

Jesus Will Return

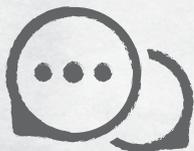
BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 21–22

MAIN POINT: Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.

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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 heaven itself. 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 will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and 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!



Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw figures:** Draw related figures, such as people, teardrops, a mountain, a river, and a tree at appropriate times.
- **Pacing and tone:** Start the story speaking normally, but gradually increase the pace at which you speak, adding excitement as you go. When you reach the words spoken by Jesus, drop your voice to a whisper and speak deliberately to emphasize His promise to return.

Jesus Will Return

Revelation 21–22

John had a vision of heaven. He 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. The first heaven and the first earth was gone. **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.”**

John saw one of the angels come carry him to a great and high mountain. The angel showed John the Holy City. It was shining with God’s glory. The foundations of the city wall had every type of precious stone. The city street was made of pure gold, as clear as glass.

John did not see a temple in the city because the Lord and the Lamb were the city’s temple. 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 city is safe and clean—nothing unclean is in the city and no one will do wrong things in the city. Only those whose names are in the Lamb’s book of life will enter the city.

The angel showed John the river of living water. It sparkled like crystal and flowed from God’s throne, down the middle of the wide city street. The tree of life was on both sides of the river, and it produced 12 kinds of fruit.

God’s throne will be in the city. God’s servants will see His face, and they will worship Him. The Lord will reign

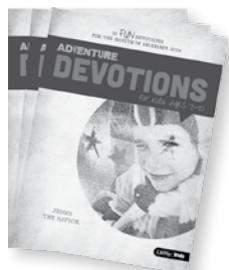
forever and ever.

Jesus said, “Listen, I am coming soon! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

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.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce the STORY

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask kids to share with you a time that a toy or other special item was broken.

SAY • It is sad when things break. It reminds us that the world we live in doesn't work the way it is supposed to. God created the world to be perfect, and sin messed it all up! Thankfully, things will not always be this way.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Undo Matching” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Undo Matching” activity page. Instruct kids to draw lines to match the broken, sad, or painful things to their renewed and perfect state.

SAY • We have all experienced the brokenness of the world. People fight, toys break, and our bodies get injured. Because of sin, everything in our world eventually falls apart or dies. But that's not how God created it to be! Today we're going to hear a story about God's promise to make everything new again!

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Personal timeline

Distribute paper and crayons or markers to the kids. Instruct them to create a timeline of their life. They can include special events such as the day they were born, when siblings were born, a special vacation, or other things that they remember were important. Encourage them to write down some future events that they hope will happen (going to college, starting a job, learning to drive). Invite them to share their timeline with the rest of the class.

SAY • It's fun to think of things that we hope will happen one day in the future. We all have dreams for what we want our life to look like someday, but we are not promised that all our earthly dreams will come true. We don't know what every detail of the future will look like, but the Bible does tell us some things about what eternity with Jesus will be like. We'll hear more during our Bible story.

OPTION 2: The end

Ask the kids to sit in a circle with you. Start a story by saying, "Once upon a time there was a ..." and letting the kid to your right fill in the blank. Each kid will add a sentence to tell the story, and when it gets back to you, end the story. Consider adding an unsatisfying ending, or even just saying "the end," regardless of the story's state.

SAY • A bad ending can ruin a good story. We've been learning about God's big story for a long time. Today we will finally hear about God's perfect ending. It's a perfect ending and a new beginning in one!



- paper
- crayons or markers

Tip: If kids in your group cannot write, encourage them to draw pictures of themselves and their families from different times in their life.

Tip: If your group is struggling with this activity, consider telling most of a story and letting the kids try to end it. Discuss what makes a good ending.

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing pilot gear and carrying binoculars.]

LEADER • Hey, everyone! My name is [*your name*], and I've just returned from yet another hot air balloon adventure. I can see for miles up in the hot air balloon. I wish I could say that it's always a nice view, but today I saw something that was not so nice.

I looked down and saw a huge forest that had been burned by a forest fire! All the trees were gone and the ground was burned up. It was sad to see something that had once been beautiful and full of life now utterly destroyed.

Thankfully, it wasn't all sad, because I could see some places where green sprouts were poking up through the ashes. The forest is regrowing, and maybe someday it will be beautiful and lush again. It reminded me of the last story in our Bible. That's right, we've come to the end of God's big story!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our big picture question is, *What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • This has been an incredible journey. It feels so long ago that we learned about God creating the world perfectly. Soon after that, we learned how sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's sin. Sin grew and seemed to swallow the whole earth. God chose His people and rescued them again and again, but they always struggled to love Him and obey.

Eventually, God sent Jesus at just the right time. Jesus died for sin and rose again to defeat death. Then Jesus went to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to help believers live on mission for Him. The apostles planted churches and wrote letters and led God's people to live well while waiting for Jesus to return. We are part of God's church today, and we live for God too! We are waiting for Jesus to return, just like they were.

The past few weeks we have been studying the Book of Revelation. John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote about a spectacular vision he had of Jesus at the end of time. We've heard about John's vision of Jesus, God's warning to the seven churches, and Jesus on the throne. Today we're going to hear about the wonderful ending God has planned for His story. We will learn how it is a new beginning too.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

- Bibles
- “Jesus Will Return” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Revelation 21–22. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Will Return.”

LEADER • John saw more amazing things in his vision.

He saw the new heaven and new earth. Everything old was gone and the new had come! He saw the New Jerusalem, a beautiful, sparkling city—where God and His people will live together forever. John noticed that the sun was not needed.

