

REVELATION

Bible Basis: Revelation 1:1–20; 4:1–11; 5:13–14; 19:11–15; 21:10–18, 21–27; 22:7–14; 16:21

Key Verse: Look! He is coming with the clouds. Every eye will see him. —Revelation 1:7, NIV

Bible Point: Jesus is coming again. I can live in his kingdom forever.

Resource: *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 31: “Revelation”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Say, **How far can you see? Let’s see how much you know about how far the human eye can see.**

Ask the following questions, let children speculate, then give the answers:

- **How far can a person see on flat ground in daylight?** (8–10 miles)
- **How many planets are visible without a telescope?** (5—Mercury, 48 million miles away; Venus, 25 million miles; Mars, 35 million miles; Jupiter, 365 million miles; Saturn, 746 million miles)
- **When you look up at the night sky, how far can you see?** (The Andromeda Galaxy, visible to the naked eye, is 2.5 million light years away. One light year equals six trillion miles. Do the math!)

Talk about:

- **Tell me about something you’ve seen, but you weren’t sure what it was.**
- **What’s the most incredible thing you’ve ever seen?**

Say, **In the Bible story today, we’ll hear about something that’s going to happen that every eye on Earth will see.**

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Stuff You Need: copies of *The Story for Kids*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 31*, chenille stems (five per child)

Optional: props for the eye doctor

Tell the story from *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 31. You can also have the children find Revelation 1 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

Jesus Comes Again

You'll need four strong readers for the main parts of Eye Doctor, John, Patient 1, and Patient 2. John will read several Bible passages. Use props and costumes to the extent you wish to set up an eye doctor's office. Give children in the large group five chenille wires each. Allow a few minutes for them to fashion the wires into a set of glasses to wear during the story. Decide on a signal, and when you (or a volunteer) give the signal, children will say, "What a sight!" Practice the signal and response, then begin.

Doctor: I've been taking care of people's eyes for a very long time.

Patient 1: Like thousands of years?

Doctor: Seems like it. I remember one of my oldest patients. A man named John was one of Jesus' best friends. After Jesus went back to heaven, John became one of the leaders of the Christians.

Patient 2: I'm sure that got him into an eyeful of trouble.

Doctor: When John was an old man, he was captured and sent to an island called Patmos for the rest of his life. While he was on Patmos, he started seeing visions of heaven. I used to examine his eyes and wonder if he had special eyes.

John: My eyes have excellent vision. The visions were from God.

Doctor: John knew Jesus was coming again some day.

John: Jesus said he would. *Read Revelation 1:7.*

Patient 1: Every eye?

John: Every single eye.

Give the signal and response.

Doctor: One day, the Holy Spirit took control of John and he heard a loud voice.

Read Revelation 1:12–16.

Patient 2: That's mind-bending. Lamp stands ... gold ... fiery eyes ... stars in his hand.

Give the signal and response.

John: This blazing, sun-bright man touched me and said, "I am the Living One. I was dead. But look! I am alive for ever and ever!"

Patient 1: Was it Jesus?

Patient 2: It must have been Jesus!

John: Then I looked again, and there was a door standing open in heaven.

Patient 1: Really? Heaven?

Patient 2: Yes, heaven!

Give the signal and response.

John: I saw a throne, and the one who sat on the throne shone like jewels.

Doctor: The throne flashed and thundered. John saw four creatures. Listen carefully and see if your mind's eye can picture it. These four creatures were covered with eyes.

Patient 1: That boggles the mind.

Patient 2: Must have been a bazillion eyes.

Give the signal and response.

John: The first creature looked like a lion. The second one looked like an ox. The third had a man's face. The fourth looked like a flying eagle.

Doctor: They all had six wings with eyes all over them, and they never stopped saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God."

Give the signal and response.

Read Revelation 19:11–12.

Patient 1: What do you suppose he was the king of?

Patient 2: It must have had something to do with the kingdom of God!

Read Revelation 19:13–14.

Give the signal and response.

