

Reality – Bible Lesson for September 27, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

The Bible – Practical Applications The Dominion of God

Lesson 4

1. Lesson: The Dominion of God

2. Scripture: Revelation 21:1-7

3. Memory Verse: “I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, ‘Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.’” – Revelation 21:3

4. Mission Story: Mary Slessor – Part 2

5. Bible Skills: The Old Testament Books of History – Lesson 1

6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - a Bible; pens and pencils
Beginning Activity - Object Lesson: a small stepladder (or a stepstool, chair, and strong table if a stepladder is not available); a can or package of any food (or a piece of fruit or vegetable); a red construction paper heart; an offering plate or cup; a Bible
Bible Skills: 3 or four sets of lunch bags (12 in each set) – depending on how many children are in your group (each group of 4 or 5 will have one set); write the name of a book of Old Testament history on each bag in a set
Memory Verse Game: Elementary – large plastic cups (one for every two children); plastic spoons; masking tape; pom-poms

Missionary Image:

<https://bethanygu.edu/blog/stories/mary-slessor/>

Instructional Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEDkUPfteiA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eZxdYQCoUE>

1. Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the following attention grabber:

Let’s read our memory verse before we start today...“I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, “Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.” –

Revelation 21:3

This verse, from the Bible, tells us that God will come down from the present Heaven to live with His people on the New Earth. He will be “with His people”, He will be Emmanuel “God with us” forever. Let’s do an activity to help us understand this better.

Where do you think heaven is? (Let the children respond.) Well, nobody really knows exactly where heaven is. Some people think heaven is way up in the sky. Others think

heaven is in outer space. But we really don't know where heaven is. It can be pretty confusing.

Some people think if you do good things, it's sort of like climbing a ladder to get to heaven...things like...feeding the poor (put the food that you have on the bottom ladder step). They think that just doing something good will get them closer to heaven. Or maybe if you love someone (put the red heart on the next step) you might move still a little bit closer to heaven. If you go to church and give money (put the offering plate or cup on the next ladder step), then you'll move up another notch. And if you read the Bible every day (put a Bible on the next step), you'll get even closer. See how it goes? Some people believe that this is the way you climb up the ladder and get to live with God in His Kingdom.

But there are some problems with that way of thinking.

The ladder leading up to heaven has a lot of steps. We could never do enough to make it to the top on our own. And we may do good things only so we can get to heaven. That's not what God wants us to do. God wants us to help people because we really care about those people. God wants us to love Him with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves. **(Matthew 22:37-39)**

So, God had a better plan – a perfect plan...Jesus came down the ladder to us. Because we couldn't do enough to climb up the ladder to heaven, God came down.

Now we can give our food to the poor because we love them. (Take the food off the ladder.) We can love other people because God loved us first. (Take the heart off the ladder and give it to someone.) We can serve and give our money to the church because God gives us so much. (Take the offering plate or cup off the ladder...You can put money in it, if you wish.) And we can read our Bibles to learn more about God. (Take the Bible off the ladder and open it to **John 3:16** and read the verse.)

We can't climb a ladder to heaven. Instead, God came down the ladder to us. And someday, we will be with Him in the New Heaven and New Earth. We will be His people and He will be our God. How wonderful it is to serve a God who is willing to create such an amazing place for us.

2.Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

In the opening verses of Revelation 21, John tells us about a new Heaven and a new earth that are also mentioned in **Isaiah 65:17**. Things will be quite different on the new earth from what they are now. John doesn't give us a lot of information, but he does tell us that "there was no longer any sea." **(Revelation 21:1)** That's a big difference from our earth right now which is over 70% water. John doesn't explain any

more about this but concentrates on the announcement of the Holy City – the New Jerusalem. He describes the new Jerusalem like a “bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” (**Revelation 21:2**) The new Jerusalem will be a place where God’s people will live. God will make everything beautiful in His time. Whatever He has planned for us, it will be for the best.

After John was talking about the New Jerusalem, he said, “I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, “Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.” This is the last of 20 times that the expression, “a loud voice” is used in the Book of Revelation. The final revelation from heaven states that God will dwell with men, they will be His people and He will be their God. (**Revelation 21:3**) The ultimate heaven will not be “God with us” but “us with God.”

One of the greatest promises in the entire Bible is found in **Revelation 21:4**. It says that there won’t be any more death, sorrow or crying. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and there won’t be any more pain. Things will no longer be the way they used to be.

John was told by Jesus – “I am making everything new!” Then Jesus told John “Write this down. You can trust these words. They are true.” (**Revelation 21:5**) Jesus will do what He has promised. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” He said, “I will give water to anyone who is thirsty. The water will come from the spring of the water of life”. It doesn’t cost anything! (**Revelation 21:6**) Jesus isn’t talking about physical thirst but spiritual blessings. God will keep all His promises to us. When we begin to see Jesus as He really is, suddenly we see everything in a whole new way. As believers, it is extremely exciting to know that we are sons and daughters of the King, just like it says in **Revelation 21:7** and that we have an inheritance through Him. All of the verses; **Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:12; and 1 Peter 1:3-4** mention our inheritance as children of the King. Not only does God promise us an inheritance, but He also promises to make all things new. When we are saved, God becomes our Father. We are born into His family and He takes wonderful care of us. One day we will live with Him in Heaven forever.

Later in this chapter John wrote, that he did not see a temple in the city in his vision – because God is the temple. There will be no need for light from the sun or moon because the glory of God provides the light. The gates of the city will never be shut, and God’s glory will be forever present so there will be no night.

Jesus will cover everything in His everlasting light. This revelation that was given to John describes a beautiful and glorious future for all that put their trust in the living God. In **John 3:16**, we read that God gave us His Son. In **Luke 11:13**, we read that He gives us His Spirit. And in **Revelation 21:7**, He gives us Himself.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. According to our Bible story, what will Heaven be like?
2. What are you most looking forward to about Heaven?
3. Revelation 21:3 says, "I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, 'Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.'" What about this statement stands out the most to you? Why?
4. Revelation 21:4 says, "There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever" (NLT). What about this statement makes you feel happiest?

4. Mission Story: Mary Slessor – Part 2

(Her biography from last week is below – in case you need it.)

Mary Slessor was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1848, the daughter of a shoemaker. Mary, a determined red-haired Scottish lassie was twenty-seven when she arrived in Calabar (what we know today as southern Nigeria, Africa). Her first assignment as a missionary was to go to a mission station along the coast of Calabar.

She was not comfortable with the difference in how the European missionaries and African people lived. She chose to live simply and African style. This made it possible for her to send the money she earned back to Scotland to support her family. Mary was also a pioneer and she wanted to travel deep into Africa. She wanted to help the Okoyong people, who had never heard the Gospel.

When she arrived, the only trade was in "guns and chains." But Mary encouraged the people to grow crops to sell so they could live better and to give them less time for their lifestyle of fighting. She also believed that "school and the Gospel" went hand in hand. People had to learn to read so they could read the Bible for themselves. She challenged their customs and ways that went against the teachings of the Bible. Her fame as a peacemaker soon brought chiefs from other villages to seek her advice. In 1892, the British appointed her as official vice-consul (similar to a judge) for the area.

In 1902, after fifteen years among the Okoyong people, eleven young people were baptized, seven of whom were her own adopted children. But Mary was restless. There were still tribes who had never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She was due to go to Scotland on furlough in 1904 – instead, Mary spent her own time and money to search out a new mission base in order to reach the fierce Aros (air-ohs) and Ibibios (I bib ee ohs) tribes.

Finally, on January 13, 1915, at the age of sixty-six, Mary became extremely sick with a fever. She died but her spirit and influence lived on among the people.

Another story is told about Mary..

The mission house in the village of Ekenge was getting crowded. Single moms, abandoned children, and runaway slaves found safety there. "Will you and your people help me build a new house?" Mary Slessor asked her friend, Chief Edem. "Sure, Ma. We will be glad to help," said the chief. But when several days passed and no one showed up to help, Mary took a big knife, called a machete, and began to clear the ground, herself, on the edge of the village.

Mary was a doer. The Okoyong people, on the other hand, never seemed to be in a hurry...except when a fight was brewing.

