

UNIT 36 | SESSION 3

WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

REVELATION 21–22

KEY PASSAGE:

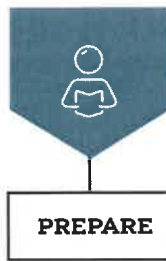
Revelation 21:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. When Jesus returns, God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears. Jesus is making all things new.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



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 people, 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,

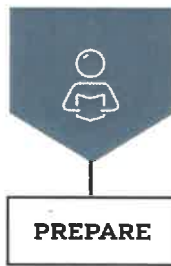
experiencing the splendor of His radiance in perfect unity with one another and with our God.

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "All Made New" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ bottle of 10% iodine solution
- ☐ vitamin C tablets, 3
- ☐ plastic bag
- ☐ glass jar
- ☐ cup
- ☐ pipette
- ☐ water

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ music



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "We Will Be Part of the New Heaven and Earth" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ kingdom props such as crowns, jewelry, etc. (optional)
- ☐ flashlight (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 36, Session 3" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Betty Law Photos" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Be No More (Revelation 21:4)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ electronic device

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ stickers
- ☐ watercolor paints, 1 per kid
- ☐ paintbrushes, 1 per kid
- ☐ cups of water, 1 per table

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY If you could make something better, what would it be? Maybe a test score or a skill. Why would you want to make it better?

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “All Made New” on the activity page.

SAY Jesus is coming back! Today, we will learn that Jesus promised to come back to the earth soon and make all things new.

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: UNDO IT

Prepare a group demonstration by gathering a bottle of 10% iodine solution, three vitamin C tablets, a plastic bag, a glass, jar, water, a cup, and a pipette. Consider inviting a couple of kids to assist you in the experiment.

First, crush the vitamin C tablets in a plastic bag. Dissolve the vitamin C powder in a cup of water. Next, fill a jar about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Add a few drops of the iodine solution to turn the water brown. Pour the vitamin C water into the jar and stir with your pipette. Observe how the brown disappears as the water turns clear.

SAY When the water was brown, it looked unclean. But when we added the vitamin C mixture, the water became clear and clean looking. This reminds me of how sin has made us and this world ‘dirty’ and broken. Today, we’ll learn that when Jesus comes again, He will make everything new.

☐ OPTION 2: ENTER IN



Play a game similar to London Bridge. Choose two kids to be the “gate” and direct the remaining kids to form a single file line. Lead the kids acting as the “gate” to hold hands and raise their arms high to form an arch. Guide kids to go through the “gate” and then walk around to the back of the line. Play music as kids walk through the “gate.” Then stop the music after 20–30 seconds. When the music stops, direct the kids acting as the “gate” to lower their arms and trap the kid who is trying to walk through. Kids who are trapped are out. Play as time allows choosing new kids to be the “gate.”

SAY Jesus will come back again to make all things new. He will build a new city where His people will live with Him. But not everyone will be able to enter the city. Only those whose names are found in the book of life can enter in. Let’s get ready to learn more about the new heaven and earth.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

X Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so glad you’re here today! If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible is God’s Word to us so we can know Him and trust in His Son, Jesus, who saves us from our sin. The Bible begins with Genesis and goes to Revelation. Even though the Bible is made of many stories, the whole Bible points to Jesus. God’s promise to rescue us from our sin came true when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. The Bible is full of God’s promises. In today’s story, we will see that Jesus promised that He would come back to create a new heaven and earth. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Worship
X
X **SAY** “Does anyone remember our big picture question? [Allow responses.] What is the hope of the church? Do you know the answer? [Allow responses.] The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.

Jesus promised that He would come back to earth soon. When Jesus came to earth the first time, He died on the cross to pay for our sins. Then He rose again and went back to heaven. When He comes back to earth it will be to conquer evil and undo all the brokenness sin has caused. When Jesus comes back, He will make all things new. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Let’s go back to the very beginning in the book of Genesis. God made a beautiful world where there was no sin. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the world. God promised a Rescuer would come to undo sin and defeat Satan. Years and years passed, while God’s people waited for the Messiah. They continued to disobey God and sin against Him. Then at just the right time, Jesus—the Messiah—was born. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose again. He made the way for people to have new hearts and be forgiven of their sin. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He sent His followers into the world to tell others about Him, and He promised He would come again to make all things right.

Over the past weeks, we have heard stories from the book of Revelation. We learned that Jesus alone is worthy of all worship and praise. Last week, we saw that Jesus will conquer evil once and for all because He is more powerful than anyone or anything. Today, we will see that when Jesus comes back, He will make all things new. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Revelation 21–22. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Will Be Part of the New Heaven and Earth.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

“John saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth was gone. He also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven. He 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. Death will no longer exist. Sadness, crying, and pain will no longer exist.”

One of the angels carried John to a great and high mountain. The angel showed John the holy city. It was shining with God’s glory. The foundations of the city wall had every type of precious stone. The city street was made of pure gold, as clear as glass.

John did not see a temple in the city because the Lord and the Lamb were the city’s 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. Only those whose names are in the Lamb’s book of life will enter the city.

The angel showed John the river of living water. It sparkled like crystal and flowed from God’s throne, down the middle of the wide city street. The tree of life was on both sides of the river, and it produced 12 kinds of fruit every month.

God’s throne will be in the city. 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 Alpha and the Omega, 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: Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. When Jesus returns, God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears. Jesus is making all things new. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use props: Decorate your room with gold, treasures, crowns, etc. Share with kids that the new heaven and the new earth will be so much better than we can imagine.

