Invite preschoolers to circle the eight silly things in the picture.

SAY • Good job finding the things that did not belong. In today's Bible story, John saw something that was not silly at all. He saw Jesus! Jesus showed John important things and told John to write down everything he saw.

Line up

Play the key passage song, and invite the preschoolers to wander about the classroom. Instruct them to get in line as quickly as they can as soon as the music stops. When they are in line, ask preschoolers to tell you who is first in line. Then ask preschoolers to tell you who is last in line. Play again as time allows

SAY • In our game, was anyone able to be both first and last at the same time? No, we could only be one or the other. In our Bible story, Jesus told John that He is the First and the Last. We'll learn more in our Bible story.

Transition to Bible study

Invite preschoolers to Bible study (sitting "criss-cross-applesauce" on the rug in front of the TV).

TEACH THE STORY

Introduce the Bible story

Tell preschoolers about a friend you have not seen in a long time. Ask preschoolers to tell you about someone they have not seen in a long time.

SAY • In today's Bible story, one of Jesus' disciples, John, saw Jesus. The last time John saw Jesus was many years before when Jesus went up to heaven. When John saw Jesus in today's Bible story, John fell down in worship. Let's listen to what Jesus said to John.

Video: Watch the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Revelation in the Bible. Open the Bible to show them the passage.

SAY • We can trust everything we read in the Bible because it is true! God gave us the Bible and God is trustworthy. Our story today comes from the Book of Revelation

Play "John's Vision of Jesus" from DVD

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Jesus appeared to John in a vision. Jesus had a special message He wanted John to write down and send to seven churches. Jesus told John that He was the First and the Last, the Living One!

Ask the following review questions

1. **Where was John when he had the vision?** (an island)
2. **Why was John on the island?** (He told people about Jesus.)
3. **How many churches was John supposed to write to?** (seven churches)
4. **How many lampstands did John see?** (seven lampstands)
5. **Whom was talking to John?** (Jesus)
6. **What did John do when he saw Jesus?** (He fell down at Jesus' feet.)

Big picture question (preferably on rug together in a circle)

SAY • Our big picture question is, What will happen when

Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new. Jesus can make all things new because He already won the fight against sin and death. Jesus is the First and the Last, the Living One!

Sing (Bible Verse Memory)

Open your Bible to Revelation 21:5. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Making Everything New."

SAY • The words in our key passage are Jesus' words! Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Jesus is alive, and He is the One seated on the throne! We can believe today's story because it is true and comes from Jesus.

Pray

SAY • Jesus, thank You for appearing to John! You are the Living One because You rose from the dead! Help us to believe that You already won the fight against sin and death. Give us hearts that trust in You alone. We love You. Amen

Serve Snack (Goldfish & Water)

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Make Trumpets

Give each preschooler a paper towel tube and a foam cup with a circle punched out in the bottom. Help a preschooler use colorful duct tape to attach the bottom of her cup to one end of the paper towel tube. Show a preschooler how to blow through the other end of the paper towel tube like a trumpet. She may decorate her trumpet with stickers and markers.

SAY John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. It was Jesus! Jesus appeared to John in a vision. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Paint Stars

Put smocks on children. Give each child a heavyweight page with seven stars and the Main Point printed on it. Be sure to write their name on the page. Invite preschoolers to paint inside the stars with glow paint. Dim lights and shine a black light on their paper when they finish.

SAY • The Bible says that when Jesus appeared to John in a vision, He had seven stars in His hand. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Play on an “Island”

Put out the bins lined with blue construction paper and containing play sand. Provide wooden people figurines, toy boats, etc. for children to play out being on an “island” Tell simplified version of the story.

SAY • A long time after Jesus died, people sent John to an island for teaching about Jesus. One day, John had a vision. A vision is like a dream, but John was awake. John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. The voice said, “Write down what you see and send it to seven churches.” John turned to see who was speaking, and he saw seven lampstand. Standing in in the middle was Jesus! John was so surprised, he fell down. Jesus put His hand on John and said, “Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last and the Living One. I was dead, but I am alive forever! Write down what you see. I will show you what is happening now and what will happen before I come back.

Free Play Until Pick-up

When parents pick up their children tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the lesson.