There will be no need for the sun because the light of God’s glory will be enough to light the way for everyone! John also noticed that there wasn’t a temple. Jesus is the temple, and God’s children can worship Him anywhere at anytime. John saw that people got to see Jesus face to face. There was no more death or sadness. All the bad things were gone, and people worshiped Jesus forever! Then John heard Jesus say that He would be coming soon.

What part of John’s vision is most exciting to you? [*Allow time for kids to answer.*] It sounds almost too good to be true, but Jesus’ promise is sure. When Jesus says He will do something it is as good as done. We know that one day **Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.** And even though that will be the end of the broken world as we know it, Jesus’ return also marks the beginning of a wonderful eternity Christians will spend with God. The perfect end of God’s story is also the perfect beginning of His next story.

Christ connection

LEADER • You see, the world will be restored. Things will be the way God intended them to be—perfect and beautiful. God’s big story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration will come about exactly as God has said.

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. Those who trust in Jesus will live with God forever in the new and perfect world.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Revelation 21:5.

LEADER • Have you ever felt sad? Have you ever been hurt? When we are upset or in pain we want those bad feelings to go away. Jesus promises us that one day He will destroy all the evil and bad things. He’ll make everything right again! So when we are sad or hurt we can have hope that we will be with Jesus one day and He will make everything new.

Lead boys and girls in singing “Everything New.”

- Key Passage Poster
- “Everything New” song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • What are some ways you can see the effects of sin in the world? What are some things that break or fall apart? Think about that as you watch this video.

Show the “Unit 36, Session 4” discussion starter video.

Discuss with the kids how the things in the video changed.

- “Unit 36, Session 4” discussion starter video

Did they get better or worse? Ask them if anything they can think of goes against that pattern of wearing out, breaking down, or falling apart. How will things be different when Jesus returns? Why is it important to know that Jesus will change the way things work?

LEADER • Jesus will come back, just as He promised.

When He does, He will put an end to all bad and evil things. In a way, it will be the end of God's big story, but it will also be just the beginning. We will all continue to live with God. We will enjoy the new heaven and new earth for eternity with God. We will continue to glorify God and enjoy His love.

Sing (4 minutes)

• "I Stand Amazed" song

LEADER • **Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.** I'm so thankful for the truths in our Bible story. Let's worship God together now.

Sing together "I Stand Amazed."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for giving us Your Word and Your promise to return and make all things new again. We praise You because only You have the power to defeat sin and death. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin and make a way for us to be with You forever. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- dry erase board
- dry erase markers

Display the key passage poster and invite the kids to say Revelation 21:5 with you. Ask for volunteers to try saying the passage for memory. Form two teams and give each team a dry erase marker. Instruct the teams to line up on one side of the room opposite the dry erase board. The kids will run to the board and write the next word of the key passage until they complete the verse. The team to complete the key passage first wins.

SAY • Great job working on our key passage these last few weeks. Let's continue to remember that Jesus is on the throne and He will keep His promise to return, defeat evil, and make everything new again. He is our hope. No matter what difficult things we experience in life, we can know that someday all evil will be destroyed and only God's people and His perfectly restored world will remain.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- "Bible Story Sequencing Strips" printable
- balloons
- Allergy Alert download

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Prior to small group, print the "Bible Story Sequencing Strips" and put each strip in a separate balloon. Inflate the balloons and scatter them on one side of the room.

One at a time, kids will run to collect a balloon, bring it back to the rest of the class, pop it, and find the strip of paper inside. Once all the balloons have been popped the kids will work together to put the strips in order. They may use their Bibles to look up the stories to see which came first. For large groups you may prepare two sets of balloons.

If a child in your class has a latex allergy, make paper wads out of the strips instead of placing them in balloons.

SAY • We have learned a lot over the last three years of Bible stories! In fact, we've gone through the whole Bible! All the stories we have heard have been pointing us to one bigger story: the story of God's glory shining through His plan to send Jesus.

We have learned that God created everything. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, but God was still merciful to us. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin so that whoever believes in Him will be forgiven of their sin and will live with God forever. The Bible tells us the story of God's sending His own Son to rescue lost sinners whom He loves.

Today we heard the last story in the last book of the Bible, and it ends with a promise that Jesus will one day return for His children. He loves us, and He will not leave us. We can trust Him because He is a good and loving King.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Bath tissue re-roll

Form smaller groups of kids and give each group a roll of bath tissue. Instruct the groups to unroll the bath tissue as fast as they can. The first team to complete the task wins.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



• bath tissue, 1 roll per group

When they have unrolled their bath tissue, instruct the groups to try to re-roll it.

SAY • Were any of you able to re-roll the toilet paper to look just like it did in the beginning? Not a chance! We can try really hard to fix broken things and make everything in the world run properly again, but we can never make things perfect like they were before sin entered the world. Only Jesus can do that, and thankfully He has promised to do it! We've learned that **Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.**

OPTION 2: Draw the vision

Read portions of Revelation 21–22 (or use the Bible story script) while the kids close their eyes and listen. Ask them to imagine that they are standing next to John in his vision. Give them a few quiet moments to see the details in their minds. Then pass out paper and coloring materials and encourage them to draw what they imagined.

SAY • This passage of the Bible is full of incredible details that are hard to wrap our minds around. The most beautiful truth in today's story is that we will be with Jesus forever. We will see Him face to face and He will take away all our sadness and pain. **Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.**

- paper
- markers
- craft supplies

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.