Shine light: Use a flashlight to shine light when you talk about how God gives light to the city.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write one or two words of the key passage on gold foil sheets. Create a set for each group of four kids. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Revelation 21:4 together.

SAY “When Jesus returns, everything bad will be gone forever. We will be happy, and we live with our King and worship Him.”

Form kids into groups of four and provide them with a set of gold foil sheets. Lead groups to place the gold foil sheets in order of the key passage. Remind kids that God’s city will be beautiful and that John saw that its streets were made of gold.

Lead kids to sing “Be No More (Revelation 21:4).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, Lord, for Your promise that Jesus will return one day and make all things new. Help us look forward to that day with hope and share the good news with others so they can look forward to that day, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗣️ We heard some amazing news today. Jesus is coming back! And when He does everything will be made new. How will the new heaven and new earth be different from the old heaven and old earth? [Allow responses.] The most exciting difference will be that God will live with His people! The Bible also tells us that God will take away all the terrible things that sin has caused like death, pain, sadness, and tears. The new heaven and earth will be filled with joy as we worship Jesus.

When God showed John the holy city, He noticed there was no temple. In the holy city, God will be with His people and there will no longer be a need for a temple. His people will be able to worship Him face to face. Who can enter the holy city? [Allow responses.] The Bible tells us that only those who have trusted Jesus as Savior, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will be able to enter the city. This city is for God's children to be with Him and worship Him forever. God has given us opportunities now to recognize we are sinners and need Jesus to save us from sin. Anyone can trust in Jesus, be forgiven, and have the hope of life with Him forever.

As we wait for Jesus' return, we can look forward to the day when Jesus returns and takes away all the hurt and pain we see in the world today. Praise the Lord for the hope we have in Him both now and for the future! 🙌

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 🗣️ Jesus promised to come back to earth soon. When Jesus returns, God will undo every bad thing caused by sin—no more death, no more pain, no more tears. Jesus is making all things new. 🙌

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 36, Session 3" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What are you most looking forward to in heaven?
2. Through faith in Jesus, we will live with God forever. Have you put your faith in Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the "Betty Law Photos" as you tell kids about her.

SAY 🗣️ After Betty retired as a missionary, she served in local churches wherever she lived. Betty recognized that God was always in control of her life and that following His plans is always best. She said, 'Each time I have felt God leading me to make a decision that was certainly not in my plans, and I have followed God's leading, I have been blessed in ways beyond understanding.' 🙌

Tell kids that Betty died at the age of 94. Remind kids that because Betty trusted in Jesus she has the hope of life forever with Him in the new heaven and earth. Close in prayer, thanking God for Betty's life and asking Him to raise up a new generation of missionaries who will share the hope of the gospel with the world.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Revelation 21. Invite kids to share as many books of the Bible as they can. Lead kids to understand that each book of the Bible points us to the hope of Jesus. Tell kids that the end of Revelation ends with a prayer of hope which simply says, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (G10) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 21:5-6 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ The One seated on the throne told John to write down what He said because it was faithful and true. Jesus always keeps His promises. He promised to make all things new when He returns, and He will. While we wait for Jesus to come again, we can have hope. Knowing Jesus is coming gives us patience and strength to endure hard times. It also should motivate us to share the gospel with others so they can be forgiven of their sins. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Why did Jesus call Himself the Alpha and the Omega? 🗨️

Tell kids that Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, like A and Z in the English alphabet. Explain that Jesus is the beginning and end. Tell kids He has always been and will always be.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Whose names are written in the book of life? 🗨️

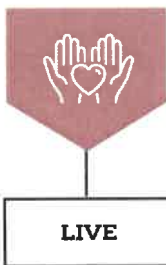
Discuss how only those who have trusted in Jesus as their Lord and Savior have their names written in the Lamb's book of life. Tell kids that if anyone's name is not written in the book of life, he will not be able to enter the new heavens and earth. Remind kids that today Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting everyone to trust in Him and be forgiven of sin.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Are you looking forward to Jesus coming back? Why? 🗨️

Answers will vary. Remind kids that John ends the book of Revelation with a prayer for Jesus to come quickly. Discuss how believers desire for Jesus to come back because the greatest longing of our heart is to live with Him. Remind kids that we have so much to look forward to when Jesus returns including worshiping Him face to face and having no more sin.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: MANY LANGUAGES**



Remind kids that Betty Law learned to speak Spanish while she served as a missionary. Use an electronic device to play the translated phrase “Come, Lord Jesus” in Spanish and other languages such as French, Burmese, Korean, Swahili, and so on. Discuss how the Bible tells us that heaven will be filled with people from every language. (Rev. 7:9) Invite kids to try to repeat the phrase in other languages.

SAY “Missionaries, like Betty Law, serve to tell people in countries all over the world about Jesus. The new heaven and earth will be filled with people from many nations and languages who have heard the good news and trusted in Jesus.”

☐ **OPTION 2: THE HOLY CITY**



Invite kids to sit around tables. Distribute one sheet of paper to each kid and place the art supplies such as markers, stickers, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, and a cup of water on the tables for kids to share. Reread the description of the holy city found in Revelation 21:9-27 aloud and challenge kids to listen closely for words that describe John’s vision of the new heaven and earth. Then encourage kids to use the supplies at the center of their tables to create a picture based on its description in the Bible. After kids have finished their paintings or drawings, invite them to share them with the class.

SAY “The city where God will live with His people will be like a beautiful garden city. It will have trees that always produce fruit and a river of living water. But as beautiful as the city may be, what makes the new heaven and earth most beautiful is being able to see Jesus and worship Him forever.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.