

## July 25 Lesson

**Promise of Jesus' Return**—Revelation 19:11-21; 21-22

**Big Idea**—God is the Beginning and the End

**Story:** (or watch the video of Miss Hannah online)

Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. **For a long time we've been traveling through The Big God Story—the story of God's love for us. A story He continues to write today. We're finally at the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, ready to talk about the most exciting news of all time: Jesus is coming back! But first, let's remember just how amazing Jesus is.**

**At the beginning of The Big God Story, the first people whom God created disobeyed Him and broke their relationship with Him. But do you think God left people all alone? Invite responses. No! God promised to send a Redeemer who would restore the relationship between God and people.**

**For thousands of years, God's people waited and waited for the Redeemer. Then, one day, He was born. Who is this Redeemer? Invite responses. That's right—Jesus! Although Jesus is God Himself, born as a human, the Bible says, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (Isaiah 53:2–3). Can you imagine what it must have been like for Jesus to be born as a human and suffer? But God knew that the only way to restore perfect relationship with Him was for His Son to die for our sins.**

**Of course, we celebrate the fact that Jesus not only died for our sins but also rose again, defeated death, and went up to heaven! We also know that just because He went to heaven, He didn't leave His people alone. He promised to come back. And He sent the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and Teacher until He returns. We're living in the time between when Jesus went up to heaven and when He will return. In fact, if you look at the timeline, you can see all of this blank space between "Paul" and "You and Me." That's the time we live in now—a time when the church is continuing to grow and more and more people are hearing about Jesus. The Big God Story isn't finished yet because we're still waiting for the wonderful day when our Lord and Savior returns to us as He promised He would.**

**When Jesus comes back, it will be unbelievably amazing! In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we see how Jesus will look when He returns to His people. Invite kids to turn to Revelation 19 in their Bibles. What does the word *revelation* mean? Invite responses. A revelation is like a secret that's being told. Revelation**

**19:11–12 says Jesus will be riding on a white horse with eyes blazing like fire and many crowns on His head. Wow! He'll be dressed in a white robe, and the armies of heaven will be following Him (v. 14). What do you think the armies of heaven might look like? Invite responses. We don't know exactly what it will be like, but we can be sure it will be amazing.**

**Jesus came to earth as a humble man, but He's also the glorious God of the universe. In this chapter we can read some of Jesus' names: "Faithful and True," "the Word of God," "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS," and "the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 19:11–16; 22:13). Jesus will also have a name "written on him that no one knows but he himself" (Revelation 19:12). He has a name so holy and beautiful that no one will know what it is! Wow! Jesus is truly glorious beyond what we can imagine.**

**And Jesus is preparing an amazing place for us that reflects His glory. Invite children to turn to Revelation 21. It will be a city with huge walls and streets of pure gold (v. 21). The Bible even lists the precious stones that will decorate the city walls, such as topaz, amethyst, and more.. And a crystal-clear river flows from the throne of God that sits in the middle of the city (Revelation 22:1).**

**The Bible also says, "The city [will] not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light" (Revelation 21:23). What gives us light in our world? Invite responses. Great examples. Lightbulbs and fire are just a couple of the things that give us light. We won't need these in heaven because God's glory will give the city all of the light it could ever need! Optional: Turn off the lights and ask the kids to imagine the room suddenly filling with light without turning on the switch.**

**Here's the best part: God wants us to live there too! God will live with us, and He "will wipe every tear from [our] eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4).**

**Since the beginning of The Big God Story, God has wanted to live in perfect relationship with His people. And we know God kept His promise to send a Redeemer so we could be in relationship with Him. So, we can know God will keep His promise to return and bring us to live, face-to-face, in heaven with Him. We can trust He will have complete victory over sin, pain, sadness, and death when He returns, riding on a white horse as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13).**

**Jesus says to us, "Yes, I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). And we answer, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." We answer this way because when we see Jesus in all of His might and glory, we will see Jesus for who He truly is. And when that day comes, we will see ourselves for who we truly are—children of the King of Kings, the God of everything, the Beginning and the End. Let's all together say, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## Family Activities connected to the lesson:

- **Beginning or End**—Place 2 chairs about 10' apart, facing one another.
  - **Today we're going to be learning about how Jesus is the Beginning and the End. Let's take a look at some of the things in our lives that have beginnings and ends.**
  - Designate one chair as "Beginning" and one chair as "End." As you list off things that have beginnings and ends, instruct your family to move near the chair they prefer, either standing next to the chair or touching it.
  - Would you rather be at the beginning or the end of...
    - The school year                      - A really long day
    - A line                                      - A movie
    - Summer Break                      - A Shopping trip
    - Sports Game                      - A vacation
- **Children of the King**—Create a sword or a crown, each person should make one or the other. This can just a picture they draw or you can actually make a crown to wear or a sword to play with.
  - As you work, talk about your true identity. Who does God say we are? Chose, forgiven, loved, adopted, worthy, enough, Child of God, etc.
  - After you have created a sword or crown (or both!), write your name on it, followed by "Child of the King" then keep it as a reminder of who you are and whose name you bear!
- **Blessing**—Place your hand on their shoulder or hold their hands and look your child in the eyes, then say: **You, (child's name), are a (son/daughter) of the King!**