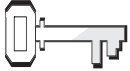


When Jesus Comes Again



References

Revelation 7:9-17; 21; 22; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 645–652



Memory Verse

“The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God has given Jesus to us for eternity.

Feel eager to accept God’s invitation to worship Jesus forever.

Respond by choosing to accept God’s invitation.



The Message

When Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and worship Him forever.

Monthly Theme

We praise God for the gift of Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

At the end of earth’s history the redeemed sing the song the angels love to sing. But this time the song isn’t about Jesus coming to earth, it is about all of us going to be with Jesus forever. Based on Revelation 7, 21, 22, the lesson describes the praise that God’s remnant offers to the Lamb and the beauties of heaven and the new earth.

This is a lesson about worship.

When we accept Jesus’ invitation to take the free gift of “the water of life,” we join in the worship that will be our theme throughout all eternity. Notice how all the worship in this passage (like all true worship) centers around Jesus. We won’t need places of worship in heaven, because Jesus IS our temple.

Teacher Enrichment

“Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own ‘new name’ (Revelation 2:17), and the inscription, ‘Holiness to the Lord.’ In every hand are placed the victor’s palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awakening sweet music in rich, melodious strains . . . each voice is raised in grateful praise” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 646).

“As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus’ feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 647).

“Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious: . . . ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.’ And all the inhabitants of heaven respond in the ascription: ‘Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.’ Revelation 7:10, 12” (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 650, 651).

Room Decorations

Make a "heaven" scene. Set a "throne" at the front of the room. (Drape a white sheet over a chair.) Add glitter, a gold crown, and a harp. Add greenery, flowers, animals, baskets of fruit, etc.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Starry, Starry Crowns</i> B. <i>Festal Banners Wave</i> C. <i>Heaven Is a Gift</i>	heavy yellow or gold paper, crown pattern (see p. 144), scissors, star stickers, tape or stapler strips of cloth, dowels or sticks, glue or tape, palm branches (optional) modeling clay
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> gold-covered offering container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	white "robes," crowns (see Readiness A), palm branches or festal banners (see Readiness B), rhythm musical instruments, picture of heaven crown pattern (see p. 144), paper, marker Bibles, chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>How We Worship</i>	Bibles, pictures of or real musical instruments (optional)
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>What Worship Looks Like</i>	paper, art supplies, praise music CD or cassette tape and player (optional)

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- heavy yellow or gold paper
- crown pattern (see p. 144)
- scissors
- star stickers
- tape or stapler

A. Starry, Starry Crowns

In advance, make a copy of the crown pattern on heavy yellow or gold paper for each child. (See page 144.)

Distribute supplies and have the children cut out the crowns, tape or staple the headband to fit, and add star stickers. Save these to be worn during Experiencing the Story. Tell the students they will be given a new name in heaven (see Revelation 2:17). It won’t be based on our character on earth, but will reflect God’s character. (Explain the meaning of *character*.) Have them choose a name they want to be called, one that reflects God’s character (Mercy, Grace, Love, Forgiveness, Truth, Faith, etc.).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What names did you think of? What do you think about God giving you a new name? What name do you think will show that you now reflect God’s character? Our Bible story today tells us what will happen when Jesus comes again. The memory verse gives us a clue. “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20, NIV). Our message is:**



WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- strips of cloth
- dowels or sticks
- glue or tape
- palm branches (real or paper) (optional)

B. Festal Banners Wave

Have the students make festal banners by gluing or taping a strip of cloth to a dowel or stick, or distribute real or paper palm branches. Wave the palm branches or banners while singing a favorite praise song. Save them for Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think worship will be like in heaven? Today we will learn about living with Jesus when He comes again. The memory verse is: “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20, NIV). Our message is:**



WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

C. Heaven Is a Gift

Give each child some modeling clay. Ask them to make something they will see in heaven that will be a gift from God.

