

Unit 36: The Church's Hope

Unit Description: As the church continues the mission Jesus gave, it does so with the hope that one day Jesus will return to make all things new and put an end to sin and death once and for all. On that day, Jesus will fully usher in God's kingdom as all of His followers enjoy being with Him and one another as part of a new heaven and earth.

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



SESSION 1: Jesus Is Worthy of Worship

Revelation 4-5



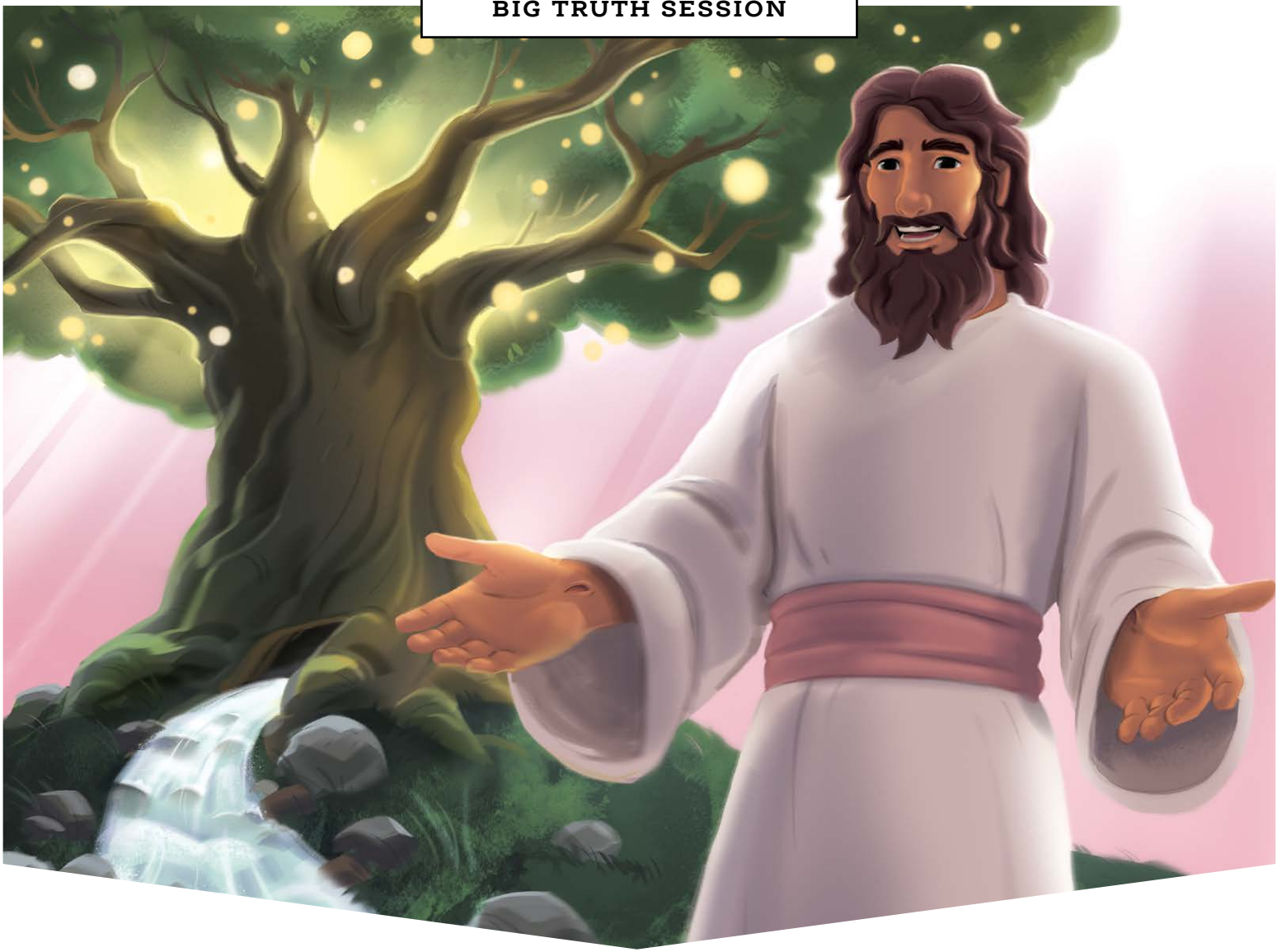
SESSION 2: Jesus Will Return One Day

Revelation 19-20



SESSION 3: We Will Be Part of the New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21-22



UNIT 36 | SESSION 3

WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

REVELATION 21–22

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:4 NIV

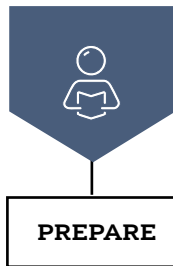
He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

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 marks 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 highlights 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,

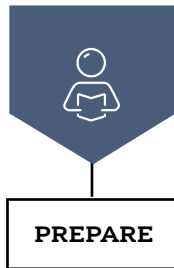
experiencing the splendor of His radiance in perfect unity with one another and with our God.

