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A VERY GOOD ENDING

Revelation – Eternity with God

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture	Revelation
Objectives	<p>To explain that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.• God gave the apostle John visions about what will happen in the future.• One day Jesus will return to us to judge the living and the dead, and to bring the new creation.• God has prepared a new heaven and a new earth where the Forever King will reign, and his people will live with him forever.• If we accept and follow Jesus we have a glorious future!
Memory Verse	“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ ‘Surely, I am coming soon.’ ” Revelation 21:5a; 22:20b - ESV)
ACNA Catechism Connection	<p>The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:</p> <p>Q 213 What are angels? ...spiritual, holy beings created by God...act as messengers</p> <p>Q 167 What is heaven? ...Heaven is the realm of God's glory, presence and power.</p> <p>Q 71 What does the Creed mean when it says, "He will come again"?...The present world order will pass away and God will usher in a fully renewed creation to stand forever.</p> <p>Q 74 How should you understand Jesus' future judgment?... each person will receive either eternal rejection and punishment, or eternal life...with God.</p> <p>Q 147 What do you know about the unending life of believers, following judgment day? ...we praise and serve God together in the new heaven and the new earth.</p>

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Table and chair
- Pen and scroll
- 3 cardboard clouds with the following written on the back:

Cloud #1: 'In this vision John, you will see the holy room of God and a throne where Jesus is sitting.'

Cloud #2: 'In this vision John, you will see the place of hell for everyone who rejects Jesus as their king. You will also see Satan being crushed forever!!'

Cloud #3: 'In this vision, you will see a new heaven and a new earth.'

- **Scroll** with the following written on it:
'The Lord says: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men and women. God will dwell in them. They will be his people and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death and there shall be no more mourning or crying or pain. For the former things have passed away. I am making all things new. John, write this down for my words are trustworthy and true." '

Costumes: The apostle John, Roman soldier, 4 angels

Memory Verse: "And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' 'Surely, I am coming soon.'" Revelation 21:5a; 22:20b - ESV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (A crown)

I wonder what the crown represents.

I wonder how the big story of God's Kingdom will end.

Let's find out in our story.....



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Revelation, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

Today's story takes us to a little island called Patmos where John the Disciple wrote the book of Revelation. John was sent to this island by an angry Roman king, to die as a punishment for following Jesus. John was 80 years old when the king of Rome sent him to Patmos. Even though Patmos was hard place to be, John was praising God because he knew that Jesus was the true King, God's forever King. It was here that God gave John a vision of Heaven and the glory of King Jesus on the throne. God also gave John a peek into the future that showed a very good ending waiting for everyone who follows King Jesus. In these visions Jesus and the angels spoke to John and told him what to write down. John was shown many wonderful things about God such as: God will live with his people, God will wipe away every tear, and God will put an end to death and all evil things The book of Revelation tells us that one day Jesus will return to us to judge the living and the dead, and to bring the new creation. We will be God's forever people, living in a beautiful new heaven and new earth, praising and serving God with Jesus as our Forever King.

STORY:

TEACHER: After Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, He sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power and boldness to tell others about Jesus.

Many people became followers of Christ. In the past we called them disciples, but now people were starting to call them "Christians".

During this time, there were some kings that did not like Christians following Jesus, so they persecuted them, hurt and killed them.

However, there was one disciple named John who was very old and still followed Jesus.

ACTION: *John walks onto the stage.*

TEACHER: John was about 80 years old and a Roman king was ruling over the Israelites (who were also known as Jews).

This king ordered all people of the Roman Empire to worship him as god. John refused to do this. So the king sent him to the prison on the Island of Patmos. This island was a hard place to live and many prisoners were sent there to work and die.

ACTION: *Roman soldier takes John to the Island of Patmos and sits him down at a table.*

TEACHER: It was on this island that something really special happened to John. See John sitting at the table? Let's ask him what happened. "John, what happened?"

JOHN: So here I am on this island and I am praising God and thanking him for all he has done for me. I know that God loves me very much and is with me even here.