You Need:

- modeling clay

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What will you see in heaven that will be a gift from God to you? Show us what you made. The Bible story today is about heaven and how we will thank God for the wonderful gifts He has for us when Jesus comes again. The memory verse is: "The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord" (Isaiah 38:20, NIV). Our message is:**



WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 1)
- "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 4)
- "Come and Praise the Lord Our King" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 5; all verses)
- "Bless His Holy Name" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 9)
- "Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 78)
- "Joy to the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 81)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize people praising God.



Offering

Cover a container with gold material. Say: **Until we get to heaven, one of the ways we can show Jesus that we love Him is to give Him our gift of money.**

You Need:

- gold-covered offering container



Prayer

Pray that everyone in the class will be in heaven with Jesus to praise Him.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- white “robes”
- crowns (see Readiness A)
- palm branches or festal banners (see Readiness B)
- musical instruments (toy or rhythm instruments)
- picture of heaven

Experiencing the Story

NOTE: The presentation of this lesson will be different from the usual story. Take time to study it before you present it to the class. As an alternative, have a man dress as John the Revelator and read the text as indicated.

Read or tell the following:

Say: **These past few weeks we have been learning about the birth of Baby Jesus. We know that Jesus lived and died on earth so we might be saved. This week we will learn how things will be different when Jesus comes again.**

Jesus will take us to live with Him in the New Earth. He will give us white robes and crowns, better than the ones we made. Have the children put on their white robes (men’s white t-shirts or dress shirts), then walk by as you place crowns on their heads.

Jesus is going to give us palm branches to praise Him with. Distribute them or use the festal banners. **Let’s wave our palm branches. He’s going to give us harps and other instruments to praise Him with.** Distribute the instruments. **Let’s hear how those instruments sound.** Allow the students to play them for a few minutes.

Jesus will give us beautiful places to live, wonderful food to eat, and pure, sweet water to drink. The animals will all get along together and so will people. Show a picture of heaven.

We will have a lot to praise God for. Let’s practice our praise right now. Say the following in a rhythmical way.

Practice it a few times until the children can say it smoothly.

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks!

And honor and power and strength!

**Be to our God forever and ever!
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Explain that the Bible says that God gave John a vision of heaven and that you (or “John the Revelator”) will read it as the Bible records it in Revelation 7:9-17. Encourage the children to follow along in their Bibles as the text is read aloud.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What are some of the things that Jesus is planning for us when we go to heaven?**

What do you think will be best about heaven? What are some ways we will praise Jesus in heaven?

What do you think will be the best part of worshiping Jesus in heaven?

Do you remember our message? Let’s say it together:

**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN,
WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM
AND WORSHIP HIM
FOREVER.**

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Make six copies of the crown pattern (used for Readiness A) and write one phrase of the memory verse on each.

You Need:

- crown pattern (see p. 144)
- paper
- marker

Mix the crowns and have the children take turns in small groups putting them in the correct order. Repeat until the children know the verse. The memory verse is:

“The Lord will save me, | and we will sing | with stringed instruments | all the days of our lives | in the temple of the Lord” | (Isaiah 38:20, NIV).

Have the children name some stringed instruments they know. Ask which they would like to play when they get to heaven.

Bible Study

Say: **We know we are going to praise God in heaven. There will be other things we will do also. Let’s look at Isaiah 65:17-25 to read about them. We will make a list as we read.**

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard or whiteboard
- chalk or marker

Ask volunteers each to read one verse. Adults will assist as necessary. Make the list where all may see.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What did you find out?

What do you think will be your favorite thing in heaven?

There will be so many things for us to see and do. Which will be the most important and the one we will do most? (worship Jesus)

Let’s say our memory verse and our message again:

“The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20, NIV).



**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN,
WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM
AND WORSHIP HIM
FOREVER.**

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bibles
- musical instruments (pictures or real; see activity) (optional)

How We Worship

Say: **We know we'll spend eternity worshipping Jesus, but it's also good to worship Him while we're on earth.**

The Bible gives us some instructions about how to worship God. Let's look at them.

