

Hey ClubE!

Hello my friends! This past week was sticky and hot, wasn't it? I didn't spend too much time outside, but was thankful for some cooler nights. I hope you had a fun week and weekend. I'd love to hear about it! Today, we are going to learn about a man named John and what he learned about a place that was PERFECT (and I'm sure not too hot :)) and God' Big Picture finale.

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: If you could travel anywhere in the world where would it be? Why?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity/game!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Wow! This is it. The end of the timeline. Today, we're talking about the very last book in the Bible—the book of Revelation. This book was written by John, one of Jesus' disciples. At this point, John was an old man, and he had been taken as a prisoner to the island of Patmos where people worked in mines. The Roman Emperor had sent John there because he couldn't get John to stop telling people about Jesus! John had lived longer than any of Jesus' other disciples. He had seen some amazing things happen. He had watched the early church grow as the story of Jesus spread. It must have been so exciting for him to see how many people were now following Jesus!

John had also seen some difficult things. He had seen people who believed in Jesus beaten up, chased out of towns, or thrown into jails. Some of them had even faced death for talking about their faith in Jesus. But in John's final days, he knew that more people than ever were following Jesus. God's Story was traveling from one end of the world to the other, just as Jesus had predicted. John heard a loud voice like a trumpet. He turned and saw Jesus Himself! "Jesus' eyes were blazing like fire. Jesus told John that He was going to show him a vision of things that would take place in the future . . . and that He wanted John to write them down. That way John could share them with others so that they could also believe. John watched as God showed him many things that were coming. Some were wonderful. Some were terrible. And

some were mysterious. Some of what John saw wouldn't make sense until it actually happened. After the vision ended, John began a letter to several of the new churches. He explained the strange and amazing things he had seen.

In the last part of the vision, God showed John how the story will turn out for everyone who believes in Jesus. John did the best he could to put into words what he had seen, even though he didn't fully understand what it all meant. We'll do our best to picture John's vision here today, although you know I could never come close to drawing what it was really like! John described a new heaven and a new earth. When John saw the new heaven and new earth in his vision, he remembered what Jesus had said right before He died and came back to life. Jesus had said: John 14:2-3 (NirV) "There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am." John realized that this was what Jesus was talking about—a place where we would never be separated from God.

Then, John saw a great white throne. He heard a voice from the throne say: Revelation 21:3-4 (NirV) "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. 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.' And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain." In the future, God will make everything new. Everything will be the way it SHOULD be. John noticed that there was light all around. He wrote: Revelation 21:23 (NirV) "The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it. God's glory is its light, and the Lamb [Jesus] is its lamp." The light was beautiful, but that's not all. The place itself was beautiful, too! John wrote: Revelation 22:1-2 (NirV) "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. It was as clear as crystal. It flowed from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit. Its fruit was ripe every month. The leaves of the tree bring healing to the nations. John added some more about the people he saw. He wrote: Revelation 22:3-4 (NirV) "God's servants will serve Him. They will see His face." John could see that in heaven, everyone will live out what they were created to do—with no sin or frustration or exhaustion to get in the way.

John didn't know exactly when the things God showed him would take place. And neither do we. But because of what we've seen and heard, we can be certain of this: In the end, God will make all things right for those who put their faith in Him. The truth is . . . following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine. It can be hard for us to understand everything that we read in John's vision. It can be hard for us to understand some of the things that happen to us in this life, too. But we can be sure that God has a plan—and in the end, His story is GOOD.

Let's talk about it!

- Would you want to see the future? Why or why not?
- What do you think of heaven?
- What was one part of John's vision that made you EXCITED? Why?

- What Good News-- we can spend eternity with Jesus. We know how the Big Picture Story ends, aren't you so thankful that you get to be a part of it? If you haven't accepted the gift of Jesus' forgiveness and gift and want to, ask an adult how that could be possible today.

Pray

"Dear God, thank You for the amazing vision that You gave John. Even though we don't know when these things will happen, or exactly how they will take place, we know that we can trust You no matter what. Please help us have faith and trust You, because we know that following You will turn out even greater than we can imagine. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Game time!

SUPER COLOSSALLY AWESOME ABODE

WHAT YOU NEED: Graph paper, pencils, markers, pipe cleaners, construction paper, scissors, and tape

WHAT YOU DO: Create your own perfect world on the graph paper using the supplies provided. Ask them to think about the coolest place they could imagine living.

Today we heard about a place that's more awesome and more amazing and even more incredible than any place you could possibly imagine. AND God has made a way for everyone to get there!

FOLLOW THE LEADER

WHAT YOU NEED: Timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pick a leader to lead you to lead others around the room.
- Everyone must follow the leader and do exactly as the leader does.
- Set the timer for 30 to 45 seconds.
- When time is up, call out, "FREEZE!" Then, someone else becomes the leader

- Share some ways we follow Jesus' example. (telling the truth, helping others, being kind, listening, praying for our enemies, forgiving)

Sometimes when we choose to follow Jesus, things turn out the way we hope they will. Sometimes the person we're nice to says, 'Thank you!' But sometimes, things don't turn out the way we'd hoped. Sometimes when we tell the truth, the other person doesn't believe us. Sometimes when we're kind, the other person isn't kind back. Following Jesus is a bit like our 'Follow the Leader' game. We don't always know where following will take us but we can know that one day, everything will be right and perfect. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, following Him means that you will live forever with Him in a perfect place, a place even more awesome than you can imagine. And that promise that following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine tells us just how much God loves us.