

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Worship at God's Throne*

Lesson Objective:

Today we explore parts of the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation can be scary and even daunting; however, we'll focus on three particular lessons or aspects. Last week was Jesus is the Lamb of God and worthy to be praised. Today's lesson focuses more on what that praise or worship looks like. The variety of groups worshipping God in Heaven shows us how much God has created and what He has redeemed. This lesson gives us a glimpse into what Heaven is truly like: The unceasing worship of a God who is worthy of all our praise!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- John is banished to Patmos. Near death, God sends an angel to him with a revelation or vision.
- John's vision captures many, many things. But in our lesson, we focus on God being worshipped in Heaven.
- Elders, strange creatures, angels, and those who suffered greatly for Christ are seen worshipping God.
- Each group has a different chorus or song, but the object is the same: God.
- John elaborates on the crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They are no longer suffering and have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. They no longer are hurt or harmed, but Jesus tenderly cares and protects them now that they are in His presence.

Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11; 7:9-17

Story: *The Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 312-313; *Jesus Storybook Bible*, Pages 342-348;
Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 376-378

Scripture Memory for May: Acts 13:32 (ESV)

We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors, He has fulfilled for us...by raising up Jesus.

Craft: Worship at God's Throne

Supplies: Cardstock Throne picture, crowns, verse sticker, magnet,

Instructions: 1. Attach verse sticker above throne
2. Attach crowns to foot of throne
3. Place magnet on the back of cardstock.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, have you ever read the end of a story first? Sometimes we call that a spoiler! It means we find out how the story will end first, and then we might not want to read the rest of the story. Well in our lesson today John the Apostle gives us a spoiler. He shows us what worship in Heaven will be like! Let's find out more...

The End of the Bible: Revelation

We are coming to a close on God's Word – what God wanted us to know in the Bible. The Bible ends with the book of Revelation. Revelation was a vision or dream God gave to John the Apostle. John writes down everything he sees in the vision. Some things are very clear, and much of Revelation is strange and not-so clear. But what we can see in the book of Revelation is that Jesus is King, He deserves our worship, and He will make all things new.

An Open Door

In Revelation Chapter 4 John describes something so fantastic and awesome – the worship of God in Heaven. John starts off by telling us in his vision or dream he sees an open door in Heaven. Suddenly a loud voice spoke in a mighty way, the Bible says it sounded like a trumpet! The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." The voice was telling John what eternity will be like. And what John saw was God sitting on the throne being worshipped day and night by many different people and many different animals and creatures.

As God sat on His throne, He looked magnificent and spectacular! Light and rainbows beamed around God, but then John saw 24 other thrones. 24 people sat on those thrones; they were dressed in white and had golden crowns on their heads. John tell us the 24 people said day and night, "Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power. You made all things. Everything existed and was made because you wanted it." John saw what Heaven was like, and what every follower of Jesus will do in eternity: Worship God! Only God is worthy of our praise. He created everything – including you and I – and that's because He wanted to!

More praise was sung to God day and night, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God All-Powerful. He was, He is, and He is to come" was chanted by a host of creatures! The worship of God on His throne happened all the time and without ceasing. The angels in Heaven had their own song too. The angels bowed their face down towards the throne of God and said, "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength belong to our God forever and ever. Amen!"

John's vision shows us that for all eternity God will be worshipped because only He is worthy!

A Great Number of People

But the 24 people dressed in white, the angels and the creatures were not the only people in Heaven worshipping God. John saw a great number of people. The Bible tells us there were so many people that it would be impossible to count them. That's a lot of people! This crowd of people was from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth [*Teacher, repeat this sentence*]. What an incredible sight to see! John saw that they were all standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Last week we discussed that the Lamb is Jesus Christ! This huge crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language wore white robes and had palm branches in their hands. They were shouting in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

These people in the all-white robes were those who had come out of great suffering. They suffered for being followers of Jesus; they were hurt, starved, and killed for following Jesus. And now they were finally safe and at peace in the presence of Jesus worshipping Him. They worshipped Him day and night in his temple. No harm would ever come to them again, and they would never be hungry or thirsty the Bible tells us. The Bible says, "the Lamb (Jesus) will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of water that give life. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." A beautiful picture of how Jesus protects and takes care of His followers who suffered greatly for Him. While they were hurt a lot on Earth, in Heaven they were suffer no more because Jesus is there.

Questions for Review

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

- The Church is growing – adding more and more people. (Yes)
- The Holy Spirit is growing the Church. (Yes)
- John saw an open window. (No! An open door)
- John was invited to come and see what worship in Heaven was like. (Yes)
- John saw God sitting on His throne. (Yes)
- John saw God worshipped by 24 elders, living creatures, angels and a very large crowd. (Yes)
- God was only worshipped for a few minutes and then everyone got to do what they wanted.
(No! The Bible says God was worshipped day and night.)
- John saw a huge crowd of people from every tribe, nation, people, and language. (Yes)
- John counted the crowd and there were only 1 million people. (No! John said it was impossible to count how many people were in the crowd.)
- The crowd of people suffered greatly for following Jesus and now they were safe in the presence of Jesus. (Yes)
- Only God is worthy to be praised. (Yes)
- John’s vision shows us what Heaven will be like. (Yes)