

A Letter About Jesus' Return

Lesson Aim: To know that Jesus is coming back.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12

What He has done: God revealed to John that Jesus is coming back.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "He is coming."

Unit 6 Memory Verse: Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon."

TEACHER ENRICHMENT For your own encouragement this week, read Revelation 7:9-17.

Teacher Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for giving us Your letters to the churches. Open our ears to hear Your word speaking into our lives and the lives of Your children. Amen"

TEACHER'S PREP

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12.
- ☐ Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.
- ☐ Place today's New Testament letter in the Bible. Place the Bible in the Mail Box.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. If time allows, choose a GOT TIME? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim or the Bible Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Mailbox: Stamp or sticker of clouds

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Lesson 30

THE WORD

- ☐ Special Delivery Mailbox containing Teacher's Bible with today's New Testament Letter

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Two identical pictures of Jesus in the clouds, craft template #1 and craft template #2 printed on sturdy colored paper (www.childrensministrywarehouse.net), crayons or markers, scissors, tape, glue, cotton balls
- ☐ Game Supplies: Blanket, picture of Jesus in the clouds, envelopes
- ☐ Snack: Marshmallows or cotton candy and drink
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 30

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse song and "Praise Time!" or "The New Testament Overture" and player, or teacher may sing, white balloons or soft toy balls, sturdy box or step
- ☐ Color This Story: A Letter About Jesus' Return. Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12
- ☐ Story Time: Any story about Jesus coming back from heaven



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"He is coming."

SAY> (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** (Child unlocks Mail Box to receive a stamp or sticker of clouds.) **Let this sticker of clouds to help you remember that Jesus is coming back. Today's Whisper Verse is "He is coming."** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "He is coming."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"He (Jesus)" The middle finger of one hand touches the middle of the palm of the other hand, then the same is repeated using the middle finger of the other hand. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross.

"(is) coming." Point both index fingers out and move hands toward self.

SAY> (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "He is coming" from Revelation 1:7. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's New Testament letter.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship The Spirit Who Shows Us

***Teacher Tip:** Play an opening song such as "Praise Time" as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY> It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who shows us exciting things that Jesus is going to do. The Holy Spirit showed these things to John. Then John wrote them down on a scroll so we would know about it. The most exciting thing is that Jesus is coming back for us one day. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's say it and sign it together. (Say and sign Whisper Verse, "He is coming.")

SAY> We can't wait to see Jesus because we love Him and we know He loves us. Let's sing about His love while we by giving our offering to help His church. (Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" while collecting the offering.)

SAY> Because Jesus loves us, He promised He is coming back for us one day. That promise is our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together. (All say, "Behold I am coming soon.") Let's celebrate that promise! (Sing: "By And By, We're Gonna See The King" and "I've Got The Joy/This Little Light of Mine.")

SAY> Let's see if Posty knows anything about that promise from Jesus. (Read Chapter 30 from *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello: Prophets & Promises* or interact with puppets according to Prophets & Promises Lesson 30, Unit 6 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY> On the day Jesus comes back with the clouds, He will lift His followers up to heaven and we will get to stand around His throne and praise Him! Let's imagine what that will be like as we praise Him now. (Sing: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon.")

Unit 6 Prophets & Promises: Praise Time song suggestions

"Praise Time!" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"Behold, I Am Coming Soon" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"I Can Do Everything" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"Not By Might" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"He Is Mighty" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"The New Testament Overture" Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"Jesus Loves Me" ABC's of Praise by Mary Rice Hopkins

"My God Is So Big" ABC's of Praise by Mary Rice Hopkins

"I've Got The Joy/This Little Light Of Mine" ABC's of Praise by Mary Rice Hopkins

"By And By, We're Gonna See The King" Toddler Bible Songs, Cedarmon KIDS Classic

"Walking In The Light Of God's Love" Brentwood Kids, Crazy Praise 2



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

Jesus is coming soon.

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> **With my eyes on my teacher;** (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> In the Bible there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned that God is very strong. We have learned many things from the letters in the Bible. Today we will learn about a different kind of letter written by one of Jesus' followers named John. God's angel showed John what will happen one day. John wrote what he saw in a letter. John also wrote down everything he heard Jesus say. Let's open the mailbox to read in the Bible about what John wrote. (Choose a child to open the mailbox, take out the Bible and hand it to the leader or teacher.)



