



# A Letter About Heaven

Lesson Aim: To know what heaven will be like.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Shows Us

## THE WORD

**New Testament Letters:** Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23

**What He Has Done:** Jesus gave John a vision of what heaven looks like.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "I will see God."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	A Letter About Weakness, 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5	God revealed to Paul that He shows His power through our weakness.	To know we are weak, but God is strong.
29	A Letter About Strength, Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	God showed Paul how He strengthens us.	To learn about the armor of God that helps us to be strong in the Lord.
30	A Letter About Jesus' Return, Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12	God revealed to John that Jesus is coming back.	To know Jesus is coming back.
31	A Letter About Heaven, Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23	Jesus showed John a vision of what heaven looks like.	To know what heaven will be like.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 11. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for revealing a glimpse of heaven to us. Impress this picture of heaven on the hearts of the children and develop in them a special longing for their true home with You. Amen."

**Teacher Tips:** Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Mailbox</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a jewel or adhesive craft jewel
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "I will see God."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Not by Might" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The New Testament Overture" (Ages 6-12 BMVS) "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Jesus Loves Me"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 31
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Special Delivery:</b> Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, craft jewel
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Heaven's Gates	Standard-size sheet of sturdy paper, shiny white paper, craft decorations (craft jewels, white glitter, etc.), tape or glue, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> I Spy	None
		<b>Game:</b> No Tears, Just Joy!	Facial tissues or handkerchiefs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"
		<b>Snack:</b> Sweet Jewels from Heaven	Any jewel-colored candy (jellybeans, Skittles, M&M's, etc.)
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 31 Color This Story: "A Letter About Heaven"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> More Letter Games	Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Bible Books Dance	"The New Testament Overture" song
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Down From Heaven	Sturdy box or step (no more than one foot high)
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Through The Clouds	White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"
	Up to 15	<b>Activity:</b> Heaven on Earth	Large, sturdy sheets of paper in white and bright colors, gold cloth or roll of gold paper, chair
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about heaven

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I will see God

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child unlocks the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a jewel or an adhesive craft jewel. **Let this beautiful jewel help you remember what heaven will look like. Today's Whisper Verse is "I will see God."** Teach the 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: "I will see God."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>"I"</b>        | Point to self.  |
| <b>"will see"</b> | Make a letter "V" shape with the index and middle finger of the right hand. Place the "V" shape in front of both eyes and move hand forward away from face. |
| <b>"God."</b>     | The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.   |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has 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:** "I will see God," Job 19:26a. 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 Bible story.



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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who shows us what heaven will be like. Last time, we learned Jesus will come back with the clouds one day to take us to heaven to be with Him forever. Today, we are learning that God gave John a vision of what heaven looks like. John wrote down everything he saw in that vision. He saw a beautiful, perfect place where we will all see God. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's say it and sign it together.** Review the Whisper Verse together: “I will see God.” Include sign language.



**In heaven, we will see God and we will feel His love. Let's sing as we show God our love by singing and giving our offering to help His church.** Sing: “Jesus Loves Me” or “We Love” while collecting the offering.

**Heaven is a place filled with God's goodness. Imagine what heaven will be like as we sing about it now.** Sing: “Behold, I Am Coming Soon.”



**Let's see if Posty has any letters for us today.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 31.



**The best part of heaven will be seeing God and being with Him. He is with us now in our hearts, but in heaven, we will be with Him face to face! Let's celebrate! Sing:** “Let Everything That Has Breath.”



John sees heaven

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

With my eyes on my teacher;  
My mouth quiet as can be,  
I will listen to hear,  
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.  
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.  
Cup hand around ear.  
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

In the Bible, there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned Jesus is coming back through the clouds. In today's letter, we will hear an amazing story about what heaven will be like. God showed John a vision of heaven and John wrote down what he saw in a letter!

### **SPECIAL DELIVERY: REVELATION 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23**

**Prepare:** Today's New Testament letter is available at [ResourceWell.org](http://ResourceWell.org) or create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible and a craft jewel in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag).

**Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to find this week's letter.** Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to you.



Dear family of God,

When God showed me what the future would be like, I saw a new heaven and a new earth. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Now God makes His home with 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 or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain."

The city was made out of pure gold. The city walls were decorated with every kind of jewel. The 12 gates were made from 12 pearls. The main street of the city was made out of pure gold. The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it. God's glory is its light.

Love,  
John

**Will anyone be sad in heaven? (No.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible.** Read the answer from today's letter. **Who will we see in heaven? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us. Let's say it together: "I will see God."** Include sign language or hand motions. **Our symbol for this letter is a jewel.** Invite a child to reach into the mailbag to find today's symbol (craft jewel). **This jewel reminds us that heaven has sparkling jewels and streets of gold.**

**PASS THE JEWEL:** Ask the question below and give the jewel to a child who has raised his or her hand. The child gives his or her answer and then gives the jewel to another child whose hand is raised.

- **What do you think will be the best thing about heaven?**



Heaven is perfect

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: HEAVEN'S GATES**

**Purpose:** To help children remember how John described heaven in Revelation.

**Supplies:** Standard-size sheet of sturdy paper, shiny white paper, craft decorations (craft jewels, white glitter, etc.), tape or glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On a sheet of sturdy paper, print or draw a picture of heaven. At the top of the page, print: **"John tells us about heaven." Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23.** From sturdy paper, draw and cut out two gate pieces (left and right) which are large enough to cover most of the picture of heaven.

