

I Come Quickly

Revelation 22:6-17, 20-21

MEMORY VERSE

REVELATION 22:17

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough construction paper (white, gray, yellow or light brown) for the number of children in your class, straws, glue and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Alpha & Omega Game

Jesus said that He is the “Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In today’s lesson we will be learning about the “Alpha and Omega.” To help us get a better understanding of what this phrase means, we will play the Alpha and Omega game.

Write down every letter in the alphabet (English, not Greek!) on the board. Have the children sitting in front of the board. Explain to the children that they will be guessing something from the Bible for every letter in the alphabet. It can be anything from the Bible. For example, “A” could be Adam, “B” could be Bethlehem, etc. Give everyone an opportunity to play.

For the younger children you may want to adapt this by having words already written on the board.

At the end of the session explain that just like our alphabet has a first letter (A) and a last letter (Z), Jesus used the Greek alphabet (Alpha and Omega) to describe that He was involved from the beginning of time (creation) to the end of time (Revelation 22).

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we find ourselves at the end of the book of Revelation and at the end of the entire Bible. These are the last words written to us in the Bible. And the message of the last words in the Bible is the same message throughout the entire Bible - Jesus Christ.

The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the focus of our study and we need to look to Him, for He is coming quickly. It seems that the last thing from the Bible the Lord wants us to know is that He will be returning soon. Jesus says, "Behold I am coming quickly." Today we will be learning more about Jesus' soon return. **Jesus is coming soon.**

REVELATION 22:6,7

Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

In verses six and seven an important lesson is learned. The lesson is one that stands true for the whole Bible. Every single word in the Bible is truth. This book of revelation is the truth about Jesus Christ. It is the truth about the end times. The truth of our lesson is that Jesus is coming quickly.

Also the Word of God is something that we can rely on. What does it mean when we say something is "faithful and true"? It means that we can rely on what it is saying. God's word has been proven to be true over and over again and we can be sure that God will do everything that He has told us in His Word. We can be sure of that!

So when we read that Jesus is coming back we know that it is an absolute fact because God Himself will make sure that it happens.

Let's take quick look at what we mean when we talk about Jesus' return. We can learn some more about it by looking again at another scripture in the Bible that will help us understand. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 the Bible says, "...for the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Isn't that an exciting promise? We've been studying over recent weeks all about the Lord's return. We learned that when the Lord returns that He will take all of the believers in Him to be with Him forever. This is called the rapture. Then there will be a seven year period here that will be very bad for the world called the tribulation. While that is happening, Jesus' bride, the church, will have a great celebration in heaven with Jesus. Then Jesus will physically return to this earth to destroy the world leader(the antichrist) who opposes Jesus. Then Jesus will judge the nations and begin to rule and reign in righteousness.

It will be a wonderful day when Jesus begins to rule. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years and no more evil or bad things will be allowed during that time. We will rule and reign with Him (Revelation 19:14-16).

Everyone that believes that Jesus is coming quickly and has put their faith and trust in Him shall be with Jesus forever. Verse seven tells us that we will be blessed if we believe and obey the prophecy of this book. Do you believe these words are the truth? **Jesus is coming soon.**

REVELATION 22:8,9

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

This was such an incredible revelation to John that he fell down and tried to worship the angel that had spoken these words. The angel would not allow John to worship him. Do you know why? Because the Bible tells us that the only one we are to worship is God!

Do you remember the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses? Can you tell me which commandment tells us to worship only God? That's right! The first commandment (Deuteronomy 5:6-9).

REVELATION 22:10

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

John was told not to seal up the prophecy. This means that he was not to hide it but he was to show it to anyone who would read it. Do know that there are a lot of Christians that will not read the book of Revelation because they think it is too mysterious? They think that no one can understand it, but God tells us here that He wants people to read it and study it. It is a true description of the end of the world and the beginning of eternity.

It is also important to read and study the prophecies contained in this book because "the time is at hand." There are so many signs that Jesus told us about that have already taken place. Of course

we don't know the day or the hour of Jesus' return, but it is certainly close. **Jesus is coming soon.**

REVELATION 22:11-15

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

This is the second time our lesson says to us "...behold I am coming quickly." The first time He tells us He is coming quickly we are told to trust in Him and keep His words as truth. The second time He tells us He is coming quickly He says He will reward us for trusting in Him and keeping His words as truth. If we truly believe the truth of the Bible we will live for Jesus and give our lives to Him. And He promises to reward us in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). **Jesus is coming soon.**

For those who do not believe that the Bible is telling the truth; when they stand before God in heaven they will be stuck with their decision to disobey God. But for those who did believe and trust

the Bible's words they will have life that is "righteous and holy" forever.