Doctor: Later the Spirit took John to a huge, high mountain and showed John the Holy City.

John: It came down out of heaven. The whole city shone with the glory of God. This city had twelve huge gates made out of pearls and each gate had an angel. This city was made out of gold, pure gold! Even the main street was pure gold.

Doctor: This incredible city of pure gold does not need the sun or the moon. God's glory is its light.

John: Jesus said, "Look! I am coming soon! I am the First and the Last. I am the Beginning and the End." The people who follow Jesus will get to live in this wonderful city someday.

Patient 1: We'll be allowed to go through the gates.

Patient 2: Anyone who wants to take this free gift can have it.

Give the signal and response.

Doctor: John saw some amazing stuff with his eyes! He wrote down everything so Christians in all the churches could know what was going to happen.

John: This is the very last part of the Bible called Revelation.

Patient 1: Jesus is coming again!

Patient 2: And we'll be able to live in his kingdom forever!

Give the signal and response.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 31*. Ask the children to look at the picture and tell you about John's vision. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- **Name some of the things John had visions of.**
- **How does the story of Revelation show what God's kingdom is like?**

Say, **Jesus is coming again someday. We don't know when, but when it happens, everyone will know!**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose any or all of these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: JESUS IN A CLOUD FLIP BOOK

Stuff You Need: paper or small pads of sticky-notes, scissors, stapler, markers

Say, **Our Bible verse says, "Look! He is coming with the clouds. Every eye will see him" (Revelation 1:7). The Bible story helped us imagine what things might look like when Jesus comes again and we all live with Jesus in heaven.** Have the class make "flip books" to illustrate Jesus coming in a cloud. Children can cut a stack of paper into two-inch squares and staple them together, or you might prefer to give each child a stack of small sticky-notes. (Make sure children don't take the sticky-notes apart.) Either way, the stack should contain enough pages that you can flip pages quickly with a thumb. Starting either at the front or the back of the stack, draw what it might look like when Jesus comes on a cloud. Each page should advance the movement just slightly. Draw only in the bottom corner because this is what is visible when you ruffle the pages. When you flip through the drawings rapidly, they will look like a moving picture.

- Say, **Let's repeat the verse together.** Lead the class in saying the verse.
- **How do you think you will feel when Jesus comes again?**

Say, **God sent Jesus to Earth the first time as a baby and very few people knew. The second time, he will come in such a way that everyone will know that God is king!**

OPTION 2: EVERY EYE MOSAIC

Stuff You Need: Eye Template Activity Sheet, colored paper, scissors, glue, poster board, markers

Give an activity sheet to each child. Say, **Our Bible verse says that every eye will see Jesus when he comes again. Let's use eye shapes to make a mosaic picture of what it might look like when Jesus comes again.** Have the children use the templates on the activity sheet and cut out eyes of various sizes and colors. Use markers to draw in eyeballs and eyelashes. Then arrange the eyes on the poster board so that the color groupings form a picture of Jesus coming on a cloud. Fill in all the space with colored eyes. As children work, talk about:

- **What will happen when Jesus comes again?**
- **What kind of picture of heaven did John see in his vision?**

Say, **Jesus is coming again, and we'll be able to live with him forever in his kingdom. He wants us to be there with him!**

OPTION 3: A REVELATION

Stuff You Need: A Revelation Activity Sheet, pencils

Give an activity sheet to each child. Have the children solve the puzzles and read the verse together.

Solution: Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him.

OPTION 4: WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Stuff You Need: butcher paper, art supplies

Talk to the groups about Jesus coming again.

What did John say would happen? How was the kingdom of God represented?

How does the group imagine heaven? Have volunteers describe what they believe it will be like. Divide the large group into smaller groups of 4–5. Give each group a large sheet of butcher paper and art supplies. Have them discuss and then illustrate heaven. Things can be labeled. This image can be based upon Revelation or it can be the group's individual interpretation of heaven.

Share with the larger group when complete. Have a spokesperson describe the work.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Pray together, thanking God that Jesus is coming again. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 31*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.