

WEEK 2

GOD RESTORES CREATION ALL THINGS NEW ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

∞ THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

KEY IDEAS

1. God is King.
2. Creation is made perfect.
3. Community is made perfect.

KEY PASSAGE

Revelation 21:1-5

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God offers new life in Jesus and one day He will make the world new, too.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

excited that eternity with God is going to be perfect.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

see life in light of God's promise that one day He is going to make all things new.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to share the hope of Jesus and the good news that God makes all things new.

INTRODUCTION

The vision God gave to John reveals His eternal nature and that He is the one who has all authority and glory. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Alpha and Omega (beginning and end) who is worthy of all praise. God is eternal meaning He always has been and always will be, and He promises that one day He will take all things and make them new again. We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but God's word says that all our tears and sadness will turn to joy and praise and there will be no end. It can be difficult to imagine this, but we can be certain that for those who believe in the Lord, eternity will be far greater than anything we've ever seen or could see on earth!

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by bringing in small plastic cups, a jar of sand, and plastic spoons. Give each child a cup with sand in it, a spoon, and an empty cup. Instruct the children to move their sand to the empty cup one grain at a time with the spoon. As they attempt to do it, explain that it would take a really long time to move their sand one grain at a time. Have them imagine what it would be like to move all the sand in the world one grain at a time. Tell them that eternity is much longer than that, it's forever. There is no end to eternity. It would be like moving all the world's sand but when you got to the end, it would just keep multiplying and the world would never run out of sand. Now ask them to share what they think heaven will be like. Floating on clouds, lots of singing, unlimited ice cream?? We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but the Bible tells us a lot about it. (John 14:2, 1 Cor. 2:9, Rev. 21:11, Rev. 22:5, 1 John 3:2) The best idea we can have of heaven is to look back at the Garden of Eden. What was it like before Adam and Eve sinned? They world itself was perfect, they had perfect community with God and each other, and everything God gave them to do was enjoyable.

KEY IDEAS

Read Revelation 21:1-5. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- God is King.
 - What does it mean that God is Alpha and Omega? Alpha means beginning and Omega means end. God has no beginning and no end, He always has been, always is, and always will be. God was not created, He is the Creator. (Rev. 22:13)
 - What is God's Kingdom? God's kingdom is not like any other kingdom on earth. God's kingdom is not of this world but is made up of believers who have placed their faith in His Son Jesus. His Kingdom has no end, it is eternal. (John 18:36)
- Creation is made perfect.
 - What are some examples of how creation is not as it was created to be? How do we see the impact of sin on creation today?
 - What does a perfect creation look like? It would look similar to how God first created the world. No sickness, death, suffering, or sin. Plants and animals would be perfect, never dying, and all creation would perfectly reveal the glory of God. (Col. 1:16, Ps. 19:1, Ps. 95:3-5, Rom. 1:20, Is. 40:26, Ps. 8:1)
- Community is made perfect.
 - What are some examples of how community is not as it was created to be? How do we see the impact of sin on how we relate to one another?
 - What does perfect community look like? God has given us examples in scripture that provide a glimpse of what perfect community in heaven would be like. He has given instruction for how we are to treat each other and we can be certain that in heaven, because there is no sin, we will do all these things perfectly. We will live in perfect harmony and unity, free from disagreement and strife, at peace with one another in love. (Ps. 139:14, 1 John 1:7, Heb. 10:24-25, Eph. 5:19-20, 1 Cor. 13)

Activity

Play a game of make it new. Tell the children they have one minute to draw a simple picture of something that makes them feel sad. After the timer goes off, tell them to swap pictures with someone else. Then instruct them to turn the other person's sad picture into something happy and give them a minute to complete. When the timer goes off again, discuss the drawings. Explain that one day God will turn our sorrows to joy and make all things new just like we turned these sad drawings into joyful ones. Our pictures might not be perfect, but God's new creation will be perfect since He is perfect.

Prayer

Thank God that He makes all things new and perfect and that one day He will make the whole world new, too. Thank Him that He makes us new when we choose Him. God to help you walk in newness of life by following Him.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Revelation 21:4.

Take time this week to talk with your child about heaven. Use a blank sheet of paper to draw the outline of a house with a large yard. Read John 14:2-4, 1 Cor. 2:9, 1 John 3:2, and Rev. 21:11-22:5. Help your child cut up pictures from a magazine, print pictures from a computer, or draw pictures of things that represent what they think heaven will be like.

Lead them in a discussion using the questions below about how our sin distorts our view of others.

DISCUSSION

- How long is eternity?
Eternity simply means forever. God is outside of time because He created time. It's hard for us as humans to imagine something outside of time, but we can understand the idea of forever or something that never ends. Eternity just means there will be no more time. (2 Peter 3:8, Heb. 11:3, Ps. 90:2, Ps. 93:2)
- How does eternity bring God glory?
God Himself is an eternal being, never created, always existing, before anything else. Anything that God creates reveals His glory because everything He creates is perfect. Eternity is God's very nature so it reveals God's glory by revealing Himself. He desires to spend forever with His creation that is perfect and holy as He is. (2 Tim. 1:9, Titus, 1:2, Eph. 1:4, 1 Peter 1:20)
- What will we do in eternity?
God gave work to Adam in the Garden before sin entered the world, so we can know that God values work and work is good. It was only after the fall that work became hard. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, so we can be sure that in heaven God will have work for us to do and it will be enjoyable! For those outside of Christ, eternity will be spent apart from everything that reminds you of God's goodness. There will be no party or pleasure of any kind because God is the source of all those things and He will not be there. (Gen. 1:28-30, Gen. 3:17-19)

PRAYER

Thank God that He is perfect and makes things perfect. Thank Him that He will once again make creation perfect and that we can be a part of it if we are found in Jesus.