Help the children find and read Psalm 150. If possible, show the instruments (or pictures of them). **This psalm tells one way to worship God, but we can praise and worship Him in many different ways.**

Where can we worship God each day? (We can worship God wherever we are.)

Do we worship only at church? (We worship God by the way we live our lives, by what we do, by singing and giving our offerings, etc.)

Let's divide into pairs and take turns acting out a way to worship God. Large class: form several small groups. Each group should have an adult to help them.

Suggestions: enjoying nature, thanking God for food, obeying and respecting parents and teachers, singing hymns, playing special music in Sabbath School, praying, telling someone about what Jesus has done for you, giving money or food to help the homeless, reading the Bible, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What are some other ways to praise God?

What will be your favorite praise instrument in heaven?

What is your favorite praise song? What do you think is Jesus' favorite praise song?

How will our worship in heaven be different from here?

How can we make our worship here more like it will be in heaven?

Since it is almost the new year, have you heard people talking about making a New Year's resolution? It's usually something they want to change or do better, like exercise more, read their Bible more, not eat so many sweets, etc. What will be your New Year's resolution about your worship? You may need to explain what a New Year's resolution is.

Let's say our message together again:



**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN,
WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM
AND WORSHIP HIM
FOREVER.**

Say that with me.

Sharing the Lesson

What Worship Looks Like

Distribute the paper and art supplies.

Say: **I'd like you to make a picture of yourself worshiping God in your favorite way now, or how you want to worship God in heaven.** If desired, play praise music while they work.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Who will share your picture with the class?

What do you want to thank God for when you see Him in heaven?

Do you think you will ever run out of things to thank Him for?

How will we worship God and Jesus in heaven?

Share your picture with someone this week and tell them what it will be like when Jesus comes again and how you are going to worship and praise Him forever. Remind them that Jesus is our special gift from God.

Let's say our message together one more time:



**WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN,
WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM
AND WORSHIP HIM
FOREVER.**

Closing

In a short prayer, thank Jesus for His promise to come again, for eternal life with Him, and the opportunity to praise and worship Him forever. Ask Him to help the children to be ready to go to heaven with Jesus.

You Need:

- paper
- art supplies
- praise music CD or cassette tape and player (optional)

When Jesus Comes Again

References

Revelation 7:9-17; 21; 22; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 645–652

Memory Verse

“The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord” (Isaiah 38:20, NIV).

The Message

When Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and worship Him forever.

Can you imagine worshiping God forever and ever? Forever means never ending! Maybe it is hard to imagine it now. But that is what we will do in heaven! Let’s look in on a family who is eager for Jesus to come.

Benjamin smiled as he watched the clouds move while he ate his picnic lunch. He turned to his father. “Wow, Dad,” he said. “Those clouds make me think of Jesus’ coming!”

“Me too!” Dad agreed. The family had been hiking in the mountains. Now they were sitting on a huge rock by the river eating lunch.

“I want Jesus to come and take us to heaven right now!” little brother Bryson shouted.

“Me too!” Mom replied with a smile.

Later, during worship, they read from Revelation 7, 21, and 22. “The Bible says that Jesus will make a new heaven and a new earth,” Dad began. “And when Jesus comes again, we will live with Him and praise Him forever!”

“And there won’t be any tears or death or pain either,” Mom added.

“Just imagine it!” Dad continued. “The New Jerusalem will be like a big square. It will have 12 gates and 12 foundations.”

“WOW! Look at all the jewels that make up the foundations!” Benjamin exclaimed. “Green jasper, blue sapphire, yellow chrysolite . . .” He read on through the 12 different stones. “And every huge gate will be made of a single pearl!”

“Think how beautiful it

will be,” said Mom. “There won’t be a temple, or church, there. Jesus IS the temple. Jesus will always be with us. Nothing can keep us from being with Him.”

“I like this part,” Dad added. “We won’t need any lamps or lights. The glory of God’s presence is the light. And there will never be night again!”

“No more naps for me!” little Bryson chimed in.