One day, as Mary was plastering the walls of the new mission house with mud, she heard the sound of running feet. Then there was a loud commotion in the village, followed by more shouting and more running feet. Worried, Mary washed the mud off her hands and hurried into the village. But all the men were gone!

Some robbers had come into the village and stolen from the chief's sister and the men had chased after them to get justice. Running into the forest, Mary caught up with Chief Edem and his warriors, who had found the robbers in a nearby village. But the robbers were also armed with machetes and spears.

Mary marched right into the space between the two groups of warriors. "Fighting and killing is the wrong way to solve problems," she said firmly. "Both sides must sit down and talk. Then we will decide what to do. The warriors were angry, but they couldn't fight with Mary standing in the way. Mary stood there the rest of the day and all night, trying to keep everyone calm.

Finally, she managed to get Chief Edem and the head robber to sit down and talk. She made the robbers give back what they had stolen and pay Chief Edem's sister several baskets of seed for the trouble they had caused.

At dawn, the next day, Mary wearily walked home with Chief Edem and the warriors. She knew it was hard for the people to give up the old ways, even when she taught them what the Bible said. At least today, lives had been saved.

- So, let us try to do what makes peace and helps one another. -
(Romans 14:19)

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5. Bible Skills: The Old Testament Books of History – Lesson 1

Previously, we looked at the Pentateuch, or Books of Law, division of the Bible. This division is made up of the first five books in the Old Testament. The History section picks up with the next 12 books. These 12 books, starting with Joshua and ending with

Esther, tell the history of God's chosen people, the Israelites. There are many exciting stories within these books!

In Joshua, we learn about the ways God helped the Israelites defeat the people living in Canaan. This is also where we read of the unique battle of Jericho. The Israelites learn that God gives victory when they obey and worship Him and that disobeying Him always leads to consequences.

From Judges, we see how the Israelites consistently chose not to worship God which led to some very dark days. However, the book of Judges also teaches God's patience. The story of Ruth shows how God loves, saves, and cares for people, and it reminds us how He cares for us.

The History section of the Bible is where the nation of Israel begged for a king, and their first king was appointed. The books of 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles tell us many stories of the famous kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. This is also where we read of several prophets and how God spoke through them, along with how Israel split into the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

The Old Testament History section of the Bible ends with the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Each book shares stories of its namesake and how God used each of these people for His glory.

Now, let's learn the names of the books of Old Testament History:

Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1st and 2nd Samuel; 1st and 2nd Kings; 1st and 2nd Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther

We're going to form groups of four or five kids. Each group will have a set of 12 paper sacks on which are printed the books of Old Testament History. When I give the signal, you will take the sacks and put them in the correct order. You can refer to the "Books of the Bible" poster for help or use your Bibles to guide you. (Give the signal and let the groups work.) When everyone is finished, we will say the names of the books aloud and in the correct order.

Play: Human Tic-tac-toe -

Make a tic-tac-toe grid on the floor with masking tape. Ask the children to count off by saying the letters X and O. Ask the O's to gather on the right side of the room and the X's to gather on the left side of the room. Each team will be given a Bible skill to complete. If the team answers correctly, they can fill in a square with an X or O. They may make O's and X's with their arms above their heads or in front of their bodies to indicate to which team they belong. The first team to get three in a row wins.

They have to say if the Book is in the Books of Law or the Books of History. You can also ask which book comes before this one and which book comes after this one.

List: Exodus, Joshua, 2 Chronicles, Numbers, Ezra, Deuteronomy, Genesis, Judges, Ruth, 1st Samuel, 2nd Kings, Esther, Nehemiah, Leviticus, 1 Chronicles, 2nd Samuel, 1 Kings

6.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse - "I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, 'Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God.'" – Revelation 21:3

Elementary: Catch the Pom-Pom

Using masking tape, mark 2 parallel lines on the floor about 8-feet apart. The kids will play in pairs and face one another, standing on the tape lines. One person in each pair will hold a large plastic cup. The other person will have a supply of pom-poms and a plastic spoon.

When the signal is given, the player with the spoon will place one pom-pom on it. Then, holding the handle of the spoon, they have to toss the pom-pom at their partner, who will try to catch the pom-pom in their cup. When one pair gets 3 pom-poms in their cup, play stops, and that pair recites the Memory Verse.

7.Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.