

27



THE RETURN OF THE KING

The Second Coming

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 10: THE FOREVER KINGDOM

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Luke 21:27; John 3:16; 5:28-29; Revelation 20:10; 21:1,5

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about the Forever Kingdom and the return of Jesus our King.
- One day Jesus will come back to earth to judge the living and the dead. Then Satan will be punished forever for all the evil he has done.
- Those who did not want to follow Jesus, will be separated from God's love and life forever. Those who loved and followed Jesus will be given new, eternal bodies and will live forever with Jesus. His sacrifice has covered their sins. (See teacher's note on page 10.)
- There will be a new heaven and a new earth. All of God's creation will be restored and made new, and sin and death will be gone forever. There will be no more crying or pain, but all of God's creation in heaven and on earth will be healed and filled with God's love and life.
- When we see trouble all around us in this world, we can be joyful and have great hope, because we look forward to a wonderful future with Jesus, filled with God's love and life!

Memory Verse "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 - NIV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of The Return of the King is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q6 How does God save you? God forgives my sins and reconciles me to himself through his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he has given to the world as an undeserved gift

of love. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Q47 What are the consequences of sin? Because of sin, those apart from Christ are spiritually dead, separated from God, under his righteous condemnation, and without hope.

Q76 What does the Creed mean when it says, "He will come again"? Jesus promised that he would return. His coming in victory with great glory and power will be seen by all people and will bring this age to an end. The present world order will pass away, and God will usher in a fully renewed creation to stand forever. All the saints will be together with God at that time.

Q77 Can we know when Jesus will return? No. We cannot know when Jesus will return. Jesus patiently waits for many to repent and trust in him for new life; then he will return unexpectedly, which could be at any moment.

Q78 How should you live in anticipation of Jesus' return? I should anticipate with joy the return of Jesus my Savior and be ready to stand before him. His promise to return encourages me to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to live a holy life, and to share the hope of new life in Christ with others.

Q79 How should you understand Jesus' future judgment? All people, whether living or dead, will be judged by Jesus Christ. Those apart from Christ will receive eternal rejection and punishment in hell, while those who are in Christ will receive eternal blessing and welcome into the fullness of life with God.

Q115 Why will you die? Because sin and death now corrupt this world, my body will degenerate and die. But, by the will of God, my soul will be with the Lord, and I will rise bodily from death when Jesus Christ returns to judge the living and the dead.

Q116 What is the resurrection of the body? When the risen Lord Jesus returns to judge the earth, he will raise all the dead to bodily life. The wicked will then receive eternal condemnation, and the righteous eternal life in the glory of God.

Q214 What are Satan and his demons? Demons, of whom Satan is chief, are fallen angels. Satan rebelled against God and led other angels to follow him. They now cause spiritual and sometimes physical harm to mortals, and they sow lies that lead to confusion, despair, sin, and death.

Q217 How does God overcome evil in this world? God has triumphed over all the powers of evil through the death, resurrection, and ascension of his Son, Jesus Christ. God will finally destroy all evil, including death, at the end of the age.

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

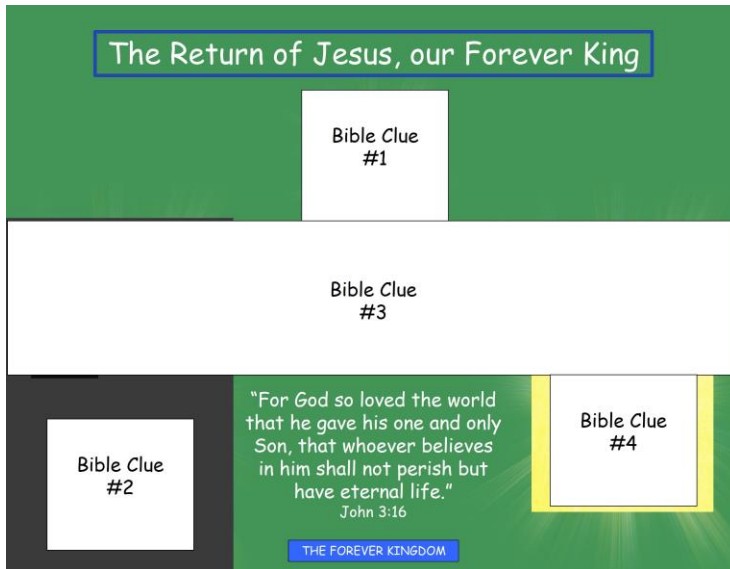
- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Use the condensed lesson poster as a prop for this lesson (also found in props document). This poster has layers to be removed during the lesson. See photos on page 4.
- Cards numbered 1 to 4 with Bible verses printed on them as outlined in lesson, hidden between pages of large Bible with ends sticking out. Arrange them in the right order, from top to bottom, for the children to pull out. Don't add the Bible reference to the cards, just the verse itself.
- Flannelgraph or wall to display Bible verse cards.
- Storyboard symbol: 4 green felt strips large enough to cover the grey area of storyboard. Attach the unit title "The Forever Kingdom" to one of these strips of felt before the lesson starts.
- New word cards: LIFE, LOVE (to add to the strips of felt during lesson)
- Poster pictures: Jesus coming in a cloud (found in props document)
Year 1, Lesson 2: The Fall (Adam and Eve leaving Garden)

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 - NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.



