



Letters to the Seven Churches

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus cares about our ongoing relationship with Him. (Salvation Message)

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22

What He Has Done: Jesus told John what to write to the seven churches.

Key Verse: Revelation 3:20

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 24:9-10

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105
 The Books of the New Testament

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
28	Letters About Weakness, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7; 12:7-10	God revealed to Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness.	To know God's strength is shown in our weakness.
29	Letters About Strength, Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18	God showed His apostles how He strengthens us.	To learn what it means to choose to wear the armor of God.
30	Letters to the Seven Churches, Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22	Jesus told John what to write to the seven churches.	To know Jesus cares about our ongoing relationship with Him. (Salvation Message)
31	Letters About Jesus' Return, Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20	God gave John a vision of heaven and what it will be like when Jesus comes back to earth.	To know what will happen when Jesus returns.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 7:9-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for giving us Your letters to the churches. Open our ears so we may hear Your Word speaking into our lives and the lives of Your children. Amen."

Teacher Tip: For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Speedy Delivery	Envelopes, paper, tape, marker
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The New Testament Overture" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," "Not by Might" "At the Name of Jesus" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Here I Am to Worship" "Awesome God"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:20	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 30 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, Revelation 3:20 printed on a scroll (rolled up paper), ABC prayer printed on postcards, and copies of Children's Guide for New Believers
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Christ Connection: Psalm 24:9-10	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards, church stamps or stickers (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Loud Crunchers	Crunchy snack
	Up to 10	Game: What's That Sound?	Bag or box, seven different objects that will make a distinct noise when dropped (e.g., coin, rubber ball, pin, book, bell, rock, or pencil)
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Letters to Churches	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture," Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Next Book	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture"
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Light My Path	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," flashlights
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Pass the Word!	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," Bible
	Up to 5	New Testament Letters Review	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: If you could write a letter to anyone, who would it be?

GAME: SPEEDY DELIVERY

Purpose: Children will run a race to introduce the subject of Jesus' letters to the seven churches.

Supplies: Envelopes, paper, tape, marker

Prepare: Create four sets of seven envelopes with each church name written on one of the envelopes: Smyrna, Sardis, Philadelphia, Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, and Laodicea. If you will have more than seven children on each team, prepare extra envelopes. Create one sign for each location of the seven churches. Display the signs in various places around the play area.

Teacher Tips: Small groups can play with two teams. For non-readers, color code the envelopes and signs to match. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children race. For added fun, call out different ways the children must move to deliver the letters (crawl, hop, jump, skip, walk backwards, spin, etc.).

Let's pretend we are like the apostle John. Jesus has given your team seven letters. Each one has a special message for one of the seven churches. How fast can you deliver them?

Directions:

1. Point out each of the location signs and read the names.
2. Divide the group into four teams of equal size.
3. Teams each form a line in a corner of the play area.
4. Place a set of envelopes in a pile in front of each team's line. If there are more than seven children on a team, place enough envelopes on the pile for each child to have one.
5. On your signal, the first child in line takes an envelope from the pile, runs to deliver it to the matching city, and then runs back to tag the next child in line.
6. That child takes an envelope from the pile and repeats the process.
7. The goal is to be the first team to deliver all the envelopes to the correct cities. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

Now, let's learn more about what was written on the original seven letters to the churches. We can find them in the last book of the Bible called Revelation.

Limited space? Deliver the letters by passing them from child to child in unusual methods (above the head, using feet only, using elbows only, etc.).



The Spirit who shows us **THE WORSHIP**

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the Holy Spirit who shows us what will happen one day in heaven. Jesus told John to write letters to the seven churches. Today, we will hear about some rewards Jesus promised in those letters to believers who stay faithful to Him. Let's thank Jesus for those rewards by giving our offering. Sing: "Awesome God" while collecting the offering.



The greatest reward in all of heaven is to be close with God. Read Revelation 3:20.



It is as if Jesus is standing and knocking on the door to your heart. When you invite Him into your heart, He comes. Jesus comes to give life forever to anyone who believes that He is the Lord. He will come with open arms of forgiveness to any believer who asks.

If you have never invited Jesus to come into your heart, and you would like to do that now, pray the ABC Prayer with me. Invite children who want to ask Jesus to be their Savior and Lord to pray the ABC Prayer (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you.

ABC PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admitt I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.



When you pray a prayer like that to Jesus, His Holy Spirit comes into your heart and you belong to God's forever family. One day in heaven, we will all be together worshipping Jesus on His throne. Sing; "To Him Who Sits on the Throne." Sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The New Testament Overture." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as Savior



Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 30.



