

## Reality – Bible Lesson for September 27, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### 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.'" – Revelation 21:3a

4. **The Jesus Storybook Bible:** Pages 342 – 351

5. **The Beginner's Bible:** Pages 504 – 508

6. **God's Story for Me:** Pages 518 – 521

##### 7. Materials useful in teaching the lesson – 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 **Craft: Elementary** - cardstock cards with letters and phrases listed below in the "Bible Application" section; hole punch; yarn **Memory Verse Game: Elementary** – large plastic cups (one for every two children); plastic spoons; masking tape; pom-poms

##### Craft: Elementary – Heaven Mobile

<https://cdn.ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/heaven-mobile.pdf>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/heaven-mobile-craft-project/>

##### Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

###### Elementary:

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

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

###### Preschool:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I3JK8fBNWQ>

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

Let's read the full 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.

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:** (You can use the lesson below but, since it is a little more difficult, please consider reading it from "The Jesus Storybook Bible" – pages 342 – 351, "The Beginner's Bible" - pages 504 – 508 or "God's Story for Me" - pages 518 - 521)

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." 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." 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. 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." 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! 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. 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. Bible Application:**

**Craft: Elementary – Heaven Mobile:**



Finished Mobile

Each mobile piece features a letter of the word "HEAVEN" on one side and a phrase describing heaven on the other side:

- Happy (everyone in heaven is happy)
- Eternal Life (we will live there forever)
- Angels (angels will be in heaven with us)
- Very Beautiful (everything in heaven is beautiful)
- Every Believer (every believer will be in heaven)
- No Evil (there will be no evil in heaven)

**Materials needed:**

- Letters and phrases printed back to back on card stock or heavy paper (one set per child)

- Markers and/or crayons
- Hole puncher
- About 42 inches of yarn for each child – one 12-inch piece and five 6-inch pieces

### **What to do:**

1. Print the letters and phrases back to back so that the word "Happy" is on the back of the letter H, etc.
2. You may want to cut the cards apart ahead of time if the card stock will be hard for the children to cut.
3. Tell the children they will make a beautiful mobile to remind them that heaven is a beautiful place.
4. Have the children color the letters and decorate around them with pictures.
5. While the children are coloring, you can use the phases on the backs of the cards to discuss what the Bible teaches about heaven.
6. Punch a hole in the center near the top and in the center near the bottom of each letter card, except for N punch the hole in the top only.
7. When each child is done decorating, attach the cards vertically with loops of yarn, putting the longest yarn at the top. The mobile is ready to hang!

**5.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.'" – Revelation 21:3a

### **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.

**6.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.