We also get to see a wonderful picture of Jesus in this passage. He says of Himself that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end. What Jesus is really saying here is that He is God. Only God was in the beginning (John 1:1). And only God can control the end of all things. Jesus was present at creation and is the center of what is happening at the end.

For those who believe that the Bible is the truth and that Jesus is God's Son, (Alpha & Omega) they will get to eat of the tree of life and enter into heaven. The ones who believe are also the ones who obey Jesus' commands. After we believe, a life of commitment to Jesus will follow.

But for those who refuse to trust in Jesus as "the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End," they will be left in their sins of wickedness, because they "loved and practiced a lie" (John 3:19-21). Unfortunately, because of their choice, they will be separated from God for eternity.

Time to Serve!

Write the children's names on the board or on a large piece of butcher paper. Have the children sit in a circle and ask them a question. What is one thing that you can do to serve someone else today? Go around the circle and give each child an opportunity to answer. As they give you their answer list what they say.

Next, ask them to promise to do that today and that you will ask them next week if they did it. Explain that Jesus will reward us for doing those things that He has asked us to do. He wants us to love one another and serve one another.

REVELATION 22:16,17; 20,21

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The Bible has spoken of Jesus as our salvation for thousands of years. We are told how He would come to earth and where He would be born and how He would live and how He would die. The Bible also declares to us that Jesus would rise from the dead after three days and would go back to heaven with His Father. He would send us His Holy Spirit to live in us. It also promises that Jesus would come back for us (not as a suffering servant this time, but as a King in all of His glory). **Jesus is coming soon.**

It is interesting that Jesus declares Himself to be the "Root" and the "Offspring" of David. He was before David and came after David. Only God could declare such a thing. Isn't it wonderful how the Bible proves itself to be true over and over again? God gives us all of the prophecies of the Bible and their fulfillment to help us to believe.

We also see that the Spirit and the bride are giving an invitation to "Come." The Holy Spirit continues to work today drawing people to Jesus so that they can believe in Him and receive eternal life.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin and shows people the answer for their sins - Jesus.

Then we see that the bride is also giving an invitation to “Come.” Do you remember who the bride is? It is the church. It is everyone who believes in Jesus for his or her salvation. It is each one of us who are Christians. One of our main purposes as we continue to live our lives for Jesus is to share the “good news” of Jesus with others. We also invite others to come into relationship with Jesus and drink freely of the living water.

Think about those whom you know and love who perhaps are not Christians. You can pray for them and even give them an invitation to come into relationship with Jesus.

As our lesson comes to an end, we are encouraged like John to respond to the words of Jesus by saying, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” Come back Jesus! Can you say that? Can you honestly say that you want Jesus to come and be Lord of your life? Can you say come Jesus and put an end to evil and wickedness and suffering in this world? The whole Bible is a book that cries out to us that God loves us and that He desires to save us.

The last passage in the Bible gives us one last time the invitation to trust in Jesus for our salvation. For us to read and study our Bibles is to understand that Jesus is coming quickly. We are to respond to Jesus by saying, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Today is the day of salvation and God does not wish that anyone should perish, but that all would come to repentance. Would you say to Jesus today come Lord Jesus and save me? If you do, He will come into your heart right now. **Jesus is coming soon.**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, amen!”

Revelation Scrolls

For this craft you will need enough construction paper (white, gray, yellow or light brown) for the number of children in your class. You could also use parchment paper. Cut the construction paper in half (center from top to bottom). On the strip of paper have the children write out what Jesus said, "Surely I am coming quickly." For the younger children you should assist them with writing this.

Next, roll the edges of the strip of paper so that each edge will roll towards the middle, giving the appearance of a scroll. Then you can take either straws or tongue depressors and glue them to the ends of the strips of construction paper completing your scroll.

Explain to the children that the book of Revelation was originally written on scrolls and parchments. They can take this home as a wonderful reminder that Jesus is returning soon.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to watch and wait for Jesus' return. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.