Letters to the seven churches

THE WORD

Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: Place the teacher's Bible, Revelation 3:20 printed on a scroll (rolled up paper), ABC prayer printed on postcards, and copies of Children's Guide for New Believers in a mailbag.

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we read about using the armor of God to help us be strong in the Lord. Today, we will read letters from the last book in the Bible. The book of Revelation tells us what will happen in heaven. Jesus told John exactly what to write in his letters to seven different churches. The churches were in Smyrna, Sardis, Philadelphia, Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, and Laodicea. In the letters, Jesus gave the churches encouragements, warnings, and the promise of rewards in heaven. We will read from the letter to the church in Laodicea. If a map is available, point to the ancient city of Laodicea on the Lycus whose ruins are located today near Denizli, Turkey.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

In the first part of the letter to the church in Laodicea, Jesus says the church is lukewarm. Lukewarm water is neither cold nor hot. The word lukewarm is used here to describe people who are unexcited or uninterested. Listen for the warning from Jesus in this letter. Read Revelation 3:14-16, 19.

Remember that Jesus was writing this to people who went to church in Laodicea. In most churches, there are some who believe and follow Jesus as well as some who have not yet decided to follow Him. Now, let's read about the promise Jesus makes to those who want to be closer to Him. Read Revelation 3:20-22.



Jesus stands at the door and knocks

THE WAY

What do you think Jesus meant when He warned the church about being lukewarm in their deeds? (Children respond.) **To be lukewarm in our deeds means we are not excited or interested in serving the Lord. Jesus wants us to be strong in our actions and work hard for His kingdom instead of being lukewarm – believing, but not really caring.**

Jesus loves us so much that instead of being angry with us for our sins, He warns us to change our ways. He promises a reward in heaven to those who overcome our temptations and stay faithful to Him. In each of the seven letters, He promised rewards such as the crown of life, the white stone with a new secret name, and the morning star. He mentions the right to rule over nations, to eat from the tree of life, to walk with God in white robes, or to sit with God on His throne. Which one of these rewards would you enjoy most? (Children respond.)

Remove scroll from the mailbag and read it aloud. **What did Jesus promise to do if we open the door when He knocks?** (He will come in.) **He waits for us to invite Him into our hearts. That means choosing to believe in Jesus and to live His way every day instead of choosing to live our own way. If you have never invited Jesus to come into your heart, you can pray a special prayer to do that now. If you are not ready to pray that prayer, know that Jesus is always standing and knocking at the door. When you are ready, you can invite Him to come into your heart.** If a child expresses a desire to pray, lead him or her in the ABC prayer located in The Worship. Remove the ABC Prayer postcards and Children's Guides for New Believers from the mailbag. Give a postcard to any child who has prayed the prayer in the past, or would like to think about praying it in the future. Give a Children's Guide for New Believers from the mailbag to any child who prayed the ABC prayer today.

Anyone who prays a prayer like that then has the Holy Spirit in his or her heart forever. But, sometimes believers focus on other things and forget to put Jesus first. When that happens, remember He is still standing and knocking at the door of your heart. Even after we belong to Him, it is important to keep inviting Him to lead us in every choice we make, forgive us, and bring us closer to Him. Let's take 60 seconds of silence to do that now. If you don't want to pray, spend this quiet time thinking about God's love for you. Children pray silently.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

One thousand years before Jesus said He will come in, David knew the Lord would stand at the door to our hearts. Check it out.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 24:9-10. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Psalm 24:9-10.

Remember, Jesus is always with us. He is always ready to come into our hearts and our lives and bring us even closer to Him. Even after we have decided to follow Jesus and believe in Him, He continues to knock at the door of our hearts to be closer with us every day.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard with a stamp (or sticker) of a church to remind you that Jesus gave John seven letters to send to seven churches. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way. **Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.**

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 30 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "New Testament Overture," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: LOUD CRUNCHERS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack reminding them to listen to Jesus and follow His Word.

Supplies: Crunchy snack

Jesus had a message for each of the seven churches. Which letter did we read today? (The letter to the church in Laodicea.) Jesus has a message for each one of us, too! God's Word, including the letters to the seven churches, is for each one of us to know how to follow Jesus and do things God's way.