This is how the poster will look at the start of the lesson with the clue cards attached.



This is how the poster will look with the clue cards removed, but the grey card still attached.



This is how the poster will look at the end of the lesson, with the grey card removed.

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 (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Heaven is Real (I can only imagine) Hymn of Heaven (Phil Wickham) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
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)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
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: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions 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 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson.



This is how the storyboard should look at the **end** of the lesson. The grey area is covered by the green felt strips, and the word cards placed at the top and bottom.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations. At the first station have the condensed poster up on a wall or easel, with the grey card and the clue cards attached. At this station you will also need the Bible with the Bible verse cards hidden in it. At the second station set up the Kingdom Life storyboard, and the strips of green felt ready to place on the board. Attach the unit title "The Forever Kingdom" to one of the strips of green felt ahead of time. Start the lesson at the first station.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about God's Forever Kingdom.'*

STORY:

TEACHER: *(Hold up memory verse and point to word "perish".)* In our memory verse today, we heard the word "perish". To "perish" means to die. This refers to eternal death, which is to be separated from God's love and life forever because of sin. God does not want us to perish. He wants us to live with him forever.

Today we are going to talk about the return of Jesus our Forever King. *(Point to the heading "The Return of Jesus our Forever King" on the poster.)* One day Jesus will come back to the earth. That will be a wonderful day that all who follow Jesus can look forward to with great joy!

Only God the Father knows **when** Jesus will come back. The Bible gives us some **clues** about **what** will happen when Jesus returns. Let's look at some of those clues now.

I need your help to pull some cards with those clues out of the Bible. You can hold them until I call out the number on your card. Then you can put it up on this board and we will read it out loud.

ACTION: *Invite children to follow the above instructions.*

TEACHER: Let's read our **1st verse for clue #1**, and the question is "what will happen when Jesus returns?":

Verse #1: *"At that time people will see the Son of Man (Jesus) coming in a cloud. He will come with power and great glory." (Luke 21:27)*

TEACHER: What will happen when Jesus returns? *(Point to verse #1 on the board, and have children respond based on the scripture.)*

TEACHER: Let's see what is behind clue card #1 on our poster. *(Ask child to remove clue card # 1 from poster.)* Remember when Jesus first came to the earth, he came as a gentle baby. In the future, when Jesus comes **back** to the earth, he will come as the glorious Forever King for all to see!

(Show picture poster of Jesus coming in a cloud) I wonder how glorious it will be to see Jesus coming in a cloud...

TEACHER: Let's read our **2nd verse for clue #2**, and the question is "what will happen when Jesus returns?":

Verse #2: *"...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire....and will suffer day and night forever and ever."* (Revelation 20:10)

TEACHER: What will happen when Jesus returns? *(Point to verse #2 on the board, and have children respond based on the scripture.)*

TEACHER: Yes, this verse talks about the final judgement of the devil, who is also called Satan. He was an angel who rebelled against God. *(Show picture of Adam and Eve leaving the Garden.)* Satan was also the serpent who tempted Adam and Eve to sin. He is the source of all the evil on the earth.

Let's see what is behind clue card #2 on our poster. *(Ask child to remove clue card #2 from poster.)* This picture shows Jesus crushing the head of the serpent. Jesus already crushed Satan through the cross and the resurrection, and the Bible tells us that when Jesus returns, it will be Satan's final defeat. He will no longer have any power. He will be punished forever for all the evil he has done.

This is the time when all that was sad and bad and evil will be put away forever.

TEACHER: Let's read our **3rd verse for clue #3**, and the question is "what will happen when Jesus returns?":

Verse #3: *"A time is coming when all who have died will hear the voice of Jesus and will rise again. People who have done what is good will rise and live again. People who have continued to do evil will rise and be found guilty."* (John 5:28-29)

TEACHER: What will happen when Jesus returns? *(Point to verse #3 on the board, and have children respond based on the scripture.)*

TEACHER: Yes. This verse talks about the final judgement of people. Let's see what is behind clue card #3 on our poster. *(Ask child to remove clue card #3 from*

poster.) When Jesus comes back all the people who ever lived will come back to life.