SPECIAL DELIVERY: REVELATION 1:1-2, 7; 22:12

Open the Bible and remove today's New Testament Letter. Today's letter is available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper and placing it in an envelope. Open the letter and read the quote from today's New Testament letter.

Dear Family of God,

The angel spoke to me about Jesus, "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him." Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

**From,
John**

ASK> Who is coming with the clouds? (Jesus.) **Our Whisper Verse** tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "He is coming." (Include sign language or hand motions.)

ASK> When is Jesus coming back? (Soon.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible. (Read answer from today's New Testament Letter.)

ASK> Who will see Him when He comes with the clouds? (Everyone.)



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

We will all see Jesus coming with the clouds.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: New Testament Letter application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT CONNECTION: A LETTER ABOUT JESUS' RETURN

"Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7

Purpose: To remind the children that Jesus is coming back just as He says in Revelation.

☑ Supplies needed per child:

- ☐ Craft template # 1 and craft template #2 printed on sturdy colored paper (Templates available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.) Option: Substitute any small gift box
- ☐ Two identical pictures of Jesus in the clouds
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Cotton balls

☑ Prep Steps: (Prepared before class)

- ☐ Pre-print the outline of a scroll so that it takes up the entire sheet of sturdy paper.
- ☐ Pre-print on the top of the scroll outline:

A Letter About Jesus' Return.

Revelation 22:12

- ☐ Follow the directions on craft template 1 to create the box bottom.
- ☐ Cut out the gift shape on craft template 2 to create the box lid.
- ☐ Pre-print or cut out and attach two identical pictures of Jesus: one inside the box and one on the scroll.
- ☐ Near each picture of Jesus, pre-print or write as if He is speaking, "Behold, I am coming soon!"

Directions for children:

1. Glue cotton balls as clouds around Jesus on your scroll.
2. Glue cotton balls as clouds around Jesus in the gift box.
3. Color the gift box lid.
4. Ask your teacher to help you tape the lid onto the box.
5. Give the box to someone as a gift. Tell them Jesus is coming back!
6. Put your scroll somewhere special so you can remember Jesus is coming back!

Options: Make an envelope: On a large envelope, write child's name as the address and "John" as the return address. Child can decorate the envelope before placing the letter inside.

Craft Discussion:

- **The angel said, "Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him." Imagine what it will look like to see Jesus coming with the clouds.**
- **What did Jesus say about His coming? ("Behold, I am coming soon!")**
- **Take your letter home and show it to your family. Ask them to help you make a special mailbox for your letters. Next time, we will make another letter for you to add to your mailbox.**

THE WAY continued...



GAME: THROUGH THE CLOUDS

"Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7

Purpose: Children will look up at clouds and think about what it will look like when Jesus returns.

☒ **Supplies:**

☐ Blanket

Directions:

1. Take children outside. (Or hang cloud shapes cut from paper on ceiling in play area.)
2. Children lay on a blanket spread out on the ground or floor and look up at the clouds.
3. **SAY> After Jesus lived on earth, He went up through the clouds to Heaven.**
4. **ASK> Where does Jesus live now? (In heaven.)**
5. **SAY> Jesus is coming back. Let's say and sign our Whisper Verse.**
Children say and sign, **"He is coming."**
6. **ASK> Look up to the clouds. Pretend you see Jesus coming through the clouds. What does Jesus look like? (Children respond.)**



GAME: JESUS' LETTER

"Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7

Purpose: Children will receive a "message" that tells them about Jesus' return.

☒ **Supplies:**

☐ Picture of Jesus coming through clouds (may use same picture as in Craft Connection)

☐ Envelopes

☒ **Prep Step:**

☐ Place a picture of Jesus in an envelope for each child.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a line facing you.
2. Tell the children that you are pretending to be John. (Option: Dress in a Bible era costume.)
3. Call each child to you by name.
4. **SAY> Jesus wanted me to give this message to you.**
5. Give envelope to child.
6. Child opens the envelope to discover the picture of Jesus.
7. **ASK> What is Jesus' message?**
8. Children say and sign the Whisper Verse, **"He is coming."**
9. Play until each child has received the message.

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: FLUFFY CLOUDS

"Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7

Purpose: Children eat a fluffy, white snack as pretend clouds like the ones Jesus will return with.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows or cotton candy and drink

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY** > Let's sing the "Blessing Song." (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.

Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Hold your snack up high. Pretend it is a big, fluffy cloud. Can you imagine Jesus coming back through the clouds? Let's eat our fluffy cloud snack!**
 - **After He rose again, Jesus' friends saw Him go through the clouds to live in heaven. Soon, He will come back through the clouds again!**
 - **That's like our Whisper Verse! Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "He is coming.")
 - **When is Jesus coming?** (Soon.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY > God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY > Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____, (gently touch each child's shoulder while saying his or her name.) We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Take home your "Letter About Jesus' Return" craft. Put your scroll in your mailbox! Give the gift box to someone and tell them that Jesus is coming back through the clouds!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jesus promised to come back soon.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.



GAME: MORE LETTER GAMES

Purpose: Children play games using today's New Testament Letter.

☑ Supplies:

- ☐ Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope.
- ☐ Song such as the Bible Memory Verse Song, "Praise Time!" or "The New Testament Overture" and player, or teacher may sing

Game #1 Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Sing or play a song, such as the Bible Memory Verse Song, "Praise Time!" or "The New Testament Overture."
3. During the song, children pass the letter around the circle.
4. Stop the song. Whoever is holding the letter is the Messenger and delivers the letter to the teacher.
5. Play again. After all, or several, children have had a turn, read the letter.

Game #2 Directions:

1. Children spread out in a line or a large circle around the play area.
2. Give the letter to the first child. Child delivers the letter to the next child.
3. Each child delivers the letter to the next child until the last child delivers the letter to you.
4. Before each child starts his or her delivery, call out the method by which he/she must deliver the letter. (For example: hop, crawl, walk backwards, skip, dance, wiggle, etc.)
5. To create a fun atmosphere, play the Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time!" or "The New Testament Overture" during the game.

SAY> Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the disciples. Isn't it exciting to know that same letter is right here for us in the Bible?

Got Time? continued...



GAME: DANCE, DANCE BIBLE BOOKS

Purpose: To familiarize children with the concept that the New Testament contains stories about Jesus and many letters from those who believe in Him.

☑ Supplies:

☐ "New Testament Overture" song and player, or teacher may sing

SAY> (Hold up the Bible.) **God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers.**

Directions:

1. Call out a New Testament book. Tell the children to listen carefully to the song. When they hear that book in the song, they must sit down as fast as they can.
2. Play "The New Testament Overture" or teacher may sing.
3. Children dance until they hear the Bible book in the song.
4. Children sit down in place.
5. Say the name of a different book and play again.



GAME: THROUGH THE CLOUDS

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song and player, or teacher may sing

☐ White balloons or soft toy balls

☑ Prep Steps:

☐ Inflate balloons with non-helium air.

ASK> **Where is Jesus?** (In heaven.) **One day Jesus is coming back. Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming soon." Let's pretend this balloon is a cloud. Look up to the balloon to pretend you see Jesus coming back through the clouds.**

Directions:

1. Play or sing the Bible Memory Verse Song.
2. Children bat the balloon in the air as they sing the song.
3. If the children are able to keep one balloon in the air without it hitting the floor, add another balloon.

***Teacher Tip:** For large groups of children, divide into smaller groups and allow each group to play with their own balloon.

Got Time? continued...



GAME: DOWN FROM HEAVEN

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ A sturdy box or step (no more than one foot in height)

ASK Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming soon." He is coming back from heaven! Let's pretend to be like Jesus. Jump down from heaven while you say Jesus' words.

Directions:

1. Place the box on the floor.
2. Have children line up behind the box.
3. One at a time, children jump off the box and say the Bible Memory Verse.
4. After jumping, child goes to the end of the line.
5. Play multiple times having children say the Bible Memory Verse different ways as they jump.
(For example: shout, sing, whisper, etc.)



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: A Letter About Jesus' Return. Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Jesus coming back from heaven.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 6, Lesson 30: A Letter About Jesus' Return

PONDER! Read Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12 with your family. Jesus talked to John. Jesus showed John what will happen one day. John wrote down everything he saw and heard in a book called Revelation. What did Jesus say He is going to do?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank you for promising to come back soon. We wait to see You coming through the clouds! Amen."

PLAY! Decorate a box to be your mailbox for your Letters from the Bible. Put today's craft inside your mailbox. During the week, take out your letter craft to remind your family about what we can learn from the letters in the Bible.

Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse: Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon."