

John glimpses the ending

**Verse:**

John sees Heaven

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4,22-27; 22:1-5

**Aim:**

To learn about John's vision of the ending



In today's session we will discover more about what John saw and the promises God made to all his people.

The book of Revelation records the visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. It paints a picture of a world with no sadness, pain or tears.

Each child will need:

- Revelation handout
- Painting, paper and craft materials – see Action It
- Explore It Ideas handout



Start it

Say:

In today's Bible story lots of precious gemstones are mentioned. Have a go at the quiz to see how many precious gems you recognise.

Video

Learn the names of gemstones in English (Fun GK quiz) by EdMo Tests and Quizzes (3:10)

Ask:

Which was your favourite gemstone? Why do you like it so much? Once the children have decided on their superpower, give each of them a piece of paper and some colouring pencils. Deciding whether they want to heed Edna's warning about capes, give the children time to sketch their own superhero costume based on their chosen superpower. Share their ideas together.

Sing it

Say:

Throughout this month, we have discovered more about Jesus and what it means to follow him. Our song for today reminds us how we can live like Jesus in this world.

Song

'Wanna Be Like Jesus' (official lyric video) by YancynotNancy (3:28)

Tell it

Say:

One of Jesus' disciples was praying one day and heard a voice saying, 'Write down what I am showing you and share it.' The disciple John saw a picture of Jesus and wrote it down – his writings became known as the book of Revelation. Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Re-Creation by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:45)

Watch:

0:00 to 0:53 '...and even sent his angel to visit a man named John and show him, so John could write it down for us.'

- When God created the world, what was it like? What might it feel like to live there?
- What did God promise to do?
- What would your idea of a perfect world look like? Describe what it would be like to live there.

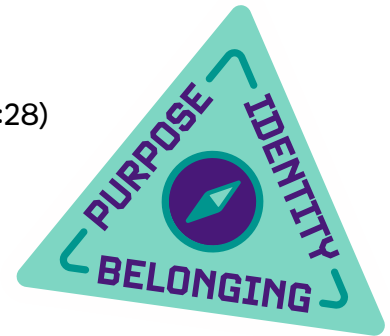
Say:

God gave John a vision of what this new world would be like. John wrote down what he saw in the book of Revelation.

Read:

'After this I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Then the Spirit took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow the colour of an emerald.'

(Revelation 4:1-3 ICB)



Ask:

- What do you think of the place John is describing? Would you like to go there?
- Who do you think was sitting on the throne?

Watch:

0:53 to 1:40. ('...but also because there will be no pain.')

Say:

In the book of Revelation we find a detailed description of John's vision. Listen to the words John wrote and try and imagine the picture for yourself.

Read:

'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.'"

(Revelation 21:1-4 *ICB*)

Ask:

What would it be like to live in a world where there is no death, sadness, crying or pain?

Watch:

1:41 to end.

Ask:

- What other promises has God made about the new world he will create?
- Who do you think will be able to live in the new world created by God?

Say:

In Revelation 21:27 it says:

'Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.'

Say:

This means that anyone who believes in Jesus will be able to enter the city. It's not just people who have been Christians their whole lives; it's anyone who decides to follow Jesus. As Jesus hung on the cross, he met a man who was being punished for a crime. Even though the man only believed in the very last moments of his life, Jesus said that he would see the man in paradise (Luke 23:43). All we need to do is believe in Jesus.

Action it

Give the children the Revelation handout which shows three Scripture extracts from the visions of John. Ask the children to use one of the descriptions to create a picture of the vision described by John. If possible, give them a range of media to complete this task and encourage them to get creative. Read through each of the extracts first and discuss ideas for their pictures.

Pray it

Say: In today's session we read about the visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. We read about a world where there is no death, no tears, no sadness. We pray it will come soon, but for now we live in a world where these things exist. Jesus taught us how to live in this world and be like him. Our memory verse reminds us how to be followers of Jesus in a world where pain and suffering still exist. Let's share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

Encourage the children to think of an area in their life where they need to think and act more like Jesus. Ask each child to finish the prayer:

'Dear Jesus, help me to think and act like you when ...'

When each child has shared their sentence, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Discover

The book of Revelation is one of the most challenging books to understand in the Bible. Watch the clip to help you understand a little bit more about this mysterious book.

Archie: Revelation by Crossroads Kids' Club



Discuss

Share your memory verse with someone at home and discuss together how you can both live out the message of Philippians 2:4-5. Perhaps plan to do one act for somebody else, like the washing-up for a parent or telephoning a relative to ask how they are. With an adult, promise to pray for each other over the coming week as you both try to think and act like Christ.



Song for the week

'Wanna Be Like Jesus' (official lyric video)
by YancynotNancy



Memory verse

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**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.