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

- ☐ “Jesus’ Promise” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ pom-poms, 1 per kid
- ☐ straws, 1 per kid
- ☐ dry erase boards, 1 per group
- ☐ dry erase markers, 1 per group



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

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
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ electronic device

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “The New Heavens and Earth” activity page



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 “What makes you feel better when you are feeling down or sad? Do you like to eat ice cream or watch a funny show? Why does it make you feel better?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Jesus’ Promise” on the activity page.

SAY “Every promise in the Bible has come true or will come true because of Jesus. Today, we will learn about Jesus’ promise to create a new heaven and earth.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FROM BEGINNING TO END



Form kids into groups of three or four and provide them with a Bible. Then distribute paper to each group and a pencil. Tell kids that you will call out books of the Bible in groups of three and they will need to write down the books in the correct order they appear in the Bible. For example, if you call out “Hebrews, Matthew, and Colossians,” kids will write down Matthew, Colossians, Hebrews. Depending on how familiar kids are with the Bible, you may consider saying aloud books out of order that are next to each other such as “Leviticus, Genesis, Exodus.” Challenge kids to try to place the books in the correct order before turning to their Bible for help. The group with the most correct books in order wins.

SAY “The Bible is one big story that points to Jesus. From the beginning in Genesis to the end in Revelation, the stories of the Bible point us to Jesus. Today, we will learn that Jesus is called Alpha and Omega because He always has been and always will be. He was there at the creation of the world, and He will be there to make a new heaven and earth.”

☐ OPTION 2: WIPE IT AWAY

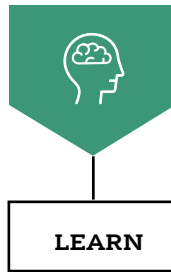
Before the session, create an eraser for each kid by hot gluing a pom-pom to the end of a straw. Form kids into groups of four and provide each kid with a pom-pom eraser. Tell kids that they will hold their pom-pom erasers in their mouth and use them to erase the words on a dry erase board.

Write Revelation 21:4 on a dry erase board for each group of kids or invite kids to look up the verse and write it on their dry erase board. On your start, challenge teams to sit at a table, hold the dry erase board on the table using their hands, and then erase one word using their pom-pom held by their mouth. Kids will then pass the dry erase board to the next kid, who will do the same. Groups will try to be the first to erase all the words.

SAY “We have been learning this verse as our key passage. Today, we will hear how Jesus’ promise to wipe away our tears and make all things new will come true when He returns.”

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

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.]** Let’s turn in our Bibles to the book of Revelation—the last book of the Bible. In today’s story, we will see how John describes the new heaven and earth when Jesus returns.”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

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.**

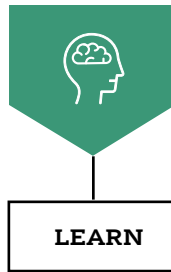
The book of Revelation ends with a prayer for Jesus to return. The hope of the church is the true and faithful promise that Jesus will return. We can remember all the promises that God has already made true to give us encouragement to hope in Jesus’ return. The church has a wonderful future filled with joy in the presence of Jesus forever.”

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

Say it: Invite kids to repeat John’s prayer by saying, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”

Use movement: Stand at one end of the room when you say “Alpha.” Then move to the other end of the room when you say “Omega.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new. Jesus is coming back! And when He does everything will be made new. Where will God be when the new heaven and earth are created. Look at Revelation 21:3. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 21:3.] God will live with His people! We will be able to see God face to face. His presence will give light to the city and there will be no need for a temple because we can worship Him at His feet.

The city of God will come out of heaven and meet with earth. It will be a beautiful city with gold, precious stones, a river of life, and so much more. But not everyone will be able to enter the city. Who did John say was able to enter the city of God? Look at Revelation 21:27 [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 21:27.] 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.

