



Teaching Guide

- FOR ELEMENTARY -



STUDENTS USE ADVENTURE GUIDE OR EXPLORER'S GUIDE
DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDES



JULY/AUGUST 2026

Volume 22 • Number 6

ISSN 2151-0296

Curriculum Director: Katie Greenwood

Senior Editor: Janiece Waldrop

Editor: Kathy Murphy

Design Manager: Andrea Young

A list of contributing writers is available at D6EveryDay.com

Executive Director & CEO: Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D.

Elementary Teaching Guide is published bi-monthly by

D6 Family Ministry, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.

Board Members: Rick Taylor, Chair; Timothy York, Vice Chair; Kendall Ross, Clerk; Jay Baines; Kevin Barnett; Paul Bryant; Darin Gibbs; Ryan Giles; Mark Price

Copyright © 2026 D6 Family Ministry,

114 Bush Road Nashville, Tennessee 37217

All Rights Reserved. No reproduction permitted
without permission under penalty of law.

D6family.com

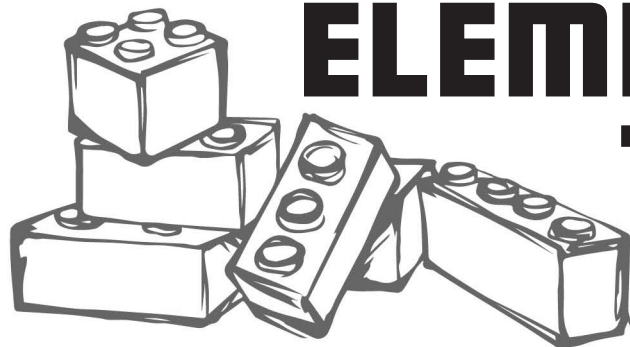
ORDER INFORMATION

To order products mentioned in this publication,
please call **1-800-877-7030**.



D6EveryDayFoundations | Kids





ELEMENTARY TEACHING GUIDE

Lesson 1 July 5, 2026	Lessons From Peter's Life	4
Lesson 2 July 12, 2026	Jesus Is Our Living Hope.....	9
Lesson 3 July 19, 2026	Joy in the Hard Times	14
Lesson 4 July 26, 2026	Lessons From John's Life	19
Lesson 5 August 2, 2026	Walk in the Light.....	24
Lesson 6 August 9, 2026	Faithful to the End	29
Lesson 7 August 16, 2026	Worship the Lamb.....	34
Lesson 8 August 23, 2026	Jesus Is Coming Back.....	39
Lesson 9 August 30, 2026	Our Home in Heaven	44

**God uses faithful people to build His church.
Your work for Him matters more than you know.**

WELCOME TO THE ELEMENTARY TEACHING GUIDE

The *Elementary Teaching Guide* is the leader's guide for those who teach elementary: kindergarten–fifth grade. This teaching guide will help your students know God through the study of His Word and learn to apply and live out those truths. The *Teaching Guide* and *Teaching Essentials* for this age group are part of the D6 family of Sunday School/Bible study curriculum for all ages. D6 is a reference to the Scriptural teaching that says parents are to be the primary spiritual leaders for their children (Deuteronomy 6:5-9). D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum provides a three-year study of the story of the Bible, helping lead the entire family to interact around the same biblical themes. Elementary–adult family themes correlate weekly and preschool themes align with them as much as possible.

IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE TEACHING GUIDE

Scripture Text—The Scripture from which the lesson and family theme are based.

Lesson Objective—Identifies what you want learners to take away from the lesson.

Family Theme—The weekly theme that ages kindergarten–adult will focus on. The lessons are written and designed to be age-appropriate, yet still encourage family conversations about God's Word.

Application Verse—This verse correlates with the lessons and provides intentional focus for students to apply the verse to their lives and not just memorize the words (James 1:22). Posters and handouts are available in KJV, ESV, NKJV, and NIV translations.

Preparation Checklist—Provides a list of what is needed for the different parts of the lesson whether it is a Teaching Essential or additional items.

D6Digital—D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum is available in a digital format. Study from your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Go to d6curriculum.com or call 800.877.7030 for more information.

D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum is built around the CLEAR Learning system, which uses five important steps to help children learn and participate in every lesson. These five steps are:

CONNECT: These are the opening activities for each lesson, designed to grab attention and help connect the students to the lesson. Two options are provided so teachers can choose the activity that best fits their students and classroom setting.

LEARN: *What does the Bible say?* This section answers this question by digging into the biblical text and explaining it in ways the students can understand.

EXPLORE: This section digs deeper to provide additional teaching and reinforcement of biblical truths presented in the lesson.

APPLY: This section places an emphasis on the application of God's Word in personal ways, including the learning of God's Word through an application verse.

RESPOND: This final section in each lesson encourages and challenges students to use what they have learned and live it out everyday.



ELEMENTARY COMPONENTS

The *D6 EveryDay Foundations* curriculum *Elementary Teaching Essentials* provides the tools needed to most effectively teach kindergarten-fifth grade. Teaching pictures and posters, application verse posters, and reproducible pages are included. Teaching pictures and posters are the four-color visuals used in teaching the lessons. They are printed front and back. Reproducible pages can include dramas, reader's theaters, craft templates, etc. Each *Teaching Essential* will have a TE number on it. The first number tells the lesson it was first used in, and the second number shows the order it was used in the lesson. Typically, the only TEs that will be used in more than one lesson are the application verse poster, activity pieces, and any connecting tie-in pieces for each "unit." The *Teaching Essentials* kit also includes an *Elementary Teaching Guide* and reproducible take-home sheets: *Field Notes*.

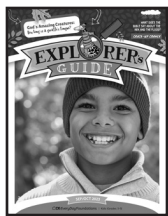
What are Field Notes? They are the weekly link between the class and home. These two-sided reproducible sheets are designed to reinforce the weekly lesson and theme through age-appropriate activities. One side provides a worksheet activity to be used in the classroom. Two options are provided for the classroom use—one for younger students (y) and the other for older students (o). Make the number of copies of each that best fits your students. For example, if you have four younger students who are not yet reading well and five who are older, make four copies of the (y) *Field Notes* and five of the (o) *Field Notes*. Follow the directions for each of the *Field Notes* as indicated in the *Teaching Guide*.

The other side of the *Field Notes* is to be utilized at home. It provides the family theme, Scripture text, application verse, lesson objective, and the *Next Step* for the lesson. It also includes an activity for the family to do together to continue conversations about the lesson and theme.

AT-HOME RESOURCES



Adventure Guide is the devotional study guide for students in kindergarten–second grade. It is a tool designed to help the student establish the habit of spending daily time with God in His Word. This devotional study guide features daily devotions, which help reinforce the weekly theme of the lesson learned at church. It also features fun pages, age-appropriate articles to increase biblical knowledge, a pull-out poster, a short story (*Adventures With Hodie*), and *God's Amazing Creatures*, which highlights one of God's creations.



Explorer's Guide is the devotional study guide for students in third–fifth grade. It is a tool designed to help the student grow the habit of spending daily time with God in His Word. This devotional study guide features daily devotions, which help reinforce the weekly theme of the lesson learned at church. It also features fun pages, age-appropriate articles to increase biblical knowledge, a pull-out poster, and *God's Amazing Creatures*, which highlights one of God's creations. Occasionally, it will also include a recipe, craft, or short story (*Tales From Explorer's Academy*).

Devotional study guides for use at home are available for everyone in your family. To order, visit www.d6family.com.

One of your most important roles as a church leader to elementary students will be to encourage and help guide them in their spiritual journey. For additional tips and guidelines for talking with children about salvation, go to www.d6everyday.com to download *Talking With Children About Spiritual Matters*.



LESSONS FROM PETER'S LIFE

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

___ Polymer clay

Option 2

___ TE 1-1

___ Pencils

LEARN

___ TE 1-2

___ TE 1-3

___ TE 1-4

___ TE 1-5

___ TE 1-6

___ TE 1-7

APPLY

___ Whiteboard and marker

___ Eraser

RESPOND

___ TE 1-8

___ *Field Notes* 1

___ Colored pencils

TEXT:

Various Scriptures from
Luke, Matthew, John,
and Acts

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

Jesus helped Peter grow
into a strong leader to
help others know about
Him and establish the
first church. Remember
the same Jesus who
called, restored, and
used Peter is the same
Jesus who is calling,
restoring, and using you.

APPLICATION VERSE:

Hebrews 11:6a

FAMILY THEME:

Lessons From the
Life of Peter

CONNECT

TAKE NOTE

Go to www.d6everyday.com to download additional resources for this age group, including answer keys for the *Field Notes*.

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: Polymer clay

Before class, use the clay to create a shape or item and bake it to cure (harden) it. Bring it, along with some of the non-cured clay, to class. Let the students feel the non-cured clay. Consider bringing enough clay for each student to create something. **How would you describe this clay?** Encourage response. **It is soft and movable.** Display the cured clay item for the students to see. Pass it around for the students to feel. **How would you describe the feeling of this object?** Encourage response. **It is hard and solid. This hard object was created from that soft clay. The texture of the item changed when it was baked or cured.** Today we are going to begin learning about a man from the New Testament named Peter. Listen as we learn how knowing Jesus changed his life.

Option 2

Items Needed: TE 1-1
Pencils

Before class, copy TE 1-1a for each student. Distribute TE 1-1a and pencils to the students and allow time for them to match the nicknames to the correct person or place. Check their answers using the answer key (TE 1-1b). **What is a nickname?** Encourage response. **A nickname is a shorter or fun name used instead of the real name of a person or place. It describes the person or place or a quality of that person or place.** Today we are going to learn about a man in the Bible who had a nickname. His name was Simon, but Jesus gave him a new name—Peter, which means “rock.” Here’s the thing—when Jesus gave Peter this name, he wasn’t spiritually strong. But Jesus saw who Peter *could* become. Listen as we begin learning about Peter today and in the next couple weeks.

Nickname	Actual Name
King James	Tom Brady
The Rock	Babe Ruth
The Windy City	Lefron James
TB12	Shaun White
Air Jordan	Chicago
Motor City	Detroit
The Flying Tornado	Dwayne Johnson
The Sultan of Swat	Michael Jordan

TE 1-1a

ANSWER KEY	
Nickname	Actual Name
King James	Lefron James
The Rock	Dwayne Johnson
The Windy City	Chicago
TB12	Tom Brady
Air Jordan	Michael Jordan
Motor City	Detroit
The Flying Tornado	Shaun White
The Sultan of Swat	Babe Ruth

TE 1-1b

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 1-2—TE 1-7

Sometimes we might forget the disciples were just regular people like we are. Display TE 1-2. The disciple known as Peter was a fisherman, as many people in Jesus' time were. The Bible teaches us his parents named him *Simon*, but Jesus renamed him *Peter*, which means *rock* (Matthew 16:18). But Peter wasn't always strong or solid. In fact, the Bible teaches us a lot about Peter's flaws or imperfections as he grew into the person Jesus saw in him. We can learn some important lessons from his life as we grow into the person God wants us to be.

Display TE 1-3 and point to the different pictures. Luke teaches us about a time when Jesus was teaching a crowd by the Sea of Galilee. Peter and his brother were washing their nets when Jesus got into their boat and asked them to take Him a little way from the land so He could teach the people without them crowding around Him. Jesus taught from the boat so everyone could hear, and when He finished, Jesus told Peter to go out where the water was deeper and put his nets back into the water to catch more fish. Listen to Peter's response to Jesus' request. Read or choose a student to read Luke 5:5. But Peter did as Jesus asked, and much to his surprise and delight, the nets captured so many fish the nets were breaking, and Peter and his men had to call for James and John to come help them (Luke 5:6–7). Peter fell at Jesus' feet and expressed his unworthiness. But Jesus knew Peter's heart, and He told Peter to come with him. The Bible teaches us Peter, and the others, left everything and followed Jesus (Luke 5:8–11).

Peter traveled with Jesus as He taught, cared for, and healed different people. The Bible teaches us about a time when Jesus had been teaching many people, and afterward, Jesus sent His disciples to cross a lake. Jesus stayed back to spend some quiet time in prayer with His Father. Have any of you ever been scared in a storm? Encourage response. Imagine if you were on a boat in the middle of a lake. Display TE 1-4. That's exactly where the disciples were when a storm came. It was in the middle of the night, and it was very dark. Suddenly, the disciples saw someone walking on the water. How do you think they felt? Encourage response. They were terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost (Matthew 14:22–26). Do any of you know who it was? Encourage response. It was Jesus and He immediately told them not to be afraid! Read or choose a student to read Matthew 14:27–33 aloud. Display TE 1-5. Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water—in faith—but his fear of the storm took over, and he cried out to Jesus as he sank. It's easy to judge Peter for his lack of faith. But think about this—Peter had enough faith in Jesus that he actually tried to walk on water.