Those who did not want to follow Jesus in this life will be found guilty for their sin. *(Point to grey people on poster.)* They will be separated from God's love and life forever. They will perish. That is the eternal death that Jesus came to save us from. *(Point to "death" on poster.)* The Bible calls that place Hell. That is "a place where there is no love and no life. Only in God can we find love and life."¹

Those who loved and followed Jesus will be given new, eternal bodies and will live forever with Jesus *(point to people kneeling by cross)*. His sacrifice has covered their sins, and they will enjoy God's love and life forever. *(Point to "live forever" on poster.)*

God does not want **anyone** to perish. He wants **all** people to have faith in Jesus and live forever with him. This is what our memory verse talks about. Let's read it together: *(point to verse on poster)* "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." *(John 3:16)*

See teacher's note on page 10 for more on the clue#3 subject matter.

TEACHER: Now, let's look at one more clue from the Bible. Let's read our **4th verse for clue #4**, and the question is "what will happen when Jesus returns?":

Verse #4: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone... He who was sitting on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" *(Revelation 21: 1,5)*

TEACHER: What will happen when Jesus returns? *(Point to verse #4 on the board, and have children respond based on the scripture.)*

TEACHER: Let's see what is behind clue card #4 on our poster. *(Ask child to remove clue card #4 from poster.)* Yes. When Jesus comes back, there will be a **new heaven and a new earth**.

A new heaven and a new earth means that all of God's creation in heaven and on earth will be restored and made new. All sin and death *(point to grey card on poster)*, anything that was sad, bad, or evil will be gone forever. *(Remove grey card from poster and put it away)* There will be no more crying or pain, but all of God's creation in heaven and on earth will be healed and filled with God's love and life.

In our next lesson we will spend more time talking about the new creation, and what life will be like after Jesus comes back.

But let's finish this lesson now by looking at our storyboard:

ACTION: *Take the children over to the storyboard.*

TEACHER: In God's Forever Kingdom there will be no more sin, sickness, pain, or death. *(Remove sin and death cards from storyboard.)* When Jesus comes back, his Kingdom will be everywhere. *(Place green felt strips over grey felt.)*

Then all that was wrong will be made right and there will only be LOVE and LIFE. *(Place the word cards on the green felt strips.)*

Life Application Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful promises you have given us in Jesus! Even when we see trouble all around us in this world, we can be joyful and have great hope that all of creation will be healed. We look forward to a wonderful future with Jesus in the new creation, filled with God's love and life! Amen.

Teacher's note for clue #3: *(to assist the teacher in answering questions that the children might have)*

When we die our souls go to a waiting place while we wait for the resurrection of our bodies and the final judgement. For believers, that waiting place is in Heaven with Christ. For non-believers that waiting place is commonly called hell, but it is really a temporary hell or separation from God. There they await the final judgment and the final, eternal hell, which is 'the lake of fire' that God prepared for Satan and his fallen angels. (Reference ACNA Catechism #115 and #116.)

Quote reference: 1. The Ology by Marty Machowski - page 209.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about Jesus?** (He will one day return as the Forever King to judge the living and the dead. He will finally crush Satan forever. He will make all things new and will live with his people forever in God's eternal Kingdom.)
- **What is your favourite part of our lesson today?**
- **What will happen to Satan when Jesus comes back?** (Satan will no longer have any power. Jesus already crushed Satan through the cross and the resurrection, and the Bible tells us that when Jesus returns, it will be Satan's final defeat. He will be punished forever in hell for all the evil he has done.)
- **When Jesus judges all the people who ever lived, what will happen to the people who did not want to follow Jesus?** (They will perish. They will be found guilty for their sin and will be separated from God's love and life forever. The Bible calls that place hell. That is "a place where there is no love and no life. Only in God can we find love and life." ¹)
- **Does God want people to perish?** (No, God loves the world and wants all people to have faith in Jesus and live forever with him. *Read memory verse again.*)
- **What will happen to those who loved and followed Jesus?** (They will be given new, eternal bodies and will live forever with Jesus. His sacrifice has covered their sins.)
- **What does it mean that there will be a new heaven and a new earth?** (It means that all sin and death, anything that was bad or sad or evil will be gone forever. There will be no more crying or pain, but all of God's creation in heaven and on earth will be healed and filled with God's love and life.)
- **What are the two words we put down on our story board today that describe life in God's Forever Kingdom?** (Love and life)
- **What gives us great hope when we see trouble all around us in this world?** (We can look forward to a wonderful future with Jesus.)

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

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

(John 3:16)