



AUGUST 25, 2024

# WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

REVELATION 21-22

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is making all things new.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return.

## MEMORY VERSE

Jesus will wipe away our tears. Revelation 21:4

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Revelation 21-22 mark the end of the New Testament and establish the promise of everlasting life for those in Christ. The culmination of every good gift of the Father, every promise He has given to His people, is found in His Son, to be experienced for all eternity.

In what ways will God's new creation be unlike the world we live in today?

The apostle John described the beautiful new city of God as being like a bride adorned for her husband — glorious, radiant, faithful, and true. This new heaven and earth highlight the sweetness and sacredness of God's covenant with us: "Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

The earth as we know it today is a splendid example of our Creator's workmanship and love for us, yet it has been broken by the sinfulness of His created beings. Sin has fractured our relationship with God, and though we are able to know and be known by Him, our understanding of His goodness cannot be fully experienced because of our sin. Here in today's passage, we find the promise of what eternity is like: we will one day dwell in the fullness of God's presence, experiencing the splendor of His radiance in perfect unity with one another and with our God.

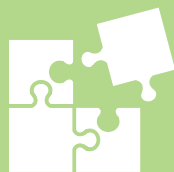
In this new creation, there is no temple because God dwells among His people, His glory unceasingly illuminating the day. No falsehood, uncleanness, grief, crying, or pain takes residence within God's dwelling place; all is right and well, exactly as it was created to be.

Consider what it would look like if you lived each moment anticipating and readying yourself for the wonders yet to come. Would you be more inclined to persevere and to share the source of your eternal hope with others? Reflect on God's goodness with gratitude, asking Him to prepare the hearts of the boys and girls you've been entrusted to teach it to. May this hopeful expectation change the way you view your Lord, your world, and those around you.

## DOCTRINE TO KNOW

**New Heaven and New Earth:** When Christ returns and the children of God are revealed, the creation itself will be made new. Christ will be all and in all, and we shall see Him face to face.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

## ACTIVITY #1: WIPE AWAY THE TEARS

Pass out the provided laminated faces and dry erase markers. Draw tears on the faces and allow children to erase them with damp paper towels.

Repeat this month's memory verse phrase: *Jesus will wipe away our tears. – Revelation 21:4*

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Who will wipe away our tears? *[Wait for responses.]*  
Yes, Jesus! Jesus will wipe away our tears when He returns. He will take away all of our sadness because He is good.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



John saw a river of living water? Yes, water! A river of living water will be in the new heaven and earth. Jesus is our living water, and He is coming back soon to make all things new.

## ACTIVITY #2: CROSS THE RIVER

Use the provided painters tape to create a "river" on the floor of the classroom.

Take the provided circles and place them inside the river to act as lily pads. Instruct children to cross the river using only the "lily pads".

Repeat as time allows. During the activity, tell or re-tell the Bible story.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

## CONNECT THE DOTS



John saw God make a new heaven and earth. In this new heaven and earth, there will be no more sadness, pain, or darkness. God's people will live with Him forever.

## CRAFT: TISSUE PAPER EARTH

*Supplies: contact plastic, scissors, blue & green tissue paper, copy paper*

Cut five-inch circles from the provided clear contact plastic (one circle per child). Lay the circles sticky-side out and have children stick blue and green tissue paper squares to the plastic.

Write *John saw a new heaven and a new earth* on pieces of copy paper (one per child). When children finish placing their squares, press the prepared papers facedown onto the plastic to create an earth.







## PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Revelation 21-22** and tell the following story.

## WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

John had a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. He also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

John heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Look! God will live with His people. They will be His people, and He will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more sadness, no more crying, and no more pain. These things are gone forever.”

John saw an angel come and carry him to a high mountain. The angel showed him the holy city of Jerusalem. The city was shining with God’s glory. The foundations of the city wall had every type of jewel, and the city street was made of pure gold, as clear as glass.

The city does not need a temple because God the Father and Jesus are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it. The glory of God gives light to the city, and there is no darkness. The city is safe and clean; nothing unclean is in the city, and no one will do wrong things in the city.

Then the angel showed John the river of living water. It sparkled and flowed from God’s throne. The tree of life was on both sides of the river. God’s servants will see His face, and they will worship Him. They will reign forever and ever.

Jesus said, “Listen, I am coming soon! I am the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Jesus is the One who says that all of these things will happen. He is coming soon.

“Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”

## CHRIST CONNECTION

When Jesus comes back, everyone who trusts in Him will be with Him forever. God will undo every bad thing! Jesus is making all things new.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What are some things those who trust in Jesus will see in the new heaven and the new earth?
4. What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**