

LESSON 14

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPS

SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020

ENDURING FAITH UNIT 3 - LESSON 14 REVELATIONS 21:1-22:5

A RETURNING TRUTH-CHRIST RETURNS: Banished to the island of Patmos, John receives a revelation of the new heaven and new earth. In this climax to the Book of Revelation, John describes the indescribable—the Lamb of God in His glory with His people in their eternal home.

BIBLE TRUTH: Jesus promises to take us to heaven.

BIBLE VERSE: God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7:17

LEARNER GOAL: I understand that Jesus promises to take me and all believers to live with Him in heaven forever.

LAW & GOSPEL: We suffer from the effects of sin in this world. Jesus promises all believers that we will one day be with Him in heaven, where we will live joyfully in His presence forever.

ARCH BOOK: Video link

BIBLE READING: See below

SING: sing your own favorite Bible songs.

OPENING PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, as we study our lesson this week, help us understand the promises You made to one day take us to be with You forever. Bless our time together. In Your name we pray. Amen.

When Jesus' work on earth was done, He went back to His home in heaven. He promised to get a place ready for us so we can live there with Him someday. Today, we're going to learn about heaven and some things that are there.

Have you ever had to wait for something to happen? Maybe it was your birthday or a special vacation. How long did you have to wait? How did it feel? In today's

lesson, we will learn about how we will one day live with God in the new heaven and earth.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN (STORYTELLING

SUGGESTIONS: When you read an emotion, such as happy or sad, ask children to act out that emotion with you.)

One of Jesus' helpers was named John. God loved John and everyone who believed in Jesus. God wanted them to know that even though they had troubles, He was with them. He was making a home for them in heaven. So God sent an angel to John in a special way. The angel showed John what heaven would be like.

What do you think heaven will be like?.....

John saw Jesus sitting on a throne. There was bright light around Him. John saw that everything bad had ended. There was a new heaven and a new earth. No one was sick. No one was sad or crying. No one died. Then John saw a beautiful city with a high wall and gates. He saw some of God's angels. He saw a flowing river and the tree of life with many kinds of fruit. People were happy and praising God. John wrote down what he saw. It is written in the last book of the Bible called the Book of Revelation. No one really knows what heaven looks like for sure. But we know it will be a beautiful, happy place, because that's what God's angel showed John.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His helper friends about heaven too. These words are for us too. He says, "I know you have had some happy days. But I'm getting a place ready for you where you'll be happier than ever before! That place is My Father's house. His house is called heaven. My Father's house is prettier than anything you've ever seen. It has lots of room and it's very beautiful! The streets are gold and the gates have jewels. You will love the special place I have ready for you.

"In My house, no one will ever be sad. Everyone will be happy all the time! No one will ever get sick. No one will get hurt or cut or bruised. No one will ever make you cry or tease you. No one will say or do anything wrong. And best of all, you'll get to see Me! We'll talk with each other. You'll get to see the angels and God's friends

that you've been learning about—Paul, Philip, Stephen, David, Moses, and all the rest! You'll see the people you love who believe in Me too! You can sing and be happy together. "I'm getting this beautiful home ready for you because I love you so much! You are special to Me. I died on the cross to pay for your sins and rose again so you can live in heaven with Me forever. I promise to take you there some- day."

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

All but one of Jesus' twelve apostles were put to death for their faith in Jesus. The last of the Twelve was John, the brother of James, who took care of Mary after Jesus died.

John wasn't put to death, but he was exiled. He was forced to leave his people and live on an island called Patmos. For an apostle, being away from Christians was one of the hardest things.

But something very important happened while John was in exile. Jesus showed him a revelation that God the Father had given Him. It showed John what was happening in heaven and on earth.

That is so important because sometimes really bad things happen. Sometimes, it feels like Jesus doesn't know what's happening to us or that He doesn't care about us. Jesus gave John this revelation to write down so we could remember that God is in control of everything. One day He will come again to take away all the bad things and make His creation new, perfect, and wonderful forever. That includes each of us believers too.

In the revelation, John saw Jesus in the new Jerusalem, and he wrote about it. Jesus said, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 21:6). The description of the city and the tree of life sounds amazing and unusual as John struggles to explain heavenly things in earthly language.

John wrote down everything he saw and experienced in what became the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. It tells us that God supervises all things and orders events so unbelievers will repent and glorify Him.

John finished his Book of Revelation with a promise from Jesus: "Surely I am coming soon." John's answer is our prayer, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

TALK ABOUT IT: Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

***FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** After you tell the story, hand out paper and crayons and ask children to draw a picture of what they think heaven will be like. Talk about how heaven is a happy place because we will be with Jesus. There won't be hurts or tears anymore. We will sing and praise Jesus and be with those we love.

***FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Have child read aloud from the Bible: Revelation 21:4, 8 and 22:3-5. Talk about why the new heaven and new earth are described in terms of what it is not and who is not there. Turn to Revelation 22:1-5 and read these verses.

***CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS FROM BELOW THOSE THAT BEST FIT THE LEARNING LEVEL OF YOUR CHILD:**

What did John see?

How will people feel and live in heaven? **Who** will be in heaven?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- In the new heaven and earth, there will be no fear, sorrow, tears, mourning, or pain. We will live in perfect joy and peace with God forever!
- Our eternal home is almost beyond our understanding, filled with joy instead of sorrow.
- Because God's presence gives light, there is no need for sun or moon.
- Because Jesus died and rose again to wipe away our sin, God promises to take all who believe in Him as their Savior to be with Himself for all eternity.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus, our Messiah, won victory over sin, death, and the devil for us on the cross. He will return one day to make all things new.

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS: Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

- **MOVE AND SING:** Sing these words to the tune "London Bridge Is Falling Down" and do actions: *I am on my way to heav'n, way to heav'n, way to heav'n. I am on my way to heav'n. I'll see Jesus. (Lower bridge to catch a child.) He'll hug me and hold me tight. Hold me tight. Hold me tight. He'll hug me and hold me tight. Jesus loves me.*
- **Angel Craft:** Make angels. Have children place a paper cup upside down and draw a smiling face. Twist one end of a gold or silver pipe cleaner into halo. Tape it to the back of the cup, so the halo extends over the cup. Fold a doily in half, center it over the pipe cleaner, and glue on the back of the cup for wings. There will be many angels in heaven praising Jesus. Who else will be there? What will you do?
- **Happy Art:** Let children use watercolors to make a picture of what they think heaven will look like. Shake salt on pictures while still wet. When they dry, pictures will sparkle. Talk about how heaven will be a wonderful place where they will see Jesus and live with Him for- ever. Let children tell about things they might do.
- **A Letter of Hope and Love:** John wrote the Book of Revelation to share what he had learned about Jesus' second coming. Ask students to write a letter to their friends and family, telling about what they learned from God's Word today. Add to the fun: provide fancy paper and ribbon to tie it.
- **Talk** about some of the fun and happy things they like to do. One day we will be in heaven with Jesus. It will be the best place of all. Talk about how

heaven is a happy place because we will be with Jesus. There won't be hurts or tears anymore. We will sing and praise Jesus and be with those we love.

Jesus promises to take all believers to heaven to live with Him in perfect peace and happiness forever.

CLOSING PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank You for giving up Your life to save me from my sin. Help me to live as Your child as I look forward to living forever with You. In Your name we pray, Amen.*

BIBLE READING: Revelation 21:1-22:5 English Standard Version (ESV)

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,[b] and God himself will be with them as their God.[c] 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

The New Jerusalem

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and

showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia.[d] Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits[e] by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The River of Life

22 Then the angel[f] showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life[g] with its

twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.