....then all of a sudden without any warning, God gave me a vision! It was like I was traveling to Heaven.

I took out my pen and started to write down what God showed me.

ACTION: *John takes out his pen and scroll.*

JOHN: Here is my first vision:

ANGEL #1 *(carrying a cloud, reads what is written on the back of the cloud):* "In this vision John, you will see the holy room of God and a throne where Jesus is sitting."

JOHN: I will write this down. This is beautiful. Jesus is the forever King and he is sitting on the throne.

ANGEL #2 *(carrying a cloud, reads what is written on the back of the cloud):* "In this vision John, you will see the place of hell for everyone who rejects Jesus as their king. You will also see Satan being crushed forever!!"

JOHN: Oh, how I pray all people would accept Jesus as their King.....but, I must record all that God shows me. I am glad to see that Satan, and all his evil forces, are being destroyed forever.

ANGEL #3 *(carrying a cloud, reads what is written on the back of the cloud):* "In this vision, you will see a new heaven and a new earth".

JOHN: And as I was writing this vision down, I heard a loud voice saying,

ANGEL #4 (*reading from a large scroll*): The Lord says: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men and women. God will dwell with them. They will be his people and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death and there shall be no more crying or pain. For the former things have passed away. I am making all things new. John, write this down for my words are trustworthy and true."

TEACHER: After all this happened, John saw Heaven coming down to earth in the form of a garden city. There was a river and it was clear as crystal. The river was flowing from the throne and on either side of the river was the Tree of Life.

This was the new creation God's people had been waiting for.

Does anyone recall when we heard about the Tree of Life before? (In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees. There was the tree of "Knowledge of Good and Evil" and there was the "Tree of Life").

Then, "John awoke from his vision".

JOHN: I knew that all God's promises, all the things Jesus had told me years ago, were true!! The Bible tells us that everyone who follows Jesus will have a very good ending!

TEACHER: God is preparing a beautiful city for us to all live in forever with him.

One day Jesus will return to us to judge the living and the dead, and to bring the new creation, and we will be God's forever people, living in God's forever place, under God's forever rule.

Isn't this a very good ending?

JOHN: (*With hands raised to Heaven says,*) "Come, Lord Jesus....come!"

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He is sitting on the throne in Heaven. He cares about our tears and will wipe them away. He is powerful and will make everything better. He will return one day to judge the living and the dead. He is making a new creation for us.)
- In the visions, who spoke to John? (God and angels)
- What are angels? (They are spiritual, holy beings, created by God. God's holy messengers)
- What is Heaven? (The place of God's glory and presence and power)

- Describe the kind of eternal life that God is preparing for those who love and follow Jesus. (There will be no more death or evil, it will be a beautiful new creation and God will live with us)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Heaven: What is it like?

A decorated box with lots of beautiful calendar photos of God's created order and a clean white handkerchief.

Bring out the white handkerchief. This handkerchief reminds us that in Heaven, Jesus has promised us that there will be no more tears, crying or pain. The Bible says, "God will be with us and he will wipe away every tear and *there will be no more tears!* There will be no more death or crying or pain." Jesus has overcome all those things. We will have joy in our hearts always.

Now, think of the most beautiful places and things that you have ever seen. What are they? *Have many calendar pictures of our wonderful creation, of amazing places and animals, natural objects that God has made, mountains, rainbows, baby animals, loving family, friends having fun, etc.* Let the children choose their favourite picture and tell why they like it so much.

God created all these wonderful things for us to enjoy, but the new heaven and new earth will be even more beautiful! In the Bible, Jesus said that He is preparing a place for us even now! We will have wonderful places to explore and things to do. *(Optional: Read a short selection from Revelation 21 or 22.)* We will praise and serve God and thank him that he has made all things new.



An angel speaks to John in a vision while soldier is standing guard

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



The river flowing from the throne of God with the Tree of Life

"And He who was seated
on the throne said,
'Behold, I am making all
things new.'
'Surely, I am coming
soon.'

(Revelation 21:5a; 22:20b)