

John's Vision of Jesus

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BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 1:9-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus appeared to John in a vision.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 21:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
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**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
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**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. Patmos was a small Greek island where the Roman emperor often exiled prisoners. John was likely sent to Patmos as a prisoner, arrested for preaching the gospel.

With this session, introduce preschoolers to the Book of Revelation—the last book of the Bible. Other Bible books tell us about things that happened in past, but Revelation tells about things that will happen in the future. A glimpse

of the future kingdom of God gives believers hope and encourages them to remain faithful to Christ.

In Revelation 1, Jesus appeared to John in a vision to tell about the end of time. John was on the island of Patmos when he heard a voice telling him to write what he saw. John turned and, in a vision, saw Jesus: He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash wrapped around His chest. His head and hair were as white as snow, and His eyes were like a fiery flame. Because the Book of Revelation is highly symbolic, avoid dwelling on the physical description of Jesus. Jesus' appearance to John reveals what Jesus is like: worthy of all honor, powerful, and victorious.

John saw Jesus walking among seven lampstands, symbols for the seven churches. Explain to the boys and girls you teach that lampstands are used to bring light into dark places. That is the purpose of the church—to bring the light of the gospel into a dark world.

When John saw Jesus, he fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus reached down and put His hand on John. He said, "Don't be afraid" (Rev. 1:17). Jesus explained that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Now Jesus is lifted up in glory and honor. We can look forward to a future with Him forever.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw it:** While reading the Bible story aloud, a second volunteer will draw pictures from the Bible story on either a large dry erase board or sheet of paper. You may also draw the pictures before hand.
- **Pantomime it:** Invite a volunteer to dress up as John in plain Bible times clothes. Invite another volunteer to dress up as Jesus with a long white robe and golden sash. Volunteers will pantomime the Bible story as you tell it.

John's Vision of Jesus

Revelation 1:9-20

Like many people who believed in Jesus, **John was hurt and hated because he told people about Jesus. The leader of Rome punished John by sending him to a small island. When John was on the island, he had a vision. A vision is like a dream, but John was awake.**

John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. **The voice said, “Write on a scroll what you see. Then send the message to the seven churches** in Ephesus (EF uh suhs), Smyrna (SMUHR nuh), Pergamum (PUHR guh muhm), Thyatira (THIGH uh TIGH ruh), Sardis (SAHR diss), Philadelphia (FIL uh DEL fih uh), and Laodicea (lay AHD ih SEE uh).”

John turned around and saw seven gold lampstands. Then he saw who had spoken to him: it was Jesus! Jesus was wearing a long robe with a gold sash wrapped around His chest.

When John saw Jesus, he fell down at Jesus’ feet. Jesus put His hand on John and said, “Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever.”

Jesus said that the seven lampstands were the seven churches. He **told John to write about everything he had seen.**

Christ Connection: Jesus showed Himself to John. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Teach THE STORY

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.

Welcome and worship with song

- "One Heart" song
- "I Stand Amazed" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "One Heart" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "I Stand Amazed."

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "John's Vision of Jesus" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Open your Bible to Revelation 1. Show preschoolers how the Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible.

SAY • Friends, look! We are almost at the end of the Bible!

The other books of the Bible we have studied mostly told us about things that already happened, but the Book of Revelation tells us about things that have not happened yet. Let's listen to what God wants us to know about what is going to happen.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- "Making Everything New" song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Revelation 21:5. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that there is One who is seated on the throne of heaven. That Person is Jesus. He's wearing a white robe and golden sash, and He will live forever and ever!

Sing the key passage song "Making Everything New" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *What will happen when Jesus comes back?* Does anyone know what will happen? [*Allow children to answer.*] Yes! *Jesus will make all things new.* There will be no more sin, no more sadness, and no more death!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Jesus appeared to John in a vision.** Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Sing "I Stand Amazed" and "Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Jesus, Thank You." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for reminding us that You will live forever and ever and one day You will come back and make everything new. I pray that we will all trust in You and be able to live with You forever. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• "I Stand Amazed" song
• "Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)" song
• "Jesus, Thank You" song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

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Sing "This Little Light of Mine"

Lead preschoolers in singing "This Little Light of Mine." If you are unfamiliar with the tune, lyrics, or motions, look them up online before the session.

SAY • When **John saw a vision of Jesus**, he also saw seven gold lampstands. Lampstands are used to bring light into dark places. God wants His people to be like lampstands. We are to shine the light of God's love to our world.



Race for first and last

Lead children outside to a flat, grassy area. Guide preschoolers in running several races. Focus more on friends completing the race rather than winning the race.

SAY • Could anyone be first and last at the same time? No, you can only be one or the other. **John saw a vision of Jesus**. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. Jesus is the only One who can be first and last at the same time. Jesus has always been with God, and He will never die again. Jesus won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Play “Who called me?”

Choose a child to come to the front of the room with her back to the group. Quietly choose another preschooler to call out the child’s name. The child will then turn around and try to guess who called her name. Reveal who called her name after three guesses. Choose another preschooler and play again.

SAY • John heard someone speaking to him. It was Jesus!

John saw a vision of Jesus. While Jesus was on earth, He won the fight against sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Draw what you see

Lead preschoolers to look around the room. Tell them to draw some of the things they see.

SAY • **Jesus appeared to John in a vision.** Jesus told John to write on a scroll what He saw and send it to the seven churches.

Make lampstands

Cut cardboard tubes into hand-size pieces. Give a piece to each preschooler. Help them use a cotton swab to rub glue on the inside of one end of the tube. Show a preschooler how to stuff the ends of yellow, red, and orange tissue paper squares into the tube. Consider allowing preschoolers to make multiple lampstands.

SAY • **John saw a vision of Jesus.** Jesus showed him seven lampstands and said they represented seven churches. Jesus said that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever.

Transition to review the story



- paper
- crayons or markers

- clean, empty cardboard tubes
- scissors (adult use only)
- glue
- cotton swabs
- yellow, red, and orange tissue paper squares
- marker

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

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Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Who wrote today's Bible story? (*John*)
2. Where was John sent by the leader of Rome? (*a small island*)
3. What happened to John? (**Jesus appeared to John in a vision.**)
4. What did John see? (*Jesus and lampstands*)
5. What did Jesus tell John to do? (*write down what he saw*)
6. ***What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.***

SAY • Jesus showed Himself to John in a vision and told John to write down everything he saw and send the message to seven churches. Jesus also said He would be alive forever and ever and one day He would come back and make everything new. If we trust in Jesus, we can live with Him forever and ever.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "I Stand Amazed" song
- "Making Everything New" song

SAY • God, thank You for the way You help us every day.
Thank You for Jesus' dying for our sins on the cross.
Thank You that He will live forever and ever. Help us
to trust in Jesus so that we can live forever with Him.
Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how there were many different kinds of people in the seven cities from the Bible story. Lots of people can still go to church together and love each other, even if they are different. You may also show the "Old Meets New" video. Read the subtitles for preschoolers as the video plays.

SAY • Many different people from many different cultures live in Istanbul together. They love their city and the other people who live there. We can love our city and the many different kinds of people who live here too. Let's pray that we will love people all around us, even if they are different than we are. Let's ask God to help us love others enough to tell them about Jesus.

- "Old Meets New" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Practice the big picture question

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle with you. Begin a pat-clap rhythm pattern. Once preschoolers have the rhythm down, say the big picture question and answer with the same rhythm. When you say "Jesus," touch your middle finger to the palm of each hand.

SAY • *What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.*

- paper
- crayons