Mother smiled. She knew Bryson didn’t like to take naps.

“People from every nation on earth will be there,” Benjamin added. “Those who loved and obeyed Jesus.”

Dad read more in Revelation 7. There they learned what John tells about the people in heaven. They will wear white robes and wave palm branches as they sing to praise God. Everyone will thank Him. As they bow down before His throne they will say:

“Amen!

Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

“Oh,” Mom added, “chapter 22 says the River of Life flows from God’s throne and runs right through the city. The Tree of Life is in the very middle of the city. Part of its trunk is on both sides of the river! The tree gives 12 different kinds of fruit, a different one each month of the year. Mmmmm, I can’t wait!”

Dad continued, “There won’t be any more sin. We’ll see God’s face, and have His name. And we will live with Jesus always!”

“I want Jesus to come!” Benjamin shouted.

“That’s just what John said,” Dad pointed out. “Yes, Jesus, come!”

“Yes, Jesus, come!” little Bryson echoed.

How about you? Jesus says to you,



“Come! Come drink of the water of life! Come live with Me forever.” God offers us the gift of heaven and a life with Jesus forever. It will be more wonderful than we can even imagine. And we will want to thank God and Jesus for it often. Yes, we will worship and praise them forever. We will never get tired of doing that!

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go to a beautiful outdoor place with your family. Sit in a quiet place and read your lesson together. How will heaven be different from this earth? In what ways will we worship God? For how long?
- Sing some favorite praise songs. Then teach the memory verse to your family. Ask: Who wants to be there? Ask Jesus to make you ready.

Sunday

- During family worship read and discuss Revelation 7:9-17. What will be your favorite part of the city? What will people who worship God today say to Him in heaven? What will never happen again?
- Sing praise songs to Jesus while you wave scarves or palm branches. Thank Jesus for His promise to come again.
- Share the picture of yourself you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or draw a picture of yourself worshiping in heaven.) Tell them about heaven and the New Earth and what you will do there. Pray for them today.

Monday

- For worship today read and discuss Revelation 7:9. Who is the Lamb? How many people will be in heaven? Where will they come from? Name as many countries as you can. Then look at a world map. How many countries can you count? Will people from every country be in heaven?
- Sing “Amazing Grace” together, especially the first and last verses. Then thank Jesus for giving His life so you and your family can live with Him forever.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Revelation 21 during family worship. Tell how heaven will be different from life here on earth. Which change will you like best? Why is there no temple, or church, in the city? In what book do you want your name to be written? Why? Describe the New Jerusalem.

- Find out more about the precious stones mentioned in verses 19 and 20. (Hint: Look in an encyclopedia or get a book from the library.)
- Thank Jesus for His promise of heaven and the new earth. Tell Him why you want to be there.

Wednesday

- With your family, read and discuss Revelation 22. Describe the river and the special tree. Why won't we need lights anymore? When does Jesus say He is coming? Ask each person to act out something they want to do in heaven. Guess what they want to do. Which can't you do here on earth now?
- Draw a picture of the tree with 12 different kinds of fruit. Show it to your family. Then thank Jesus for the heavenly fruit He promises to give and the fruit you enjoy now.

Thursday

- With your family, read Revelation 2:17 and 21:7. Who will go to heaven when Jesus comes? Ask each person to think of a new name God might give them and tell why. (The name will reflect God's character.) Make a list of questions you would like to ask Jesus when you get to heaven.
- Think of five people you want to go to heaven with you. Make five paper stars and give one to each person. Tell them you want them to go to heaven with you when Jesus comes. Pray for each person today and every day.

Friday

- For worship today, read and discuss together *The Great Controversy*, pages 645-647 (paragraphs 22-26 of chapter 40). Do you want to be there?
- Say your memory verse together, then listen to some string instrument music. Ask your family: What instrument would you like to play now? In heaven? What musical talent do you want to have in heaven?
- Sing some praise songs, then thank God for the gift of heaven and the promise of eternal life.