

# A picture of Heaven

**Bible verses:**

Revelation 4:1–3; 21:1–4  
John sees Heaven

**Aim:**

To learn about John's vision, explore what some of the pictures mean and think about what it means for us to have hope in what is to come



**Today's fruit:**  
Patience



In today's session we will discover some of what John saw and wrote about in the final book of the Bible.

The book of Revelation records visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. It paints a picture of a world with no sadness, pain or tears. We will discover more about what John saw and the promises God made to all his people.

God can show us how to practise patience as we wait for answered prayer.

**Each child will need:**

- *Revelation* handout
- A range of media and craft materials, pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Patience* – download from **Salvationist**



## 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*** by EdMo Tests and Quizzes (3:10)

### Ask:

Which was your favourite gemstone? Why do you like it so much?



## Sing it

### Say:

In our story today, John is given a vision of what Heaven would look like if it was here on earth. Although this time hasn't arrived yet, we can show glimpses of God's Kingdom here on earth by the way we treat others. Our memory verse for this month reminds us of some of the ways we can show God's love to others.

Share the memory verse and then sing it together.

## Memory verse

**'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.'**

(Micah 6:8 NIV)



## Song

**'Micah 6:8' (by VeggieTales) video** by New Life Church (2:48)



## Share it

### Say:

Many, many years after Jesus was on earth, something amazing happened to one of his disciples, John. John was praying one day, and he heard a voice saying, 'Write down what I am showing you and share it.' John saw a picture of Jesus and wrote down what he saw, and his writings became known as the book of Revelation, which is the last book in the Bible. 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?
- How do you feel about a world without sadness, crying or pain?
- 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**

Explain to the children that they are going to create their own picture based on the vision described by John. Give the children the *Revelation* handout, which shows three Scripture extracts. Read through each of the extracts first and discuss possible ideas for their pictures. Ask the children to use just one of the descriptions to create their picture. If possible, give them a range of media to complete this task and encourage them to get creative.

**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.

Display the *Patience* sign.

**Say:**

God gave John a vision of a world with no suffering or pain.

**Ask:**

How do you think John felt knowing he would have to wait for this vision to become reality?

## **Say:**

Waiting can require a lot of patience. God's Holy Spirit can help us to show patience as we wait for answered prayer and for things to improve in our world. We know that one day God will make all things right again, but with his help we patiently wait. It is essential that while we wait, we live in a way that helps God's Kingdom become a reality now.

## **Ask:**

What kinds of things could we do to make God's Kingdom a reality now?

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.



## A picture of Heaven

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4



### Aim:

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### Today's fruit:

Patience



### Discover

The book of Revelation is one of the most challenging books to understand in the Bible. Watch the clip to hear a little more about John's visions.

***All Things New: The Story of Eternity with Jesus (Revelation 21-22)*** by The Biggest Story



### Share

This week's fruit of the Spirit was patience. Discuss with someone at home three areas where you both could show a little more patience. Ask God to help you to grow patience through the power of his Holy Spirit.



### Song for the week

**'Micah 6:8'** (by VeggieTales) video by New Life Church



### Memory verse

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