Jesus continued to shape Peter's life to prepare him for the time when He would return to Heaven. Display TE 1-6 and point to the different pictures. In Matthew 16, Jesus asked His followers to talk about their understanding of who He is. Listen to Peter's response. Read or choose a student to read Mat-

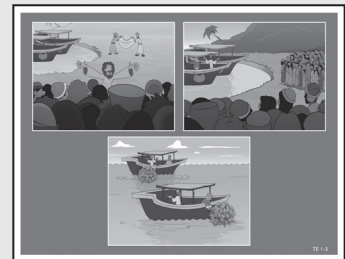


BUILDING BLOCKS

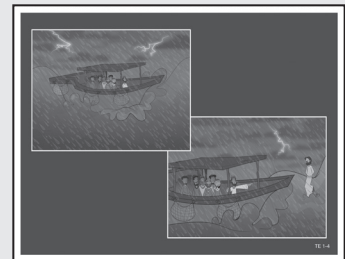
God wants everyone to be saved (2 Peter 3:9).



TE 1-2



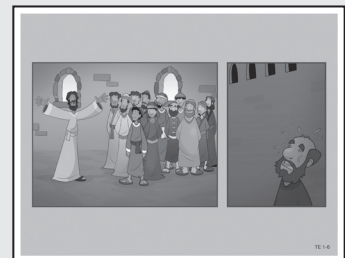
TE 1-3



TE 1-4



TE 1-5



TE 1-6



TE 1-7

TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

Why is it important for believers to remember they belong to God?

How can knowing that help us when we struggle to make right choices or fail to trust God in a difficult situation?

What steps are you taking to help you grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?

threw 16:16 aloud. **Jesus then gave Peter his new name, which meant *rock*, then added, His church would be built on solid rock** (not on Peter, but on the solid rock of Christ or the testimony of Christ as the Messiah) (18). **It seems that after this, Peter’s faith would be super strong. But remember, Peter was human just like we are. Jesus knew this, and He even told Peter that he would deny knowing Him three times—and Peter did. Peter wept as he realized he had failed the biggest test of his faith** (Luke 22:34, 54–62).

But thankfully that was not the end of Peter’s faith journey. Display TE 1-7. **Jesus not only forgave Peter, but He also restored him by giving him the job of caring for the people and leading them. Peter shared the gospel with both the Jews and the Gentiles** (non-Jews). **Through Peter, the church was formed, and the believers in Antioch were the first ones to be called “Christians”** (John 21:15–17; Acts 10:34–48; 11:26).

EXPLORE

Peter took the job Jesus had given him very seriously. He continued sharing the gospel. As we’ve mentioned before, letter writing was the main form of communication in Bible times. Peter wrote two letters (1 and 2 Peter) **which are in the New Testament.**

In the first letter, Peter wanted the believers to know they belonged to God. He also wanted them to do what was right—even when it was hard—and to trust God in every situation (1 Peter 2:9; 3:9; 5:10).

In his second letter, Peter encouraged the believers to keep growing in their faith. Read or choose a student to read Peter’s words from 2 Peter 1:5–8. **Peter also reminded the believers to remember the truths they had been taught about Jesus and warned them about following wrong teachings** (2 Peter 1:12–15; 2). **We are to do the same. When we hear something that sounds true about the Bible or Jesus, but we’re not sure, check it out. Ask a strong believer to help you find the answers. Don’t just believe it because you hear it. Peter ended his second letter by reminding the believers God’s promises are true and by encouraging them to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus** (2 Peter 3:18).

APPLY

Items Needed: Whiteboard and marker
Eraser

Before class, write Hebrews 11:6a on the whiteboard. **Peter made the decision to follow Jesus, but he still had a lot to learn. He was not perfect, nor did he ever become perfect. But he learned from Jesus and continued to grow in his faith and share about Jesus with others. He didn’t let his mistakes and**

failures keep him from doing the job he had been given. Instead, Peter relied on his faith to help him grow and became a leader in the early church and among the disciples. Introduce the application verse to the students by reading it to them from the whiteboard. **We don't know who wrote the book of Hebrews, but we do know these words are from God. We must have faith to do the things God has called us to do. Let's say this verse together to help us learn it.** Have the students say the verse with you. Choose a student to erase one or two of the words and repeat the verse again. Continue until the entire verse is gone and the students are familiar with it.

RESPOND

Items Needed: TE 1-8

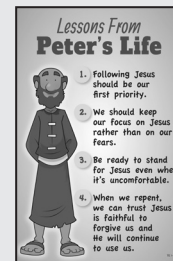
Field Notes 1

Colored pencils

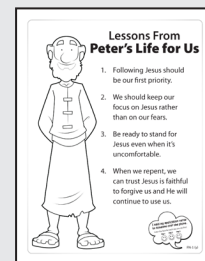
Before class, copy *Field Notes* 1 for every student. Distribute *Field Notes* 1 and colored pencils to the students. Have younger students follow along as you share lessons we can learn from Peter's life and have older students follow along and use the word bank to fill in the blanks. Display TE 1-8. **When Jesus told Peter to follow Him, he did so without hesitation. Peter witnessed the greatness of Jesus with the net full of fish. Peter teaches us that following Jesus should be our first priority.**

We also learned that as great as Peter's faith was, there were times when he allowed other things to overcome that faith. What happened when Peter's fear overshadowed his faith in Jesus? Encourage response. **He sank. Who was there to rescue Peter?** Encourage response. **Yes, Jesus kept him safe. Peter teaches us that we should keep our focus on Jesus rather than on our fears.**

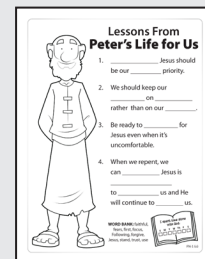
There will be times when our faith will be tested. Sometimes we pass and stand strong in our beliefs. But there will be times when it will be harder. Maybe you're in a group and people question why you won't do something or maybe even make fun of you for your faith. There will be times when you will have to make hard choices for your faith. Peter teaches us it's important to be ready to stand for Jesus even when it's uncomfortable. Peter experienced all of these lessons, and he learned how great God's love and mercy is. Peter wants us to know that when we repent, we can trust Jesus is faithful to forgive us and He will continue to use us. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to remember the same Jesus who called, restored, and used Peter is the same Jesus who is calling, restoring, and using you.** If time allows, let the students color the picture of Peter. End class in prayer thanking Jesus for His patience and grace and ask Him to help you grow stronger in your faith journey.



TE 1-8



Field Notes 1 (Y)

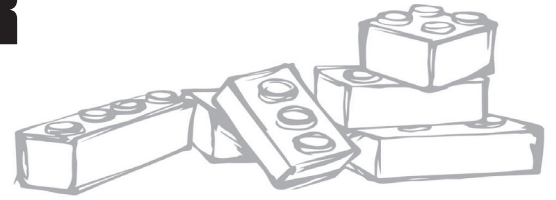


Field Notes 1 (O)



Field Notes 1

JESUS IS OUR LIVING HOPE



TEXT:

1 Peter 1:3–25

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

Jesus is our living hope, and our lives should show others His holiness. Choose at least one way each day to live differently for Jesus.

APPLICATION VERSE:

1 Peter 1:16b

FAMILY THEME:

Living Hope

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 2

- ☐ TE 2-1
- ☐ Permanent marker
- ☐ Coin
- ☐ Whiteboard and marker
- ☐ Shareable treats

LEARN

- ☐ TE 2-2
- ☐ TE 2-3
- ☐ TE 2-4
- ☐ *Field Notes 2*
- ☐ Colored pencils

EXPLORE

- ☐ TE 2-5
- ☐ TE 2-6

- ☐ Chenille stems
- ☐ Pony beads
- ☐ Small bowls
- ☐ Yarn or cording
- ☐ Scissors

APPLY

- ☐ TE 2-7
- ☐ Old sheet
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Permanent marker
- ☐ Markers

RESPOND

- ☐ *Field Notes 2*

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Divide the students into two groups. Tell one group their word is *Hope* and tell the other group their word is *Holy*. Explain you are going to say, “God” and if you point to their group, they will say their word. Go back and forth, alternating between the groups. Occasionally, point to the same group twice instead of the other group. Start off slow and then get faster. After a few minutes, switch the words for each group and repeat the activity. **Today, we are going to continue learning about Peter as we study his first letter and learn about our holy Jesus who is our living hope. We will learn to set our hope on the blessings that are to come and how that should encourage us to live a holy life.**

Option 2

Items Needed: TE 2-1

Permanent marker

Coin

Whiteboard and marker

Shareable treats (one treat/student)

Display TE 2-1 so all the students can see it. Divide the students into two groups. Explain that, like the game show *Wheel of Fortune*, the students are going to try to figure out the words on the board. Flip a coin to see which team will go first. One person from that team will give a letter. Write the letters given on the whiteboard and if the letter is in the phrase, use the permanent marker to write it in the correct place. The team will continue until they can either solve the puzzle or call out a letter that is not on the board. It will then be the next group's turn. Continue until the sentence (Jesus is holy, and He is our hope) is correctly guessed. **Today, as we study Peter's first letter, we are going to learn more about Peter and our holy Jesus who is our living hope. We will learn to set our hope on the blessings that are to come and how that should encourage us to live a holy life.** Share the treats with all the students.



TE 2-1

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 2-2—TE 2-3

Field Notes 2

Colored pencils



BUILDING BLOCKS

Some translations of the Bible aim for a word-for-word translation; others aim for an idea-for-idea translation. Some Bible versions are paraphrases rather than translations.

TE 2-2

We have a living hope through **Jesus**.

Jesus is the giver of joy.

As believers, we will have eternal life with **Jesus** in Heaven.

TE 2-2

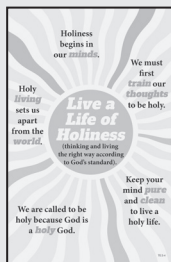
Set your hope fully on the grace to come.

Be holy.

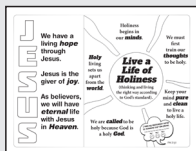
Be respectful to God.

Love others.

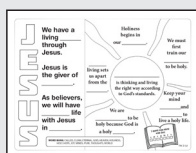
TE 2-3



TE 2-4



Field Notes 2 (Y)



Field Notes 2 (O)

Before class, copy *Field Notes 2* for every student. **Last week, we began learning about the disciple Peter. Today we are going to begin studying the first letter he wrote to the believers to help them in their walk with Jesus. We will learn to keep our hope in Jesus and live a holy and loving life. We learned last week that Peter's faith wasn't always strong like the name Jesus gave him would suggest. But Jesus saw the person Peter would grow into, and after Jesus' return to Heaven, Peter's faith and dedication to sharing the gospel grew stronger. Life wasn't always easy for Peter because of his faith and his desire to tell others about Jesus. But Peter understood that his choice meant he would one day be in Heaven with Jesus forever and that was worth all the difficulties he would face on earth.** Distribute *Field Notes 2* and colored pencils to the students. Have younger students follow along and underline the bolded words and older students fill in the blanks as you talk about the living hope we have and the holiness that sets us apart from the world.

Display TE 2-2. **Peter's lesson begins with an attitude of praise as he gives reasons why these early followers of Jesus, and believers today, should worship God. Peter reminds the believers of what Jesus' death and resurrection gave them—a living hope. Do any of you know what the word *hope* means? Encourage response. It means believing something is possible. *We have a living hope through Jesus.* Peter described the inheritance we will receive in Heaven. He wanted to encourage the believers to keep their faith strong when the hard times came. The Bible teaches that while we are on this earth, we will endure difficulties and persecution for our faith. Do any of you remember what the word *persecution* means? Encourage response. It is harsh treatment because of a person's faith. But even in the hardest times, we can remember *Jesus is the giver of joy*, and we can stay true to Him. Notice Peter used the word *joy* instead of *happiness*. Do any of you know what the difference between these two words is? Encourage response. *Joy* is based on *Jesus* and *happiness* is based on *circumstances*. As believers—those who have made the choice to love and follow Jesus and make Him the leader of their lives—we will have an eternal life with Him in Heaven.**

Display TE 2-3. **Peter continued as he gave us four commands—set your hope fully on the grace to come, be holy, be respectful to God, and love others—to live out. Why do you think Peter wrote to the believers about living a life of holiness? Encourage response. The word *holy* means perfect, pure, and completely set apart from sin. God is holy, and we are to follow His holy way. When we live a life of holiness, we are thinking and living the right way according to God's standards. Respect and love come from a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:3–12, 22). So, let's look a little closer at what Peter wrote about holiness. Display TE 2-4. Read or choose a student to read 1 Peter 1:13 aloud. **Holiness begins in our *minds*. To live a life that is holy, we must first *train our thoughts* to be holy. Peter tells us to get our minds ready. Be active and aggressive in keeping your mind *pure* and *clean* so you can lead a holy life. Read or choose a student to read 1 Peter 1:15 aloud. As Christians, we are called to be holy because God is a *holy* God, and holy *living* sets us apart from the world.****

Peter goes on to remind the believers that all the money in the entire world cannot compare to the sacrifice Jesus made through His death which allows us to live with Him in Heaven. Read or choose a student to read 1 Peter 1:18–19 aloud. **God paid the penalty for our sin through the blood of His Son, Jesus. We have a living hope in Jesus, and our lives should reflect the holy God we serve.**

EXPLORE

Items Needed: TE 2-5—TE 2-6
Chenille stems (one stems/student)
Pony beads
Small bowls
Yarn or cording
Scissors

Before class, cut the yarn or cording into 3" sections for each student. Put the pony beads in small bowls so the students can have access to them. Display TE 2-5 and point to the symbol at the top. **Have any of you ever seen this symbol before?** Encourage response. **Do any of you know what it represents?** Encourage response. **The symbol is *ichthys*** (pronounced ick-thus) **which is the Greek word for fish.** Point to the letters on TE 2-5. **It is an acrostic using the Greek letters for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. There is no J in the Greek alphabet. The fish was a common symbol for the followers of Jesus in the early church. It wasn't safe for the early Christians to meet, and they would use the fish symbol to mark meeting places for believers. It was also a safe way for Christians to identify each other. This symbol is still used to show others you follow Jesus. Let's make one you can hang somewhere or give to someone.** Use the directions on TE 2-6 to lead the students in the craft.