At the end of Revelation, Jesus gives a message. What does Jesus say? Look at Revelation 22:12. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 22:12.] Jesus promises that He is coming soon. Jesus will reward those who have placed their faith in Him, whose lives show they have loved Him. He reminds us that He is the first and the last. He was there at the beginning, and He will be there at the end as He welcomes His people home.”

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,



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

| 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.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

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 forever and we will live with our King and worship Him. ”

Form kids into two groups and lead them to sit on opposite sides of the room. Lead one group to say a few words of the key passage. Then direct the other group to say the next few words. Repeat until the entire key passage is said.

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

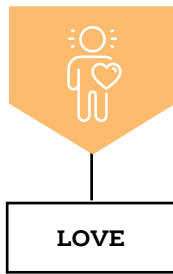
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

| **SAY** “ Dear God, thank You for Your promises that are true. We praise You for Jesus, who is coming again to make all things new. Amen. ”

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





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 comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories occurred. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Patmos [D6].) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 21:5.

SAY “ Jesus said that His words are trustworthy and true. We can wait with hope for His return because His word never fails. Just as many of His promises have already come true, He will come again just as He promised. **The church looks forward to Jesus’ return when He will make all things new.** ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Jesus said that only those whose names are written in the book of life can enter the new heaven and earth. How does our name get written in the book of life? ”

Tell kids that the book of life contains the names of those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Remind kids that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose again. Consider reviewing the Gospel Plan poster and extending an invitation to trust in Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 3:5.)

SAY “ Why will there be no sin, death, or sadness in the new heaven and earth? ”

Discuss how Jesus will have conquered evil and Satan once and for all. Tell kids that we will also be made completely new with hearts that will always do what is right and good. Explain how the earth and everything in it will no longer be under the curse of sin.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 20:13-14.)

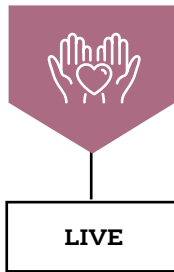
SAY “ Why is being with Jesus in the new heaven and earth the best news? ”

Tell kids that we have so many wonderful promises to look forward to such as no more sadness or death and the beauty of a new earth with everything that is good. Discuss how the greatest promise of the new heaven and earth is that we will be with Jesus. Remind kids that being in His presence is why we were created and that being able to worship Him face to face will bring us the greatest joy.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 16:11.)

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 peoples 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: IN HIS PRESENCE**



Before the activity, write each of the following verses on individual index cards: Exodus 29:46; 1 Kings 6:13; Ezekiel 37:26-27; John 1:14; Revelation 21:3. Place each card in a Bible. Set the Bibles at different spots in the room. Form kids into five groups. Provide groups with paper and pencils. Then lead groups to travel to each location with a Bible, find and read the bookmarked verse, and write a description of the verse. Allow one to two minutes at each station. Challenge groups to share what the verses have in common.

SAY “ God’s desire has always been to live with His people. In the Old Testament, God did this through the tabernacle and the temple. Then He made a new promise in the book of Ezekiel that would allow us to live with Him forever. When Jesus came to earth, He dwelt with people and made the way for us to live with God forever by dying for our sin. In the new heaven and earth, we will always live in the presence of our great God. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for the hope of living with Him forever. As time allows, lead kids to complete “The New Heavens and Earth” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 36 • Session 3

WE WILL BE PART OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

Revelation 21-22

WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH? THE CHURCH LOOKS FORWARD TO JESUS' RETURN WHEN HE WILL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

John saw a new heaven and a new earth. 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. The foundations of the city wall had every type of precious stone. The city street was made of pure gold.

John did not see a temple in the city because the Lord and the Lamb were the city's temple. The glory of God gives light to the city, and there is no darkness. The city is safe and clean. 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. The tree of life was on both sides of the river.

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."

"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.

Jesus' Promise | Use the key to decode the message to reveal Jesus' promise to those who trust in Him.



The New Heaven and Earth | In your own words, write why Jesus coming again to create a new heaven and earth is good news.

A =		N =	
E =		R =	
G =		T =	
H =		V =	
I =		W =	
K =		Y =	
M =			

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

We Will Be Part of the New Heaven and Earth

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- John saw a new heaven and earth. He also saw a new city coming down from heaven. He heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “God will live with His people.”
- The city was made of precious stones and gold. It had a river of living water. The glory of God gave light to the city.
- Only those whose names are in the Lamb’s book of life will enter the city. Jesus said, “Listen, I am coming soon!”

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.

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.

