

# JESUS' RETURN

**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

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

**Bible Point:** Jesus is coming again. Because you are a child of Jesus, you will be with Jesus forever in heaven!

**Resource:** *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 31: “Jesus’ Return”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff you need:** dress-up clothes and shoes, costume jewelry, toy crowns and tiaras

Help children to dress up like princes and princesses. Allow them to try different costumes. When everyone is dressed like royalty, say, “When Jesus died and rose from the dead, he made us members of his family. He is the King, so we are the children of the King. The children of a king are princes and princesses!”

Say, “Jesus’ kingdom is different from our countries here on Earth. Today’s Bible story gives us a peek into Jesus’ kingdom.”

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 31, “Jesus’ Return,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

You can let the children stay in their costumes for story time if you’d like.

**A man named John was one of Jesus’ disciples. He was also one of Jesus’ best friends. After Jesus died and rose from the dead, John became one of the leaders of the church. John told many people about Jesus. When he was an old man, bad people captured him. They made him live on an island all alone. But what the bad men meant as punishment, God used for good! While he was there, God gave him many visions. Visions are like dreams, but you are awake when you have them.**

**John was able to see many things about heaven. He saw amazing castles and a lot of gold and silver and other beautiful things. The castles were bigger and stronger than any he had seen on Earth. Jesus sat on the throne, and people sang his praises all the time.**

**Let’s say one of the verses to one of the songs John heard them sing.** (*Have children repeat each line. Repeat the verse a few times.*)

Holy  
holy  
holy  
is the Lord God  
who rules  
over all.  
He was  
and he is,  
and he will come.

Everyone in heaven worshiped God. He is powerful and mighty. John saw Jesus in heaven, too. Jesus was on a huge white horse, and Jesus wore many crowns. His eyes blazed like fire. He was ready to fight for what was good and true and fair. He had died for our sins, and he was called the Word of God.

Behind him was a large army. They followed him and did exactly what he said. They all rode on white horses and were dressed in white. Jesus' army is fearful, but not to us. They are only after bad guys. They fight for you and me. Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus is fighting for us?

John told us many things about Jesus. One thing he knew: Jesus is coming again, and his children will live in his kingdom forever.

After the Bible story, ask:

- **Who was John?** (*John was one of Jesus' followers and friends.*)
- **What did John say Jesus was doing in heaven?** (*Jesus was leading a strong army and fighting for what was fair.*)

Say, "Someday Jesus will come again to Earth to get his followers. I can live in his kingdom with him forever."

Pray with your children.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

#### OPTION 1: WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

**Stuff you need:** ball or beanbag

Have children sit on the floor.

Say, "People who are followers of Jesus really like to think about how wonderful heaven will be. They like to think about what they will do, or have, or even eat when they get to heaven. When

I throw you the ball, you tell me one thing you would like to do in heaven, have in heaven, or even eat in heaven. Then throw the ball back to me."

Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Say, "We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but we know it is wonderful. It is not scary—it is happy! The most important thing about heaven is that we will be there with Jesus."

### **OPTION 2: Jesus' ARMY**

Say, "John saw Jesus leading an army. Let's pretend we are part of that army."

Show children how to pretend they are on a horse and gallop slowly beside you. Gallop as a group around the classroom, saying things like, "Let's follow Jesus," and "Jesus is our leader," until children start saying those things also.

When children have returned to their seats say, "Jesus is the leader of a large heavenly army. You can be one of his children and live with him forever in heaven."

### **OPTION 3: THUMBPRINT FLOWERS**

**Stuff you need:** plain, unlined 4 x 6-inch index cards, stamp pads with washable ink in a variety of colors, wet wipes, green markers

**Preparation:** Make an example card so the children can see how the thumbprints turn out to be flowers.

Say, "Our country is so beautiful—it has beautiful rivers, streams, prairies, and mountains. But no matter how beautiful nature is here on Earth, heaven will be even more beautiful. We are going to make thumbprint flowers to remind us of how beautiful nature will be in heaven."

Give each child an index card. Help each child press their thumb into a stamp pad in the color of their choosing. Help them stamp three or four circles made of thumbprints on their cards. These are the flowers. Draw a dot in the center of the flower; then draw a green line for the flower stem. Wipe ink off thumbs with wet wipes.

### **OPTION 4: HEAVENLY PALACES**

**Stuff you need:** Heavenly Palaces Activity Sheet, crayons

Give each child an activity sheet and crayons. Remind them that in heaven the palaces are bigger and better than anything we could imagine. Have them color the picture.

### **OPTION 5: "Jesus is Coming" CLOCK**

**Stuff you need:** paper plates, construction paper, glue, washable markers, metal fastener

**Preparation:** Cut circles out of the construction paper. Tracing around a CD works well. Using a black marker, write the clock numbers on the circle. To make this easier, write 12, 3, 6, and 9 first, and then fill in the remaining numbers. Cut small strips that will be the clock hands.

Lead the children in the following craft. Glue the numbered circle onto the paper plate. Have an adult poke a pencil through the center of each plate. Poke the metal fastener through the clock hands; then slide it through the hole in the plate and bend flat. As the children play with their clocks, tell them that ever since Jesus went up into heaven, his followers have been waiting for him to return to Earth.

## STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 31*. Say, **“The front of this card will remind you that Jesus is coming again. Show your parents the back and tell them that you can live in his kingdom forever.”** Have them practice saying this before they leave.

Use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.