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 2-7
Old sheet
Paper (one piece/student)
Permanent marker
Markers

Before class, use the permanent marker to write *Word of God* and *Prayer* in the center of the old sheet. Distribute a piece of paper and a marker to older students. **What are some things the world uses to influence us to turn away from God's holiness?** Encourage response and assign older students to write one item on his or her paper. Some suggestions are given in the sidebar. If you have a larger class, more than one student might need to write the same item.

TAKE NOTE

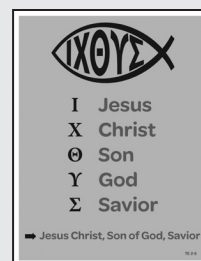
Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

How can believers have joy without experiencing happiness?

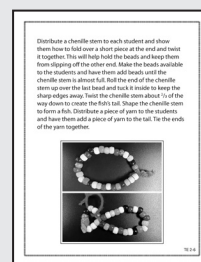
How is a living hope different from the hope the world offers?

TAKE NOTE

Go to www.d6everyday.com to see color pictures of the crafts.



TE 2-5

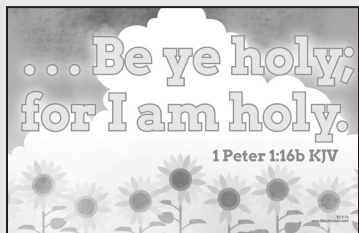


TE 2-6

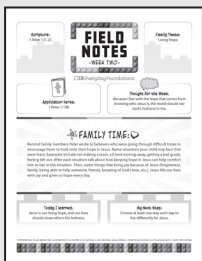


Suggestions:

- Greed
- Pride
- Hurt
- Selfishness
- Gossip
- Jealousy



TE 2-7



Field Notes 2

If you have younger students, write the responses on pieces of paper and then distribute them to the younger students. Have the students wad up their papers. Have two students hold up the sheet and read what it says. **This sheet represents the verses in the Bible that God has given us to help us fight against sin. It also represents our prayer life.** Choose a student to stand in front of the sheet. **Watch what happens when a Christian never reads his or her Bible or spends time talking with God.** Have some of the students throw their “worldly influences” at the student. **That person is constantly hit by these worldly influences. What if a believer only reads his or her Bible and talks with God every now and then?** Have a student stand behind the sheet. Have the students who are holding the sheet move it down so only part of the student’s body is covered. **Staying in God’s Word and talking to Him every day helps build our defense against the Devil’s temptations and the wrong influences of the world. We read our application verse earlier.** Display TE 2-6 and introduce the application verse to the students by reading it to them. **The Bible teaches us we are to be holy because God is holy. Let’s say this short verse together.** Have the students say the verse with you several times.

RESPOND

Items Needed: *Field Notes 2*

Today we learned from the first part of Peter’s first letter that Jesus is our living hope, and we are called to live a life of holiness. Peter chose to follow Jesus, and we must make that same choice for ourselves. No one can make it for us. If you have not made that choice and are ready to, talk to your parents or talk to me. If you have made the choice to follow Jesus, be full of the living hope that comes with your salvation. Let others see you have the joy that only comes from a relationship with Jesus, even when hard times come. Finally, live in a way that reflects and represents the holy God we serve. Because we belong to God, we should live differently from the world. Choose obedience and kindness. Be selfless instead of selfish. Be holy because you have a relationship with a holy God. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to choose at least one way each day to live differently for Jesus. Let others see the living hope by living a life of holiness one choice at a time.** End class in prayer thanking God for His Word and asking Him to help you and your students live out what was learned from Peter’s letter.



JOY IN THE HARD TIMES

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

- ☐ TE 3-1
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape

LEARN

- ☐ TE 3-2
- ☐ *Field Notes 3*
- ☐ Colored pencils

EXPLORE

- ☐ TE 3-3
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape

APPLY

- ☐ TE 2-7
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Marker

RESPOND

- ☐ *Field Notes 3*

TEXT:

1 Peter 4:1–19

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

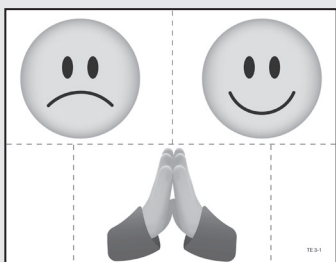
Everyone will experience hard times and suffering, and Peter teaches how to have joy during these moments. Remember joyful trust starts by turning to God instead of reacting to a situation.

APPLICATION VERSE:

1 Peter 1:16b

FAMILY THEME:

Joyful Trust



TE 3-1

TAKE NOTE

You lose your favorite toy.
Someone is mean to you.
You feel scared at night.
You win a game.
You feel left out.
Your cousin is in the hospital.
Your best friend is coming to your house to play.

TAKE NOTE

Verses for students to find in their Bibles:
Psalm 66:10
James 1:2–3
Deuteronomy 8:2
1 Peter 1:6–7



BUILDING BLOCKS

Hope is a confident expectation in the promises of God.

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: TE 3-1

Scissors

Tape

Before class, cut apart the pictures from TE 3-1 and attach each one to a separate chair. Place the chairs around the room with enough room for the students to stand behind them. **I am going to name some different scenarios, and I want you to stand behind the chair (joy, sad or worried, or praying to God) that shows how you would react.** Use the scenarios in the sidebar or create your own. **Today we are going to learn more from Peter's letter in the New Testament to learn how we can have joyful trust in Jesus no matter what is happening in our lives.**

Option 2

Before class, assign a verse from the sidebar to different students to find in their Bibles. **What are some tests you have taken?** Encourage response. Answers will probably include spelling, math, and other tests at school. **Why do you think teachers give tests and what do tests show?** Encourage response. **Did you know God sometimes tests His people?** Encourage response. Have the students who looked up the Bible verses read them aloud. **We have been learning about a man in the New Testament named Peter. Today, we are going to learn more from Peter's letter to find out how to have joyful trust in Jesus when we are tested in the hard times we will experience.**

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 3-2

Field Notes 3

Colored pencils

Before class, copy *Field Notes 3* for every student. **Raise your hand if you've ever felt like some people seem to never have bad things happen to them.** Allow time for the students to respond. **It might seem that things always go the right way and nothing bad ever happens to certain people, but that's not true. Some people experience suffering from an early age, while, for**

others, it happens later on. But every single person who has ever lived or will ever live will go through hard times, difficulties, and disappointments while on earth. The Bible teaches us that even Jesus experienced physical and emotional hurts, disappointments, betrayal, loneliness, and other earthly struggles. But the Bible also teaches God is always with us, and we can joyfully trust Him even in our darkest times of suffering and persecution.

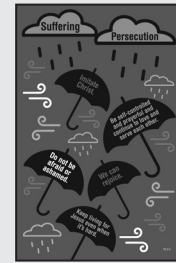
Distribute *Field Notes* 3 and colored pencils to the students. Have the younger students color the umbrellas and older students fill in the blanks as you talk about how to have joyful trust in God. Display TE 3-2 and point to the first umbrella. **When we experience times of suffering and persecution, we are to imitate Christ** (1 Peter 4:1). **Last week we learned persecution is harsh treatment because of a person's faith. Peter instructed the believers to look at Jesus as their example and have His same attitude. As one of His closest friends, Peter knew the different times Jesus suffered and was persecuted. As believers, we can follow Jesus' example and joyfully trust in God's plan. That's hard to do, but we can remember God knows and sees all, and His love for us is greater than anything we will experience on earth.**

Peter reminded the readers that no matter what suffering and persecution we endure on earth, our life on earth is temporary. Point to the second umbrella on TE 3-2. We are to be self-controlled and prayerful and continue to love and serve each other. As if that wasn't hard enough, Peter instructed us to do all of this without grumbling or complaining (1 Peter 4:7–10).

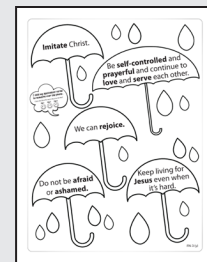
Point to the third umbrella on TE 3-2. **Peter continued and told us that even in hard times, we can rejoice** (1 Peter 4:12–13). **We shouldn't be surprised when we suffer because so many in the Bible did and people still do today. In other words, we should expect that at some point we will experience difficulties or testing. But the Bible also teaches us to give thanks in everything** (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Point to the fourth umbrella on TE 3-2. **Peter told us not to be afraid or ashamed** (1 Peter 4:16). **Even in Bible times, it wasn't always easy to be a Christian. Remember, Peter himself was once ashamed to be associated with Christ, and he denied Jesus three times! But Peter repented of his sin, and he never denied his relationship with Jesus again. Even when faced with verbal and physical abuse and imprisonment, Peter remained loyal to Jesus. We might lose friendships, be left out of things, be made fun of, or worse, but we will choose to remain faithful to the One who is always faithful to us.**

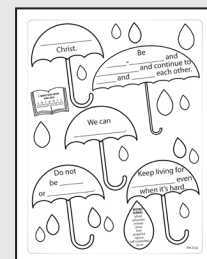
Point to the last umbrella on TE 3-2. **Peter taught us to keep living for Jesus even when it's hard** (1 Peter 4:19). **When we are suffering or facing persecution, we must remember we are in Jesus' constant care. This pattern was established by Jesus, Himself, who committed His soul to His Father while on the cross. Peter reminds the believers to continue to do good even if it brings more suffering.**



TE 3-2



Field Notes 3 (Y)



Field Notes 3 (O)

EXPLORE

Items Needed: TE 3-3

Scissors

Tape



TE 3-3

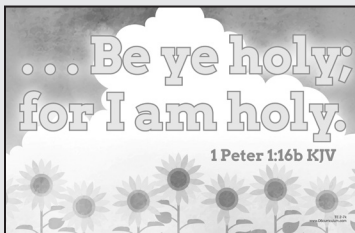
Before class, cut apart the links from TE 3-3. **Let's talk about some of the ways Jesus suffered while on earth.** As you talk about the different ways of suffering, use the tape to connect the links together to form a chain. **People rejected Jesus when He lived on earth. Jesus was *made fun of, insulted, criticized, harassed, and finally crucified on a cross.*** Six links should be connected. **Jesus was not the only one who went through hard times. Peter was imprisoned.** There are people in the world who are still *emotionally hurt* and physically *tortured*. Add these two links to the chain. **There may be times when we are excluded—left out of activities—because of our faith.** Add this link to the chain. **It won't always be easy to stand up for our faith, but we should never feel ashamed. Instead, we should choose to joyfully trust in our faithful God. We won't escape suffering while on this earth, but we can count on Him and believe in His promises that He will never leave us.** Tear the links from the chain. **We can know that the suffering in this world is nothing compared to the joy of Heaven.**

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 2-7

Construction paper

Marker



TE 2-7

Before class, write the words to the application verse on separate pieces of construction paper. **While times of suffering and persecution are hard, they do help us see our need for God. The Bible provides us with many examples of different people who suffered and experienced various types of persecution to help us keep going in spite of the temptation to give up or turn away from our faith. God gives us words of encouragement in the Bible. He teaches us we can talk to Him in prayer and ask for His help. Peter completely relied on God to take care of him in some hard circumstances. It is during these times that our faith grows, and we learn to joyfully trust in God and His plan. We learned a verse last week that teaches us God is holy, and He wants us to be like Him.** Display TE 2-7 and review the application verse with the students by reading it to them. **We can hide God's Word in our hearts so when we face times of trouble, we can remember to joyfully trust and fully rely on Him in every situation.** Place the pieces of construction paper in order on the floor so the students can hop from one piece to another as they say the verse. End the activity by having the class say the verse together.

RESPOND

Items Needed: *Field Notes 3*

At first glance, it seems impossible to joyfully trust and rejoice when going through times of suffering and persecution. But we learned that because of our knowledge of Jesus and the examples given to us in God's Word, those situations are helpful and should be expected. We can use those hard times to grow our faith, build our trust, and learn to completely rely on Jesus. People who don't believe in Jesus might make fun of us for our beliefs, for praying at lunch, or for choosing to do or not do certain things. It's not always going to be easy to ignore or deal with the bullying, teasing, and torment that comes from following Jesus. But we can remember we are not the first, the only, nor will we be the last people to suffer for our faith, and our suffering on earth will not compare to the glory of Heaven. When we face those difficulties, we should look for ways to be like Jesus, be self-controlled, and be prayerful. Use opportunities to show Christ's love to those around you. Find ways to serve those who are hurting you. Thank Jesus for those times because they help us appreciate the good times. Don't be afraid or ashamed of your faith and always live for Jesus— even when it's hard. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to remember joyful trust starts by turning to God instead of reacting to a situation.** End class in prayer thanking God for always hearing our prayers. Ask Him to give you peace and wisdom and help you remember to pray first in every situation that comes your way, especially the hard ones.

TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

If you are mocked or made fun of for your faith, what should a Christlike response be in that moment?

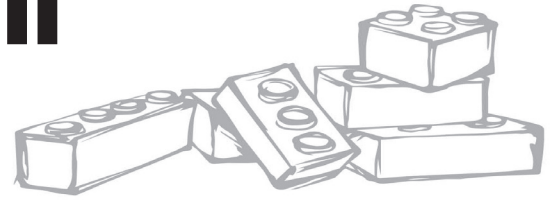
What would a non-Christlike response be?

What steps can you take to help you respond in the right way in these situations?



Field Notes 3

LESSONS FROM JOHN'S LIFE



TEXT:

Various Scripture from Matthew, Luke, and John

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

John followed Jesus closely and learned valuable lessons about loving God and others from Him, and he taught those same lessons to others. Choose Jesus first, trust Him, listen to and obey Him, and love God and others.

APPLICATION VERSE:

1 Peter 1:16b

FAMILY THEME:

Lessons From the Life of John

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

___ Small objects

Option 2

___ 10–12 small items

___ Tray

___ Towel

___ Whiteboard and marker

APPLY

___ TE 2-7

___ Beach Ball

RESPOND

___ TE 4-6

___ *Field Notes 4*

___ Colored pencils

LEARN

___ TE 4-1

___ TE 4-2

___ TE 4-3

___ TE 4-4

___ TE 4-5

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: Small objects (see sidebar for suggestions)

Before class, place the objects on a table. Choose a student to pick up all the items. Then say, "Follow me." Walk around at a normal pace. After a few seconds, increase your speed, weave around chairs, and crawl under tables. The student will quickly notice it is difficult to follow while carrying everything. Allow the student to set the objects down and follow again. **Sometimes carrying too much makes it hard to follow closely. In our lesson today, we are going to learn about one of Jesus' disciples named John. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," John left *everything* behind to walk with Him. Following Jesus was John's highest priority, and it should be ours too.**

Option 2

Items Needed: 10–12 small items (see sidebar)

Tray

Towel

Whiteboard and marker

Before class, place the items on the tray and cover it with a towel. Gather the students around you so everyone can see the tray. Remove the towel from the tray for about a minute and let the students look at and memorize the different items on the tray. Cover the tray with the towel and ask the students to recall as many items as possible. Write their answers on the whiteboard. When they have given you all their answers, remove the towel and compare the items on the tray to their list. **A person who tells what they have seen and heard is called a *witness*. In our lesson today, we are going to learn about one of Jesus' disciples named John. He saw Jesus' miracles, heard Jesus teach, and saw Jesus die and then live again. John told others what he saw and heard so they could believe in Jesus too. We are going to learn from his example how we can follow Jesus closely and share Him with others.**

TAKE NOTE

Suggested items: toy phone, small ball, book, pencil, notebook, keys, water bottle.

TAKE NOTE

Suggested items: crayon, paper clip, scissors, paintbrush, fingernail polish, sunglasses, index card, spoon, eraser, toothbrush, band-aid, coin, button, Lego® block, puzzle piece, leaf, seashell, key

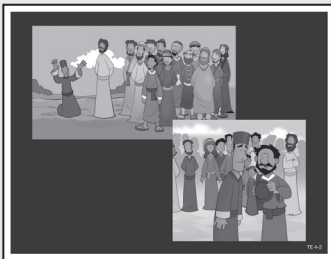


BUILDING BLOCKS

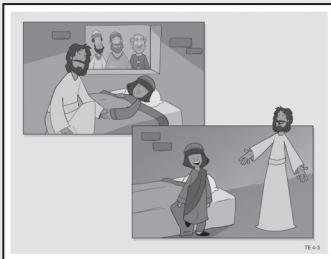
John wrote five New Testament books: the gospel of John, three letters (epistles), and Revelation.



TE 4-1



TE 4-2



TE 4-3



TE 4-4



TE 4-5

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 4-1—TE 4-5

Display TE 4-1. **Today we are going to learn about one of Jesus' disciples named John. Do any of you remember what a *disciple* is?** Encourage response. **A disciple is someone who follows and learns from Jesus. John became a very close friend of Jesus and is sometimes called "the disciple Jesus loved."** John saw many important moments in Jesus' life and learned from them. **As we study his life, we can learn those same lessons.**

Let's review how John came to know and follow Jesus. He and his brother James were fishermen. We learned a few weeks ago how Jesus told Peter to put his nets back into the water to catch more fish—even though he and his brother had fished all night without catching even one fish. Do any of you remember what happened? Encourage response. **Yes, Peter caught so many fish that he called for James and John to help him. Do any of you remember what Jesus said to the men?** Encourage response. **Jesus told them to follow Him and become "fishers of men." What do you think that means?** Encourage response. **It means helping people know and follow God. The Bible teaches that John and the others left everything and followed Jesus because they learned that following Jesus was more important than anything else (Luke 5:3–11).**

John traveled with Jesus and the other disciples. Display TE 4-2 and point to the two pictures. **One day a man named Jairus asked Jesus to heal his sick daughter. Before Jesus could reach her, someone from Jairus' house came with the sad news that she had died. What do you think Jesus did?** Encourage response. Display TE 4-3 and point to the two pictures. **Jesus went to Jairus' house, and John, James, and Peter went with Him. Jesus took the girl by the hand and told her to get up. And she did! She was alive (Luke 8:40–42, 49–55)! John learned that Jesus loves people, has power over sickness and death, and can always be trusted.**

Display TE 4-4 and point to the two pictures. **On the night before Jesus went to the Cross, He took John, James, and Peter to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew something very difficult was about to happen. He prayed and chose to obey God's plan. Even though it was hard, Jesus trusted His Father (Matthew 26:36–39). John learned that trusting God is important—especially when life is difficult or overwhelming.**

After Jesus died on the cross, something amazing happened. Do you remember what it was? Encourage response. **Yes, Jesus rose from the dead!** Display TE 4-5. **When the women who had gone to the tomb said it was empty, John and Peter ran to see for themselves. When they looked inside, the tomb was empty. Later, Jesus appeared to the disciples. John saw the risen Jesus with his own eyes (John 20:1–5; 19–20). Because Jesus is alive, we have hope. Sin and death do not win.**

After Jesus returned to Heaven, John helped lead the early church. God used him to write five books of the Bible: the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Revelation. John taught believers many important truths. And just like John, we can teach others about Jesus too.

EXPLORE

Today we learned that John followed Jesus closely. He saw Jesus' miracles, heard Jesus teach, and saw Jesus die and live again. Spending time with Jesus changed John's life. As John grew older, God used him to write letters to believers. In those letters, John talked about one word more than almost anything else. Do you know what that word was? Encourage response. **Love.** John understood something very important: The reason we can love others is because God loved us first (1 John 4:19). What are some ways God shows His love to us? Encourage response. **God showed His love by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God forgives us, stays with us, and keeps His promises. That is real love.** John also understood the importance of loving others (1 John 4:7). Why is loving others important? Encourage response. **When we love others, we show the world what God is like. Loving others is more than saying nice words. It is helping, forgiving, sharing, being kind and patient, and telling the truth.** John had once been called a "Son of Thunder"—he could be loud and intense! But after walking with Jesus, John became known as a loving disciple. Jesus changed his heart, and He can change ours too. Knowing Jesus helps us love others, and loving others shows that we belong to Him.

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 2-7
Beach ball

Today, we learned about John and some lessons we can learn from his life. John teaches us that God is holy and that we should live in a way that honors Him. Does anyone remember what the word *holy* means? Encourage response. **Holy means perfect, pure, and completely set apart from sin. God and Jesus are holy. When the Bible says, "Be holy," does that mean, "Be perfect like God"?** Encourage response. **No, only God is perfect, but we can live in a way that honors Him.** Display TE 2-7 and review the application verse with the students by having them say it with you.

Peter wrote these words to remind believers that we must try to live holy lives because God is holy—our lives should look different. We can live holy lives by telling the truth, obeying our parents and teachers, choosing kindness instead of anger, turning away from sin, and asking God for forgiveness. Have the students form a circle. Explain they will toss the beach ball to

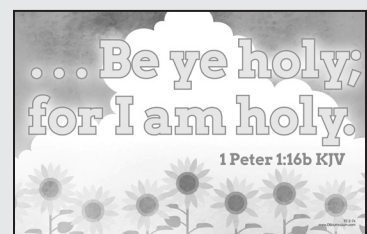
TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

What are some things you have learned about Jesus recently that you are excited to share with others?

Is anything keeping you from doing so?

Where is it hardest for you to show Christlike love right now?



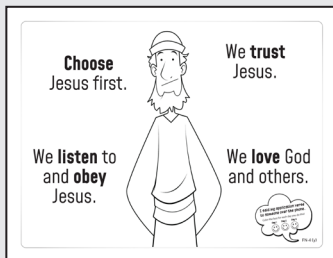
TE 2-7

each other as the words to the application verse, including the reference, are said. Repeat the activity several times. **When we stay close to Jesus, He helps us grow, love others, and live holy lives that honor Him.**

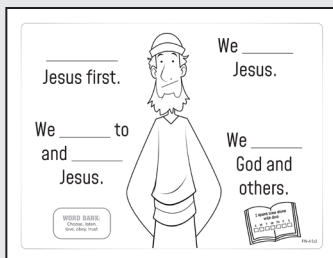
RESPOND



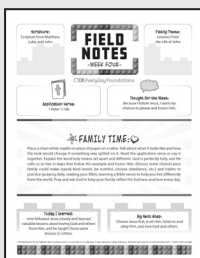
TE 4-6



Field Notes 4 (Y)



Field Notes 4 (O)



Field Notes 4

Items Needed: TE 4-6

Field Notes 4

Colored pencils

Before class, copy *Field Notes 4* so every student will have one. **Today we learned about John and the lessons we can learn from his life. John followed Jesus closely, trusted Him, listened to Him, and loved others. Let's talk about how we can do those things too!** Distribute *Field Notes 4* and colored pencils to the students. Let younger students follow along as you discuss lessons we can learn from John's life. Have older students use the word bank and fill in the blanks. Display TE 4-6. **When Jesus called John, he left everything and followed Him (Luke 5:11). Following Jesus means we choose Him first. Sometimes other things try to take first place—friends, sports, games. But Jesus deserves first place in our hearts.**

We trust Jesus. John saw that Jesus had power over sickness, storms, and even death. Jesus cares about us and knows what we need. When something feels scary, confusing, or hard, we can trust that Jesus is with us and in control.

We listen to and obey Jesus. When John was on the mountain with Jesus, he heard God say, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him" (Mark 9:7). **We listen to Jesus when we read the Bible, pray, and obey what God says. Obedience shows our love for Him.**

We love God and others. Because God loves us, we can show love to others by being kind, forgiving, helpful, and patient. Loving others shows that we belong to Jesus. Have students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to choose Jesus first, trust Him, listen to and obey Him, and love God and others. Ask God to help you stay close to Him and help you grow in these four areas.** If time allows, let the students color the picture of John. Encourage them to use their *Field Notes* to help them remember to follow these lessons John taught us. Close with prayer, thanking God for giving us John's example. Ask God to help you and your students follow John's example in your lives and help others come to know Him through us.



Are you on Facebook? Join the D6 Curriculum Teachers group, a place of community for you to share stories, ask questions, get advice, and engage in conversations with other D6 curriculum teachers.



WALK IN THE LIGHT

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

- ___ TE 5-1
- ___ Scissors

Option 2

- ___ TE 5-2

LEARN

- ___ TE 5-3
- ___ *Field Notes 5*
- ___ Colored pencils

APPLY

- ___ TE 5-4
- ___ TE 5-5
- ___ Scissors
- ___ Flashlight

RESPOND

- ___ TE 5-6
- ___ TE 5-7
- ___ *Field Notes 5*
- ___ Cardstock
- ___ Scissors
- ___ Crayons
- ___ Yarn
- ___ Tape

TEXT:

1, 2, 3 John

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

Jesus is the Light of the World, and we are to walk in His light. Trust Jesus to help you walk in His light, truth, and love.

APPLICATION VERSE:

Psalms 119:105

FAMILY THEME:

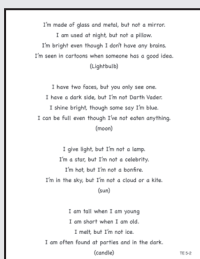
Walking in the Light

TAKE NOTE

Go to www.d6everyday.com to see color pictures of the crafts and download application verse coloring sheets and puzzles.