We read a special message from Jesus today in Revelation 3:20. He says He knocks at the door of our hearts and that anyone who lets Him in will be close with Him forever! When Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts, He isn't knocking at a real door; He is inviting us to let Him come into our lives. Just as Jesus wanted each of the seven churches to listen closely to His messages, He wants us to listen closely, too.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. **Let's eat a loud snack. Listen to how loud it is when everyone crunches their snack together! Who can crunch the loudest? Now let's see how quietly we can crunch as we listen carefully to each person answer today's question.**
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If Jesus knocked on the door to this room, what do you think He would say to you?"**

GAME: WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

Purpose: Play a listening game to reinforce that we are to listen to the teachings of the Spirit.

Supplies: Bag or box, seven different objects that will make a distinct noise when dropped (e.g., coin, rubber ball, pin, book, bell, rock, or pencil)

Prepare: Place the seven objects in the bag or box so children cannot see them.

Today, we learned the apostle John wrote down what Jesus told him in letters to seven different churches. Each letter had an encouragement or warning and a promised reward. Each of the letters also ended the same way, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Jesus wants everyone to listen closely to His messages. Let's see if we can use our ears to figure out the seven different objects in this bag (or box).

Directions:

1. Instruct children to close their eyes and listen carefully.
2. Remove one object from the bag and drop it a few times on a hard surface.
3. Put the object back in the bag.
4. Allow children to guess what the object is. Provide clues, if necessary.
5. When children have guessed the object, remove it from the bag.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 with each object.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—LETTERS TO CHURCHES

Purpose: For children to write letters to another church just as the apostle John did.

Supplies: Paper, large envelope, pens or pencils, crayons or markers, glue or tape, assorted craft supplies

Prepare: Choose the church where you will send the letters. Where children can see to copy, write: **“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.” Revelation 3:20a.** Pre-print the Bible verse onto the paper for non-readers.

Options: Get the names of specific children at the church who will receive the letters. Give each child the name of a child to get their letter. On the back of the letter, allow children to write something about themselves. Encourage the children receiving the letters to write back.

Today, we learned Jesus gave John a message for each of the seven churches. John wrote down the messages in letters.

Let’s be like John and write letters to the children at another church. We can tell them the message we read today that Jesus gave in John’s letter to the church at Laodicea. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the children. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Write “Dear friend,” at the top of the letter.
2. Write the Bible verse as the body of the letter and what you learned about it.
3. Sign your letter with your first name.
4. At the bottom of the letter, draw a picture of Jesus knocking at a door.
5. Use craft supplies to decorate the letter.
6. Place all the letters in the large envelope.
7. Deliver the gift!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“The New Testament Overture”

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and the books of the New Testament sung to the tune of “The William Tell Overture” by Gioachino Rossini. Sheet music and recordings available at ResourceWell.org.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path! (2x.)

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.

Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thesalonians,

First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.

Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Children learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, “The New Testament Overture,” Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play “The New Testament Overture” two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the children to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the children, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

GAME: NEXT BOOK

Purpose: Children learn the New Testament books in order.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song “The New Testament Overture”

The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let’s learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?

Directions:

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have children sing along as they learn the words.
2. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
3. Children call out the name of the book that comes next. Refer to the poster, if necessary.
4. Play again, as time permits. As children learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one child to respond each time you stop the song.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: LIGHT MY PATH

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," flashlights

Directions:

1. Children choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough so the other child can walk in it.
4. **How did you know where your partner wanted you to go?** (By following the lighted path.) **Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." When we read God's Word, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.**

GAME: PASS THE WORD!

Purpose: Children learn the New Testament books in order.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," Bible

Teacher Tip: For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag. If you have a large class, divide them into two circles or pass two Bibles around the circle.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song as the children quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song at some point during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. When the song stops, the child holding the Bible opens it and finds the last New Testament book sung in the song.
5. Play again, as time permits. Encourage children to cheer for each other.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Weakness (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) When God does amazing things though us even though we have weaknesses, others can see how great He is. His light shines through us especially in our weaknesses. How would you explain that in your own words? (Children respond.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Strength (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.)

The Bible says that God has given us invisible armor that protects us from believing Satan's lies. Who remembers a part of the armor of God? (Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, Sword of the Spirit)

New Testament Letters: Letters to the Seven Churches (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Jesus told John to write letters to seven churches. He told John exactly what to write down. What did Jesus say to the church in Laodicea? (He said they were lukewarm in their faith. He stands at the door of their hearts and knocks. He will come in to the heart of anyone who invites Him.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper or use small envelopes.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the scrolls.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return