TE 5-1



TE 5-2

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: TE 5-1
Scissors

Before class, cut apart the pictures. Ask for some volunteers to look at the picture on the card and describe what it is without using the word or any forms of the word. Let the other students guess what picture is on the card. Display the cards where the students can see them as each one is guessed. After the activity, connect the pictures to the lesson. **Do any of you know what these pictures have in common?** Encourage response. **All these words are things that give light. Have any of you ever been in complete darkness? Maybe your electricity went out at night, and until you found a flashlight or your parent lit a candle, there was nothing but darkness. It can be a little scary. But just a little light can help brighten a dark room. The Bible teaches us Jesus is the Light of the World. Now, that doesn't mean He's a lightbulb or the sun. But it does teach us the world is a dark place, and Jesus is the One who gives it light. He does this by showing us who God is, helping us make right choices, and offering us hope and love. Today we are going to study the books of 1, 2, and 3 John to learn how we can walk in the Light.**

Option 2

Items Needed: TE 5-2

Read the riddles from TE 5-2 to the students and let them guess what you are describing. Once all the riddles have been guessed, have the students tell you what all the words have in common. **All these words are things that give light. Have any of you ever been in complete darkness? Maybe your electricity went out at night, and until you found a flashlight or your parent lit a candle, there was nothing but darkness. It can be a little scary. But just a little light can help brighten a dark room. The Bible teaches us Jesus is the Light of the World. What do you think that means?** Encourage response. **It doesn't mean He's a lightbulb or the sun. But it does teach us the world is a dark place, and Jesus is the One who gives it light by showing us who God is, helping us choose right over wrong, and offering us hope and love. Today we are going to study the books of 1, 2, and 3 John to learn how to walk in the Light.**

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 5-3

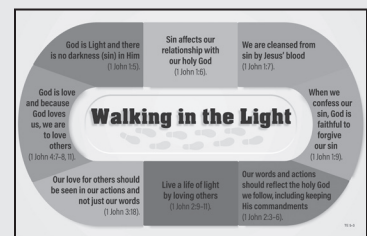
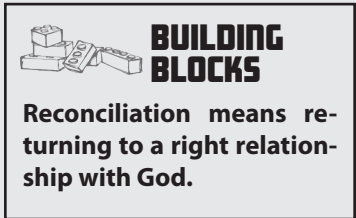
Field Notes 5

Colored pencils

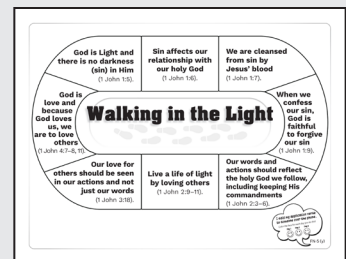
Before class, copy *Field Notes 5* so each student will have one. **There are four books in the Bible with the name *John* in the title. They are the Gospel of John and 1, 2, and 3 John. The disciple John—the same one we learned about last week—wrote these last three letters near the end of his life. John began the letter we know as 1 John as an eyewitness to the things he wrote about. Do any of you know what an *eyewitness* is?** Encourage response. **It is someone who has seen someone with his or her own eyes. John told us he was writing about things he saw and heard himself. They were not stories someone else told him. They were words of truth about things he personally saw and heard (1 John 1:1–4). He continued in this first letter by focusing on correcting false teachings that were happening as well as reminding the readers of Jesus’ love. John’s second letter is shorter and warns the believers in a specific church to stay true to God and His Word. The last of John’s letters is personal as he encourages a believer to stay faithful and warns another about the dangers of pride.**

But today, we are going to focus on what John taught in his first letter about walking in the Light and loving God and others. Distribute *Field Notes 5* and colored pencils to the students. Have the students color the different sections as you teach from 1 John. Display TE 5-3. Read or choose a student to read 1 John 1:5–6 aloud. ***God is Light and there is no darkness—or sin—in Him. God cannot be with sin and there is no sin in Him. John wanted the believers to understand sin affects our relationship with our holy God.*** Read or choose a student to read John 1:7 aloud. **John also wanted the people to know that we are cleansed from sin by Jesus’ blood.** Some in John’s time said, and some today will say, they’ve sinned too much, or their sin is too bad to be forgiven. But 1 John 1:9 teaches us when *we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive our sin.* He is the One who makes us pure from unrighteousness.

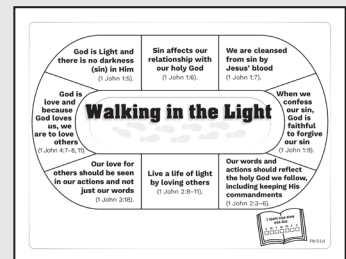
The second chapter of 1 John reminds us that it is through Jesus we can walk in holiness. Read or choose a student to read 1 John 2:3–6 aloud. ***Our words and actions should reflect the holy God we follow, including keeping His commandments.*** John continues in his letter by teaching the believers to *live a life of light by loving others* (1 John 2:9–11). ***Our love for others should be seen in our actions and not just our words*** (1 John 3:18). John teaches us ***God is love and because God loves us, we are to love others*** (1 John 4:7–8, 11).



TE 5-3



Field Notes 5 (Y)



Field Notes 5 (O)

EXPLORE

The second letter of John is shorter. Who are the elect lady and her children? This was most likely a metaphor for a local group of believers. Do any of you know what a *metaphor* is? Encourage response. It's when you compare two things to help people understand something better. For example, when we say, "the class was a zoo," we don't actually mean there were animals in the class, but that the class was loud and wild. John was thankful to hear some were walking in truth and he encouraged the people to walk in love too. John ends this short letter with a warning to beware of teaching that goes against God's Word.

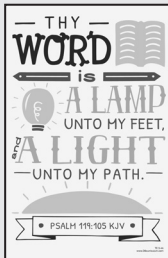
In his third letter, John praised Gaius for his faithfulness in caring for those who were sharing the good news of Jesus. John then described the actions of another man, Diotrephes, whose actions seemed to be the complete opposite of Gaius'. John cautioned the believers about following the example of someone whose leadership was self-serving instead of God-serving. John finished up by mentioning a man named Demetrius whose life lined up with the truth of God's Word and who was an example of faithful character.

APPLY

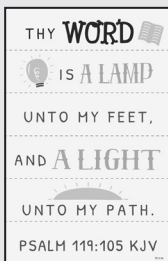
Items Needed: TE 5-4—TE 5-5

Scissors

Flashlight



TE 5-4



TE 5-5

Before class, cut apart the pieces from TE 5-5. **Everything the Bible teaches is true. God gives us His Word to teach us how to walk in His light and be the light to the dark world. It teaches us to be on guard against teaching that goes against God's ways and to use His Word as a way to know what is true. False teaching was common in John's time just as it is today. John wanted Jesus' followers and us to hold on to the truths that come from God and not be confused by ideas that lead us away from God.** Display TE 5-4 and introduce the application verse to the students by reading it to them. **Today we learned God is Light and this verse teaches us God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It helps us see where we are going so that we don't stumble. Studying and thinking about what the Bible says helps us stay on God's path.** Say the application verse with the students several times. Then, place the pieces from TE 5-5 on the floor to form a winding path. Let the students take turns shining the flashlight on the words as they say it. If you have a large class, divide the students into groups and have a flashlight for every group. Let the groups walk at the same time and shine the lights on the words. Repeat the activity letting different students from each group have a turn.

RESPOND

Items Needed: TE 5-6—TE 5-7

Field Notes 5

Cardstock

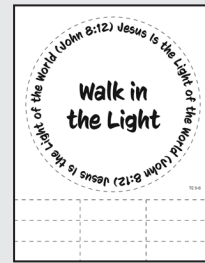
Scissors

Crayons

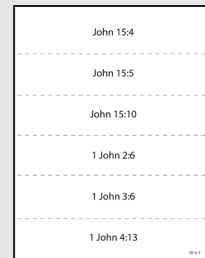
Yarn

Tape

Before class, copy TE 5-6 on cardstock for each student. Cut the yarn into 6" lengths so each student will have one. Also, cut apart the verses from TE 5-7 and distribute them to different students to find in their Bibles. **Today we learned from John's letter we are to walk in the Light. John recorded in his letter in 1 John that God is holy. Everything that is pure and right comes from God. In the Gospel of John and in his letters, John talks a lot about abiding in Jesus. Do any of you know what it means to abide in something or someone?** Encourage response. **It means to stay close to and refers to an active relationship. Listen to some of the verses in which John tells us to abide or remain in Jesus.** Have the students read the different verses from TE 5-7 aloud. **Staying close to Jesus and growing our relationship with Him helps us learn how to walk in His light. When we choose to let Jesus influence our choices, we show others God lives in us, not just because we say so, but because our actions show it. What are some ways you can walk in the Light of Jesus this week?** Brainstorm with the students some practical ways they can put what they've learned into action. Distribute TE 5-6, crayons, scissors, and tape to the students. Allow them to color the strips with an orange crayon and the circle with any color crayon they want. Have the students cut out the circle and the strips. Show the students how to tape the strips around the back of the circle to form sun rays. Distribute a piece of yarn to the students and help them form a loop and tape it to the top of the circle. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to trust Jesus to help you walk in His Light, truth, and love.** End class in prayer asking Jesus to help your students be a light in this dark world and remember to repent of sin and trust in His grace and mercy.



TE 5-6



TE 5-7

TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

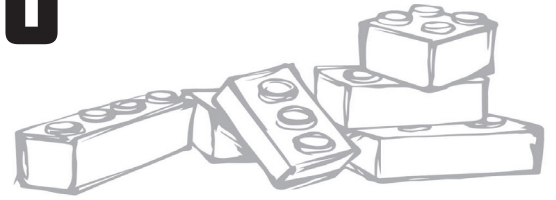
How can saying you believe in Jesus, but your actions show otherwise, hinder or affect your walk with God?

How can it affect your testimony or how others view Christianity?



Field Notes 5

FAITHFUL TO THE END



TEXT:

Revelation 2:1–3:22

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

John wrote letters to the seven churches to help them learn how to better live for Jesus. Stay close to Jesus, obey Him, trust Him, and remain faithful to Him.

APPLICATION VERSE:

Psalm 119:105

FAMILY THEME:

Steadfast Faith

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

___ TE 6-1

Option 2

___ TE 6-2

___ Whiteboard and marker

APPLY

___ TE 5-4

___ TE 5-5

RESPOND

___ *Field Notes 6*

LEARN

___ TE 6-3a–g

___ *Field Notes 6*

___ Colored pencils

___ Seven envelopes

___ Marker

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: TE 6-1

Display TE 6-1. **What do you think all these pictures have in common?** Encourage response. Point to the picture of the Bible. **They are all related to the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. Do any of you know who wrote the book of Revelation?** Encourage response. **The same John who wrote the Gospel of John and the three letters we studied last week also wrote Revelation. Today, we are going to study seven letters John wrote to different churches to share Jesus' message with them.**

Option 2

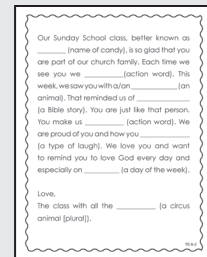
Items Needed: TE 6-2

Whiteboard and marker

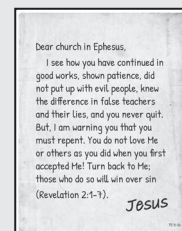
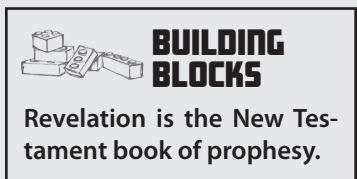
Before class, write these categories on the whiteboard: *a candy, a feeling, an action word, an animal, a Bible story, a type of laugh, a day of the week, and a circus animal*. Ask the students to name items for each category and write their answers on the whiteboard. You can have several in each category, so every student has a turn to give an answer. Then read the story from TE 6-2 using the students' answers to fill in the blanks. **This silly letter introduces us to another letter in the Bible that was also written by John. The letters we are going to study are found in the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible. John wrote these letters to seven different churches to share Jesus' message for them.**



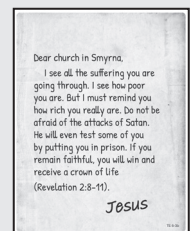
TE 6-1



TE 6-2



TE 6-3a



TE 6-3b

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 6-3a-g

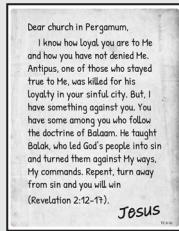
Field Notes 6

Colored pencils

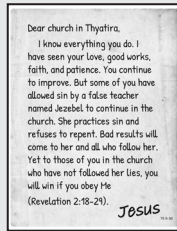
Seven envelopes

Marker

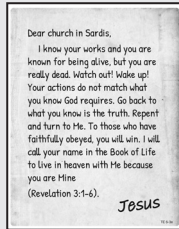
Before class, write the names of the seven churches on the outside of each envelope and place the correct letter from TE 6-3 inside each one. Also, copy Field Notes 6 so each student will have one. Display the seven envelopes so the



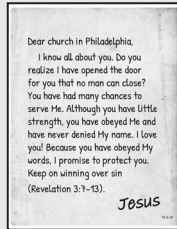
TE 6-3c



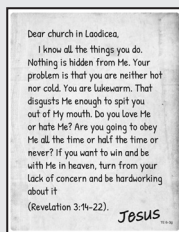
TE 6-3d



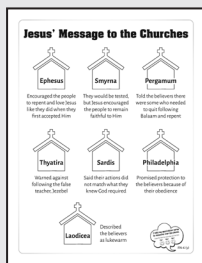
TE 6-3e



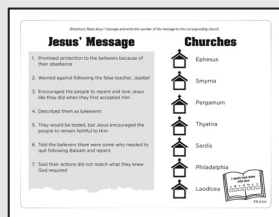
TE 6-3f



TE 6-3g



Field Notes 6 (Y)



Field Notes 6 (O)

students can see them. **John was an old man in prison when he wrote the book of Revelation, and he was the only disciple who was still living. In the first chapter, John described the different visions he had about the end times. He indicated the messages to the churches in the next two chapters as coming directly from Jesus. After that, the book of Revelation tells us about the good and bad things that will happen and reminds us of the truth that Jesus will return to earth, defeat Satan for all eternity, and reveal the kingdom of God.**

The seven churches whom John wrote to were actual historic churches. Jesus' words to each one were addressed to the pastors who led these churches. As we read these letters from Jesus to the seven churches, pay attention to one thing they all had in common—there was something they needed to overcome. Distribute *Field Notes* 6 and colored pencils to the students. Have younger students color the different churches as you read Jesus' message for the church. Have the older students write the number of Jesus' message to the corresponding church. Read the letter to the church in Ephesus (TE 6-3a) to the students. **What did John say in his letter to the church at Ephesus?** Encourage response. **He told them to repent and love Jesus like they did when they first accepted Him** (Revelation 2:1–7).

Read aloud the letter to the church at Smyrna (TE 6-3b). **What did John say in his letter to the church at Smyrna?** Encourage response. **During this time in history, Christians were being persecuted—hurt and killed—because they believed in Jesus. John warned the believers they were about to be tested, but they were to remain faithful to Jesus** (Revelation 2:8–11).

Read the letter to the church at Pergamum (TE 6-3c) to the students. **What did John say in his letter to the church at Pergamum?** Encourage response. **He told them there were some who needed to quit following Balaam and repent** (Revelation 2:12–17). **Balaam refers to the Old Testament prophet who led the people of Israel to make wrong choices.**

Read the letter to the church at Thyatira (TE 6-3d) to the students. **What did John say in this letter to the church at Thyatira?** Encourage response. **He warned against following the false teacher, Jezebel** (Revelation 2:18–29). **She is either the name of a false prophet in Thyatira or a reference to the wicked queen of Israel** (1 Kings 18–19).

Read the letter to the church at Sardis (TE 6-3e) aloud. **What message did John give the church at Sardis?** Encourage response. **He told them to wake up; their actions did not match what they knew God required** (Revelation 3:1–6).

Next, read the letter to the church at Philadelphia (TE 6-3f) to the students. **What did John say in his letter to the church at Philadelphia?** Encourage response. **He promised protection to them because of their obedience** (Revelation 3:7–13).

Read the letter to the church at Laodicea (TE 6-3g) aloud. **What was John's message to the people in the church at Laodicea?** Encourage response. **John described them as neither hot nor cold, but rather lukewarm** (Revelation 3:14–22).

John's letters to the believers in these different churches remind us we are to keep serving God to the best of our ability every day we are on this earth. Even when we face challenges and difficult times, we know we can trust God to help us through them because He has promised He will never leave us. We are not alone.

EXPLORE

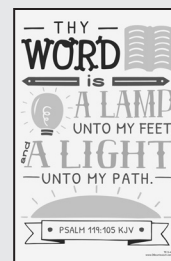
Persecution was a common threat and fear for most of the seven churches. Do any of you remember what the word *persecution* means? Encourage response. Yes, it is harsh treatment because of a person's faith. These seven cities had false gods the people worshiped along with the expected worship of the Roman emperor. So when believers refused to worship anyone but the one true God, it was very noticeable. There were also unbelievers who would report the Christians for their "offenses" (Acts 17:5–8).

It's also important to remember that since the beginning of the Church, believers have faced persecution. Jesus Himself also experienced persecution while on this earth. Even today, in some parts of the world, believers face harsh treatment and even death for following Jesus. But we must never forget God is with us during these difficult times and He will give us grace and strength to help us.

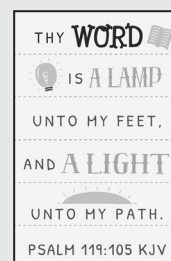
APPLY

Items Needed: TE 5-4—TE 5-5

John's letters to the churches were written out of love. Jesus wanted the churches and us to remember to love God and stay away from sin. We learned last week that our holy God cannot be with sin, and sin affects our relationship with our holy God (1 John 1:5–6). The Bible also teaches us that while we will never be able to completely stop sinning, we have the Holy Spirit inside us to help us make right choices. When we do sin, we are to confess our sin. God is faithful to forgive our sin (1 John 1:9). God's Word helps us know these truths and it's important to fill our minds with Scripture to help us live for Jesus each day. Display TE 5-4 and review the application verse with the students by reading it to them. **The Bible is a light to show us the right way to go. Let's say this verse together.** Place the pieces from TE 5-5 face up so the words are visible to the students. Say the application verse with the students to review the verse and then turn over one of the pieces so it is face down. Say the verse again and turn over another piece. Continue the activity until all the words are face down.



TE 5-4



TE 5-5

RESPOND

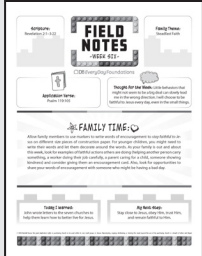
TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

What steps are you taking right now to help your faith stay strong during hard times?

What are some false teachings that are popular in today's world?

Why is it important to compare what people say about the Bible with what Scripture actually says to determine if it's true?



Field Notes 6

Items Needed: *Field Notes 6*

Everything in the Bible has a purpose. Christ's words through John were intended to identify the church's strengths and/or weaknesses, teach the church, warn the church of the consequences of their wrong actions, and remind the people of God's promises. Jesus wanted the churches to have **steadfast faith** during times of persecution, false teaching, and temptation, and He wants the same for us. Do any of you know what it means to have **steadfast faith**? Encourage response. It means **standing strong for Jesus no matter what is happening around us or to us. It's much easier to have steadfast faith when things are going well for us, but when hard times happen, it can be much harder. But it's during these times that we need to rely on our faith to help us through.**

Why do you think the Bible teaches so much about being on guard against false teaching? Encourage response. Those wrong ideas and ways were common and dangerous in Bible times, and they still are today. God warns us over and over to watch out for false teachings. He reminds us over and over about the importance of knowing His Word so we can compare what we hear to it. Have you ever heard a parent warn a toddler over and over about a stove being hot or not to do something dangerous? Encourage response. God is our parent warning us over and over to be careful. He wants us to remain faithful to Him above anyone else.

Just like false teachings aren't something new, neither is temptation. What is temptation and how do we fight against it? Encourage response. **Temptation is anything that causes us to think about sinning. Everyone is tempted, and being tempted isn't a sin. But giving in to temptation is, so God gives us tools to help us fight against doing so. When Jesus was tempted, what did He do?** Encourage response. **He quoted Scripture to the Devil. We can use God's Word to help us stay faithful and reject temptation. We can also talk to God about the things that tempt us. We can try to avoid situations where we are tempted to make wrong choices. God wants us to succeed in overcoming our temptations, and the Devil wants us to fail.**

Steadfast faith comes as a result of our ongoing, growing relationship with Jesus. He wanted the churches to stay faithful, obey Him, and not give up—even when it's hard. Jesus wants the same for us. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to stay close to Jesus, obey Him, trust Him, and remain faithful to Him.** End class with prayer thanking Jesus for His words to John to help encourage us to have steadfast faith in all situations.



WORSHIP THE LAMB

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

- ☐ Piece of paper
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Laptop or cell phone

Option 2

- ☐ TE 7-1

LEARN

- ☐ TE 7-2
- ☐ TE 7-3

APPLY

- ☐ TE 7-4
- ☐ TE 7-5

RESPOND

- ☐ TE 7-6
- ☐ *Field Notes 7*
- ☐ Colored pencils

TEXT:

Revelation 4:1–5:14

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

John's words in Revelation teach why God and His son are worthy of our worship. Worship God and Jesus the Lamb in every situation.

APPLICATION VERSE:

Revelation 4:8b

FAMILY THEME:

Worship the Lamb

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Items Needed: Piece of paper
Markers
Laptop or cell phone

Before class, use the markers to draw a simple design or scribbles on the piece of paper. Also, find a picture of the Cy Twombly Blackboard painting (or any of his other or Jackson Pollack's art) to show the students. **Would you be excited if I told you I wanted to give you something special and valuable?** Encourage response. Display your artwork. **What if I gave you this piece of art that I drew? Would you still be excited?** Encourage response. Display the art from Cy Twombly. **What if I gave you this actual piece of art?** Encourage response. **Do you like it better? What if I told you this piece of art sold for over 70 million dollars?** If you chose a different piece of art, google its value to share with the class. **Would you like it better then?** Encourage response. **Our world places greater value on things and people than it places on God. Do you know what the word *worship* means?** Encourage response. **It comes from an Old English word that means *to give worth*. When we worship something, we recognize its value and treat it as special. Today we are going to continue learning from the book of Revelation that only God is truly worthy of our worship.**

Items Needed: TE 7-1

Read the descriptions of the valuable items from TE 7-1. **Our world places greater value on things and people than it places on God. Do you know what the word *worship* means?** Encourage response. **It comes from an Old English word that means *to give worth*. When we worship something, we recognize its value and treat it as special. Today we are going to continue learning from the book of Revelation that only God is truly worthy of our worship.**



LEARN

Items Needed: TE 7-2—TE 7-3

Last week, we began studying the last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation. Do any of you remember who wrote this book? Encourage response. Let's turn to Revelation 4. John began this next chapter by describing the throne of Heaven. Read or choose a student to read Revelation 4:1–7 aloud. No words can adequately describe the wonderful place John saw, but he tried to put into words some of the amazing things he saw that were happening in Heaven. Display TE 7-2. John wrote that *around the throne were 24 other thrones on which were seated 24 elders dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads. In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal.* John continued by describing *four creatures were also around the throne—one like a lion, one like an ox, one with a face of a man, and one like an eagle.* It is unknown if these were actual creatures or just symbolic, but we do know they were *worshipping God*. Read the words they were saying over and over from Revelation 4:8b. **God is praised for who He is. John tells us the 24 elders fell before Him who sits on the throne, and they worshiped Him.** Have the students find Revelation 4:11 in their Bibles and read it together as a class. **God is worthy of our worship.**

John continued in chapter 5 by describing a scene where *the One who was sitting on the throne was holding a scroll. On the scroll were seven seals—insignias or stamps, not animals. Those seals indicated the authority of the One who sealed the book and could only be opened by someone who was authorized by the One who sealed it.* John wrote that he was sobbing loudly because no one was found worthy to open it, until one of the elders said that there was One who was worthy. The elder described the One as *the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.* Who do you think he was talking about? Encourage response. **He was referring to Jesus—the One who is worthy** (Revelation 5:1–5).

Display TE 7-3. John then saw something in the throne room—a *lamb circled by the four living creatures and the elders. The lamb was standing, even though it had been killed.* Who do you think the lamb represents? Encourage response. **Jesus is the Lamb who died for our sin.** His sacrificial death and His resurrection meant that He alone was worthy to open the scroll. When **Jesus the Lamb opened the book, the 24 elders fell down in worship before Him.** The elders *held harps and special bottles which held the prayers of God's children.* They were *joined by a large group of angels singing and worshipping the Lamb who died and received power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.* All of God's creation will praise Him forever because **He is worthy of worship** (Revelation 5:6–14). **We can worship the Lamb now and forever.**



BUILDING BLOCKS

Only God is worthy of our worship.

John's vision of HEAVEN

- Around the throne were 24 other thrones on which were seated 24 elders dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads.
- In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal.
- Four creatures were also around the throne—one like a lion, one like an ox, one with a face of a man, and one like an eagle—that were worshipping God.
- The One who was sitting on the throne was holding a scroll.
- In the scroll were seven seals, which indicated the authority of the One who sealed the book.
- The scroll could only be opened by someone who was authorized by the One who sealed it.
- The only One who was worthy was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David—Jesus.

TE 7-2

The Lamb WORTHY OF WORSHIP

A LAMB circled by the four living creatures and the elders.

THE LAMB WAS STANDING, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD BEEN KILLED.

JESUS IS THE LAMB WHO DIED FOR OUR SIN.

JESUS THE LAMB OPENED THE BOOK, and the 24 elders fell down in worship before Him.

THE ELDERS HELD HARPS and special bottles which held the prayers of God's children.

They were joined by a large group of angels singing and worshipping the Lamb.

TE 7-3

EXPLORE

The book of Revelation is filled with symbolism. That means it uses objects, actions, color, and other things we can picture in our minds to represent something deeper. For example, the Bible uses the number seven to represent perfection or completeness. This pattern is first seen in the seven days of Creation. Seven is also used to represent the perfection of God. Since the Bible identifies the Holy Spirit as one person of the Trinity, it is clear there is *one* Holy Spirit, not *seven*. But, as a spirit, the Holy Spirit is not limited to a physical body. As God, the Holy Spirit is omnipresent—being everywhere at the same time. In Revelation 4:5, John described seven lamps of fire which were burning. He told us these are the “seven Spirits of God” which indicate a presence without a definite shape or body. These are understood to be the perfection or complete fullness of God’s Spirit.

The book of Revelation also reinforces the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As humans, it’s hard for us to understand the three Persons of God, but Scripture repeatedly declares there is one God, and He is Father, Son, and Spirit. Each is fully God, and yet one God, not three. The Trinity is truly something we must accept by faith.

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 7-4–TE 7-5

**... HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,
WHICH WAS, AND IS,
AND IS TO COME.
REVELATION 4:8b KJV**

TE 7-4

- a. Say the verse if you have freckles.
b. Say the verse if you are a boy.
c. Say the verse if you are wearing socks.
d. Say the verse if you are in 3rd-5th grade.
e. Say the verse if you have brothers or sisters.
f. Say the verse if you are a girl.
g. Say the verse if you are an only child.
h. Say the verse if you are in kindergarten-2nd grade.

TE 7-5

The Bible teaches us God is worthy of our worship. God is the Creator of, not just the world, but also everything that is in the world—plants, birds, fish, land animals, us, and so much more! He is the Creator of all things, and He holds all things together. We can just walk outside and look around to find reasons to praise Him. We learned today we are to worship Jesus. Do any of you remember what symbol was used to describe Jesus? Encourage response. **Yes, Jesus is the Lamb who gave His life to save us. Today we are going to begin learning a verse to help us remember why we are to worship Jesus and to remind us of who Jesus is.** Display TE 7-4 and introduce the application verse to the students by reading it to them. **This verse teaches us Jesus is holy. That means Jesus has no sin. He had no wrong thoughts, words, or actions. It also teaches us Jesus is God Almighty. Let’s say this verse together.** Have the students say the verse with you. Then use TE 7-5 to determine who will say the verse. End the activity by saying the verse together as a class.

RESPOND

Items Needed: TE 7-6

Field Notes 7

Colored pencils

Before class, copy *Field Notes 7* for every student. Distribute *Field Notes 7* and colored pencils to the students. Have younger students color the different pictures on their *Field Notes* and older students use the word bank to fill in the blanks as you talk about worshiping God every day. **How can we remember to worship God in our everyday lives?** Encourage response. Display TE 7-6. **We can worship Him when we look around at God's creations. We worship God when we give Him our best. When we read the Bible and pray every day, we learn more about God. When we spend time with God, we want to praise and worship Him. Do you know who doesn't want us to worship God?** Encourage response. **Yes, Satan. He will do his best to distract you, so keep your focus on God. Don't allow other things to come before God. Make God the top priority in your life.**

How can we remember to worship Jesus, the Lamb, every day? We can remember that it is only because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that we have the privilege of praising our holy God. We can join the chorus of praise in the throne room of Heaven and worship the Lamb. Biblical worship is not based on circumstances, but on who God is. It is focusing on the truth of God and choosing to worship Him no matter what is happening around us. God is worthy of worship when things are good in our lives and when they are not. If time allows, let the younger students find where the bolded words go in the puzzle and older students place the words in the word bank in the puzzle. Have the students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to worship God and Jesus the Lamb in every situation.** End class with prayer thanking Jesus for His gift to us on the cross so we can worship Him and His Father.

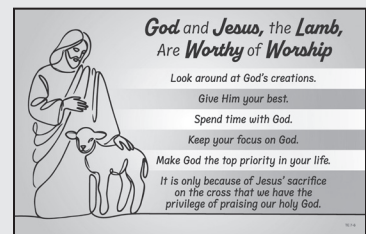
TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

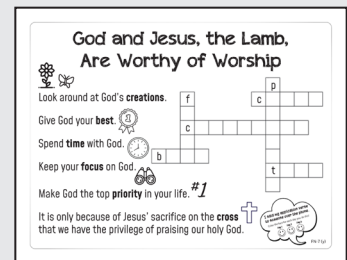
How does remembering what Jesus did for us on the Cross encourage us to praise and worship Him?

What are ways Satan tries to keep us from worshiping God?

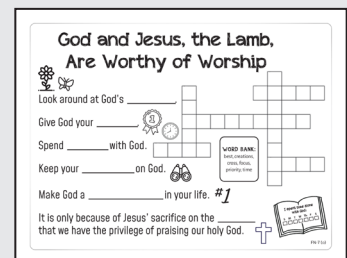
What ways—besides singing—can you praise and worship our holy God?



TE 7-6



Field Notes 7 (Y)



Field Notes 7 (O)

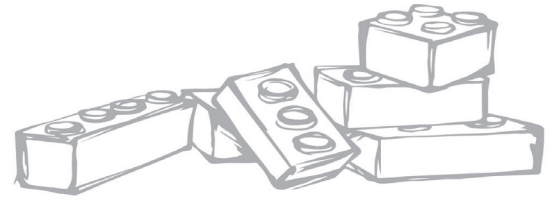


Field Notes 7



Are you on Facebook? Join the D6 Curriculum Teachers group, a place of community for you to share stories, ask questions, get advice, and engage in conversations with other D6 curriculum teachers.

JESUS IS COMING BACK



TEXT:

Various Scripture from Revelation, Philippians, Daniel, and Ezekiel

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

The Bible gives us verses in both the Old Testament and the New Testament that help us prepare for Jesus' return. Live with joy and hope and be ready to tell others about His love.

APPLICATION VERSE:

Revelation 4:8b

FAMILY THEME:

Prophecies of the End Times

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

___ Sentence strips or index cards

___ Markers

Option 2

___ Paper

___ Colored pencils

___ Crayons

LEARN

___ TE 8-1

___ TE 8-2

APPLY

___ TE 7-4

RESPOND

___ TE 8-3

___ *Field Notes 8*

___ Colored pencils

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: Sentence strips or index cards
Markers

Before class, write a sentence starter for each student on separate sentence strips or index cards (see sidebar for suggestions). Leave space after each sentence starter for the student to complete the sentence. Distribute a sentence starter to the students and allow time for them to complete the sentence by adding a word or short phrase. Let the students read their completed sentences aloud. **We just created sentences together. Even though different people added different words, the sentences connected and made sense. The Bible was written in a similar way. God gave His words to different people at different times, and those words connect *perfectly*. Today, we're going to learn about Jesus' return from different Bible writers. They lived at different times, but God gave them messages that fit together as part of His big plan.**

Option 2

Items Needed: Paper
Colored pencils
Crayons

Before class, place paper, colored pencils, and crayons on a table. As students arrive, ask them to write or draw a picture of something they are looking forward to (a birthday, summer vacation, sports event, sleepover, etc.). When everyone is finished, allow students to share their answers. **What makes what you wrote or drew exciting?** Encourage response. **When we know something good is coming, we are excited and hopeful. The Bible tells us there is something even greater to look forward to with hope, not fear—Jesus' return. Today, we're going to learn about Jesus' return from different Bible writers. They lived at different times, but God gave them messages that fit together as part of God's big plan.**

TAKE NOTE

Suggested sentence starters:

The dog ran away from me with . . .

At night, I looked up and saw . . .

One day, I was surprised when . . .

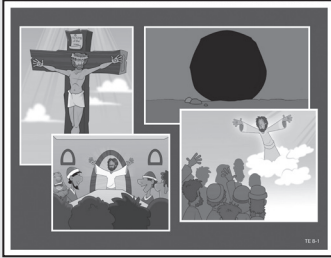
I opened the door and could not believe . . .

LEARN

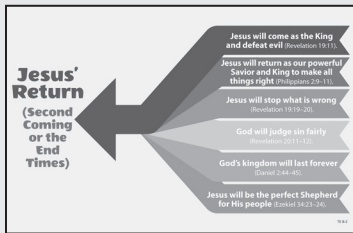


BUILDING BLOCKS

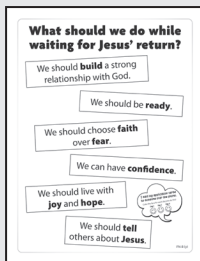
Hell is a place of separation from God where those who practice sin and reject Jesus will suffer eternal punishment.



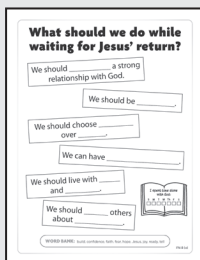
TE 8-1



TE 8-2



Field Notes 8 (Y)



Field Notes 8 (O)

Items Needed: TE 8-1—TE 8-2

We talk a lot about Jesus' death on the cross. Display TE 8-1 and point to the different pictures. **Jesus died to take the punishment for the sins of the world** (John 1:29). **But what happened three days later?** Encourage response. **Yes! Jesus rose from the grave. He defeated death, and He is alive** (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! **After Jesus' resurrection, He spent 40 days teaching His followers. Then something amazing happened. Do you remember where Jesus went?** Encourage response. **Jesus went to Heaven. This is called the *ascension*** (Acts 1:9). **As Jesus *ascended*, His disciples stood there looking up. They didn't want Him to leave! Jesus gave them an important job. Do any of you remember what it was?** Encourage response. **Jesus told His disciples (and us) to tell others about Him** (Acts 1:6–8).

The Bible tells us that Jesus promised His followers that He would return (John 14:2–3). This is sometimes called the *Second Coming*, or you might hear it called the *End Times*. The Bible includes many prophecies about Jesus' return. Do any of you remember what a *prophecy* is? Encourage response. **A *prophecy* is a message God gives about something that will happen in the future. There is a lot we *don't* know about Jesus' return, but let's focus on what we *do* know.**

Display TE 8-2 and point to the different truths from the Bible about Jesus' return. **When Jesus returns, He will come as the King and defeat evil** (Revelation 19:11). **Jesus will not return as a baby like the first time. He will return as our powerful Savior and King to make all things right** (Philippians 2:9–11). **When Jesus makes all things right, evil will lose. Jesus will stop what is wrong** (Revelation 19:19–20). **God will judge sin fairly** (Revelation 20:11–12). **God's kingdom will last forever** (Daniel 2:44–45). **The Bible also teaches us that Jesus will be the perfect Shepherd for His people** (Ezekiel 34:23–24).

Because God is in control, we can be hopeful, peaceful, and trust Him completely. Sometimes people hear the words “end times” and feel worried. Have you ever worried about the future? Encourage response. **God is not worried, confused, or surprised. When the world feels scary, God is still King. God's kingdom will last forever, and nothing can stop it. When Jesus returns, He will bring peace, justice, and goodness in a way that only He can.**

EXPLORE

Today we learned about Jesus' return. The Bible often teaches important truths by using symbols. Last week, we learned about the symbol of Jesus being the lamb. A lamb is a small, gentle baby sheep. In the Old Testament, when people sinned, they sacrificed a lamb. The lamb's death was a serious reminder of the price for sin (Hebrews 10:1). God never meant those sacrifices to be the final answer. They point forward to Jesus—the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is different from every Old Testament sacrifice. He gave His life for us one time, and His sacrifice was enough (Hebrews 10:10). Jesus gave His life for us and will always be our Savior. When we read about the future, remember this truth: Jesus is still the Lamb who loves His people and will return to make all things right. We can trust Jesus completely. Knowing Jesus as the Lamb—gentle, loving, and willing to give His life for us—should help us feel ready and hopeful as we look forward to His return.

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 7-4

The Bible gives us many names of Jesus. A few weeks ago, we learned Jesus is the Light of the World. Last week, we learned He is the Lamb, and today we learned He is our King. We also began learning a new application verse last week that gives us another name for Jesus—Lord God Almighty. Display TE 7-4 and review the application verse with the students by reading it to them. Then, have the students say the verse with you. **Jesus is holy. He is Lord God Almighty. He was, and is, and is to come. Jesus has always been alive, is alive right now, and will be alive forever. We don't have to fear the future. We can trust and worship our Lord and look forward to Jesus' return with hope and joy.** Explain you will control the volume of how loud the students are to say the verse with your hands. When you move your hands up, the students are to say the words louder and when you move your hands down, they will say the words more quietly.

RESPOND

Items Needed: TE 8-3

Field Notes 8

Colored pencils

**... HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,
WHICH WAS, AND IS,
AND IS TO COME.
REVELATION 4:8b KJV**

TE 7-4

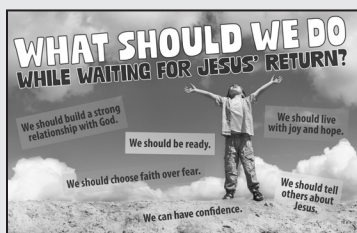
TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

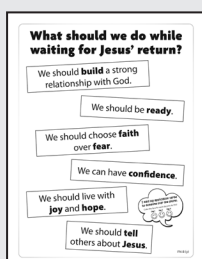
How do the Old Testament sacrifices help us understand what Jesus' death did that animal sacrifices could not?

How does learning about the fulfillment of prophecies help us trust that the promise of Jesus' return will happen?

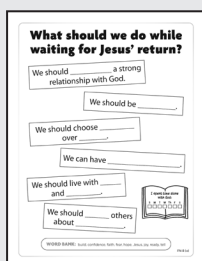
How should learning about Jesus' return encourage us to live with purpose?



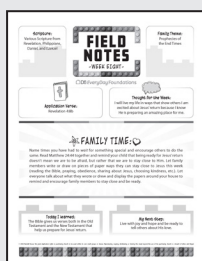
TE 8-3



Field Notes 8 (Y)



Field Notes 8 (O)



Field Notes 8

Before class, copy *Field Notes* 8 for each student. Distribute *Field Notes* 8 and colored pencils to the students. Have younger students underline the bolded words and older students use the word bank to fill in the blanks as you discuss what to do while waiting for Jesus' return. **Today we learned what the Bible teaches us about Jesus' return to earth. This future event can feel confusing, because we don't know exactly how and when everything will happen. So, what should we do while waiting for Jesus' return?** Encourage response. Display TE 8-3. **We should build a strong relationship with God. Jesus said we should be ready, because we don't know exactly when He will return** (Matthew 24:44). **Being ready means staying close to Jesus by trusting Him as our Savior, following and obeying Him, learning His Word and praying** (Psalm 119:105), **and telling others about Jesus and His love** (Acts 1:8).

We should choose faith over fear. We don't need to be afraid, because Jesus is with us. Jesus promised that He would always be with His followers (Matthew 28:20). **We never face the future alone. Even when life feels scary, Jesus is near to us.**

We can have confidence, because Jesus is the victorious King. Jesus will return as the powerful King, and He will defeat evil. Scripture assures us that God will have the final victory over every enemy. Evil will not win—God will!

We should live with joy and hope. Jesus' return should bring us joy and shape how we live right now. The hope of Jesus' return can shape our attitudes and actions. Instead of feeling worried, we can choose to trust God because He is in control. When we become angry, we can choose to be kind because we want to honor Jesus. When we are tempted to make wrong choices, we can remember Jesus is returning, and we want to be ready.

We should tell others about Jesus. Jesus told His followers to share the good news (Acts 1:8). **We learned Peter took Jesus' instructions to heart and he wanted everyone to know the truth: Jesus is the Savior, and He is returning. We can tell others about what a life with Jesus offers. Jesus is preparing a place for His followers, and He will return for them. Have students turn to the Next Step section on their Field Notes. Your Next Step is to live with joy and hope and be ready to tell others about His love.**

Close with prayer, thanking God for His Word and His promises. Ask God to help you and your students live with joy, hope, and certainty until Jesus' return.



OUR HOME IN HEAVEN

PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

CONNECT

Option 1

___ Paper

___ Crayons

Option 2

___ Two pieces of construction paper

___ Marker

APPLY

___ TE 9-4

___ TE 9-5

___ Colored pencils

RESPOND

___ *Field Notes 9*

LEARN

___ TE 9-1

___ TE 9-2

___ TE 9-3

___ *Field Notes 9*

___ Colored pencils

TEXT:

Revelation 21:1–22:2

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

Heaven is a real place, and God wants everyone to spend eternity in Heaven. Keep learning about Jesus and use opportunities to tell others about Him.

APPLICATION VERSE:

John 11:25

FAMILY THEME:

A Glimpse of Heaven

CONNECT

Choose one of these two options to help students transition into the classroom and get started with the lesson.

Option 1

Items Needed: Paper
Crayons

Distribute a piece of paper and crayons to the students and let them draw a picture of what they think a perfect world would include. Let the students share about their picture and their idea of their perfect world. **Everyone's idea of a perfect world is different. A perfect world seems impossible to have, and on this earth, it is. The world tries to shape our perception or vision of what a perfect world is. It tries to convince us we need certain things, must look a certain way, or should have more of some characteristics and less of others. But here's the thing: None of those things can create a perfect world. Today we are going to learn about the one and only truly perfect world—Heaven.**

Option 2

Items Needed: Two pieces of construction paper
Marker

Before class, write the words *real* and *imaginary* on the pieces of construction paper. Attach them to opposite sides of the room. Explain to the students that you are going to name some different places, and you want them to move to the side of the room to indicate their answer. Name the different places listed below and allow time for the students to move. Tell them the answer after each move before naming the next place.

Turkey (real place found in Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia)

Sesame Street (imaginary place)

Genovia (imaginary place from the movie, *The Princess Diaries*)

Christmas Island (real place in Southeast Asia)

Narnia (imaginary place from *The Chronicles of Narnia*)

Disappointment Island (real place – an uninhabited island in New Zealand)

Asgard (imaginary place in Norse mythology and from the Thor movies)

Heaven (real)

Some people want to believe Heaven is not a real place, but it is. The Bible describes the beauty and magnificence of Heaven, but we won't truly

be able to comprehend the perfectness of this amazing place until we get there. Today, we will learn what the Bible says about what will and will not be in Heaven.

LEARN

Items Needed: TE 9-1—TE 9-3
Field Notes 9
Colored pencils

Before class, copy *Field Notes 9* so every student will have one. **The first sentences in Revelation 21 tell us John got to see what Heaven looks like with his own eyes while still on earth. He wrote about what he saw, and we have his description in this last book of the Bible. No one had ever been given a chance to do this, and no one has ever been given this chance since. So, let's learn what John teaches us about our glorious home in Heaven.** Distribute *Field Notes 9* and colored pencils to the students. Have the younger students underline the bolded words on their *Field Notes* and older students fill in the blanks. **John wrote that he saw a new heaven and a new earth. The holy city—new Jerusalem—was coming down from Heaven. Before John described the beauty of Heaven, he told us all the wonderful things that will be included.** Display TE 9-1. **There will be no more death, sadness, or pain. It's so hard for us to imagine or understand a place with no fear, loneliness, sorrow, or hurt of any kind** (Revelation 21:1–4).

John then wrote that God was seated on the throne. He told John He was making all things new and for John to write down these true and faithful words (Revelation 21:5). John continued as he described the beauty of Heaven which radiated God's glory. Listen to this physical description of Heaven. Read or choose a student to read Revelation 21:18–21 aloud. Display TE 9-2. **Our home in Heaven sounds beautiful with its walls made of different gemstones, a street of gold, gates made of pearls, and a river that shines like glass!** John tells us Heaven doesn't need the sun or moon to give light because the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp (Revelation 21:23). In chapter 22, John described more of what the angel showed him. There was a pure river of the water of life that was as clear as crystal, and on either side of the river was the tree of life filled with fruit (1–2).

Heaven is God's eternal city. Just as Jesus promised, His Father's house has many dwelling places (John 14:2). But as beautiful as Heaven will be, our focus should be on the fact that God will be there sitting on a throne with His Son, Jesus, sitting beside Him. So, who will be in Heaven with them and how do we make sure we are included? *Everyone* has an invitation to spend eternity in Heaven, but only those who accept that invitation by believing and trusting in Jesus will be allowed to enter. Accepting God's amazing invitation is as simple as ABC. Display TE 9-3. **First, you must Admit you do wrong things.** Romans 3:23 says every one of us has sinned and falls short of God's glory. Even one wrong choice is a sin and keeps us apart from God.



 **BUILDING BLOCKS**

Heaven is a place of joy and perfect bliss where God and His people will live throughout eternity.



In Heaven, there will be ...
No death, sadness, or pain
No fear, loneliness, sorrow, or hurt

TE 9-1



No sun or moon
Gates made of pearls
River that shines like glass
Walls made of different gemstones
A street of gold

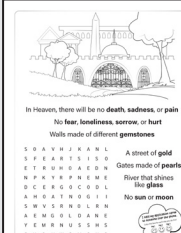
TE 9-2

Admit you do wrong things.
Romans 3:23 says every one of us has sinned and falls short of God's glory. Even one wrong choice is a sin and keeps us apart from God.

Believe Jesus is God and He died and rose again for your sin.
John 3:16 teaches us God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die as payment for our sin. He made it possible for us to spend eternity in Heaven.

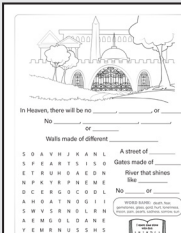
Confess Jesus is Lord.
Romans 10:9–10 teaches us if we really believe Christ is Lord, we are to confess it with our words and ask Him to forgive the sin that's separating us from Him.

TE 9-3



In Heaven, there will be no death, sadness, or pain
No fear, loneliness, sorrow, or hurt
Walls made of different gemstones
A street of gold
Gates made of pearls
River that shines like glass
No sun or moon

Field Notes 9 (Y)

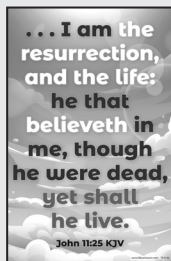


In Heaven, there will be no _____ or _____
No _____ or _____
Walls made of different _____
A street of _____
Gates made of _____
River that shines like _____
No sun or moon

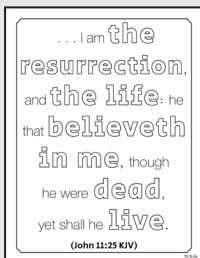
Field Notes 9 (O)

TAKE NOTE

Genesis 1:1
Psalm 8:3
Psalm 115:3
Isaiah 55:10



TE 9-4



TE 9-5

Next, *Believe Jesus is God and He died and rose again for your sin.* John 3:16 teaches us God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die as payment for our sin. He made it possible for us to spend eternity in Heaven. When we have done both of those, the last step is to *Confess Jesus is Lord.* Romans 10:9–10 teaches us if we really believe Christ is Lord, we are to confess it with our words and ask Him to forgive the sin that's separating us from Him. As followers of Jesus, our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life (John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Revelation 21:27). If time allows, let the students find the words in the word search on their *Field Notes*.

EXPLORE

Have students find the verses in the sidebar in their Bibles. **Did you know the word *heaven* is found over 400 times in the Bible, but it is not always talking about the same place. The writers of the different books of the Bible used the same word *heaven* to describe different places.** Choose three students to read the verses from Psalms and Isaiah aloud. **Does it sound like the word *heaven* is talking about the same place in these verses?** Encourage response. **No, each one is referring to different kinds of heavens. Sometimes the word *Heaven* is referring to God's dwelling place, like in the verses we studied today and in Psalm 115:3. Other times, it is talking about the galaxies, stars, and planets of the universe. This is what we can see with telescopes. Then there are times when the word *heaven* means the atmosphere that is around the earth. Have a student reread Isaiah 55:10 aloud. In this heaven, we see things like birds, planes, and clouds. But what we must remember is God created each one of these heavens. The very first verse in the Bible teaches this to us.** Choose a student to read Genesis 1:1 aloud.

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 9-4—TE 9-5
Colored pencils

Before class, copy TE 9-5 for every student. **Heaven is a real place. Jesus' death and resurrection provided a way for us to spend eternity in Heaven. There, we will finally be able to love, worship, and live to the fullest as God intended us to. But the Bible is very clear that while everyone will have the opportunity to have a life in Heaven, it is only through Him that we can live in Heaven.** Display TE 9-4 and introduce the application verse to the students by reading it to them. Then, have the students say the verse with you. **In this verse, Jesus tells us He is the resurrection and the life. He is the only One who can give us eternal life. Each one of us must make the choice to follow Him like the disciples did. Only those who have chosen Jesus to be Lord of our lives will have eternal life in Heaven with Him.** Distribute TE 9-5 and

colored pencils to the students and let them color the words to the application verse. Encourage the students to hang it up somewhere they will see it often to help them learn this verse so they can share it with others so they will know the truth about how to have eternal life in Heaven. **These words remind us Jesus is the giver of eternal life. Just because our parents are Christians or because we come to church each week doesn't mean we will have a life in Heaven. Life with Jesus is a choice each person must make. If you have not made this choice or have questions about how to have a life with Jesus, talk to me or your parents. Jesus wants everyone to be in Heaven with Him.**

RESPOND

Items Needed: *Field Notes 9*

There are so many things about Heaven that we don't understand and will never understand until we get there. But the things we can know for sure are that Heaven is real and only those who have accepted God's free gift of salvation will live forever with Him. Those who have chosen to reject Jesus will spend eternity in another real place—Hell. Jesus is coming back to earth some day and will take all who follow Him to live forever in Heaven with Him. We have learned Jesus gave His disciples and us a job to do until He returns—tell others about Him and how to have eternal life through Him. We learned Jesus' disciples took that job seriously, most giving their lives in doing so. We are to tell others about the free gift Jesus offers us—an invitation to spend eternity in Heaven with Him. Heaven is going to be an incredible place, and Jesus wants everyone to be there with Him. We are to learn more about Jesus, and how He wants us to live and share what we've learned with those around us.

Have students turn to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to keep learning about Jesus and use opportunities to tell others about Him.** Close with prayer for those who do not know Jesus. Ask God to work in the hearts of those you and your students tell about Jesus.

TAKE NOTE

Ask older students these questions and discuss their answers:

If we look forward to being in the Lord's presence in Heaven, how are we seeking His presence while we're still on earth?

How can knowing that the troubles of this world will not be in Heaven give us hope while we're still here?

Who is someone you can share the truth with about how to spend eternity in Heaven?

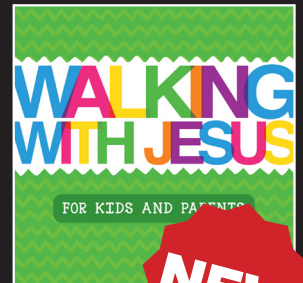


Field Notes 9



NEXT STEPS

BOOKLET SERIES



You May Also Like →



D6 FAMILY MINISTRY

D6FAMILY.COM