#### **Directions:**

1. Decorate the gates with shiny white paper and white craft decorations.
2. Tape the outside edges of the gates to the picture of heaven so the gates can be opened in the middle to show the picture.
3. Open the gates and color the picture of heaven.
4. Attach craft jewels to the walls of heaven.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **God showed John what heaven looks like.**
- **Look at your picture of heaven. What does the Bible say heaven looks like?** (It is made of pearl gates, gold streets, and jeweled walls.)
- **Open the gates on your craft. The Bible says the gates of heaven are made with shiny, white pearls.**
- **We can read what John wrote about heaven in the Bible, but we don't know everything about heaven. We won't know everything until we get there. What do you think your favorite thing about heaven will be?** (Children respond.)
- **We do know we will see God in heaven. That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: I SPY**

**Purpose:** Children play "I Spy" to remember we will all see Jesus when He returns.

**Supplies:** None

One day, Jesus will come back with the clouds to take us to heaven to be with Him forever. Every person in the world will see Him no matter where they are or what they are doing. We will see many amazing things in heaven. Let's play "I Spy" and see what amazing things we can find here on earth.

### **Directions:**

1. Choose an object in the room without revealing it to the children.
2. Say, **"I spy with my little eye, something that is name the color of the object."**
3. Have children take turns guessing which object you chose.
4. Play again, this time allowing one of the children to choose an object for the other children to guess.
5. Play as many times as you like.

## **GAME: NO TEARS, JUST JOY!**

**Purpose:** Children will celebrate the joy of heaven.

**Supplies:** Facial tissues or handkerchiefs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

**Our Whisper Verse tells us who we will see in heaven. Let's say it together!** Say and sign Whisper Verse, "I will see God." **God fills heaven with good things.**

### **Directions:**

1. Give each child take a tissue or handkerchief.
2. **There will be no crying in heaven because there will be no sadness! I am going to ask you some questions about what we will see in heaven. When you answer the question with a "No," I want you to stand still. When you answer the question with a "Yes," jump up and wave your tissues (handkerchiefs) in the air.**
  - **Will we be sad in heaven?** (No!)
  - **Will we see a city made of gold?** (Yes!)
  - **Will we cry in heaven?** (No!)
  - **Will we see walls decorated with jewels?** (Yes!)
  - **Will we feel hurts in heaven?** (No!)
  - **Will we see God?** (Yes!)
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as children march around the room and wave their tissues (or handkerchiefs).

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: SWEET JEWELS FROM HEAVEN**

**Purpose:** Children will eat candy “jewels” as they discuss the nature of heaven.

**Snack Suggestion:** Any jewel-colored candy (jellybeans, Skittles, M&M’s, etc.)

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. **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.
  - **Your snack reminds me of the beautiful jewels that cover the walls in heaven!**
  - **Who will you see in heaven?** (God.) **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: “I will see God.”
  - **What else do you think you will see in heaven?** (Children respond.)
  - **Will anyone be sad or feel hurt in heaven?** (No.)
  - **God fills heaven with only good things!**



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

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.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your “Heaven Gates” craft. Tell someone what the Bible says heaven looks like.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Tell them there will be no more sadness or hurt in heaven. Tell them you will see God in heaven one day!**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** “A Letter About Heaven.” Discuss John’s vision of heaven and play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Behold, I Am Coming Soon,” as the children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **GAME: MORE LETTER GAMES**

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

**Supplies:** Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture"

**Directions:**

1. To create a fun atmosphere, play the Bible Memory Verse Song, or "The New Testament Overture" during the game.
2. Divide children into two groups.
3. Groups stand at opposite ends of the play area in a line.
4. Give the letter to the first child in one of the groups.
5. Before the child starts his or her delivery, call out the method by which he or she must deliver the letter. For example, he or she might hop, crawl, walk backwards, skip, dance, fly like an airplane, ride a motorcycle, or gallop like a horse.
6. On your signal, the child delivers the letter to the first child in the second group.
7. Call out a new method of delivery. The child with the letter then returns the letter to the next child in the first group.
8. Continue until each child has a turn delivering the letter.

**Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the disciples. Isn't it wonderful to know that same letter was delivered to us through the Bible?** (Children respond.)

### **GAME: BIBLE BOOKS DANCE**

**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:** "The New Testament Overture" song

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. **Let's see if we can listen closely to hear the names of the New Testament books of the Bible in this song while we move and dance. When you hear the book of name a New Testament book in the song, sit down as fast as you can.**
2. Play "The New Testament Overture."
3. Children dance until they hear the name of the book you said.
4. Children sit.
5. Play as many times as you like, calling out a different book each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: DOWN FROM HEAVEN**

**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)

**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. Play multiple times, having the children say the Bible Memory Verse different ways as they jump. (For example: shout, sing, whisper, etc.)

## **GAME: THROUGH THE CLOUDS**

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

**Supplies:** White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

**Prepare:** Inflate balloons with air.

**Teacher Tip:** For large groups of children, divide into smaller groups and give each group a balloon.

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

### **Directions:**

1. Play or sing the Unit 6 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 a second balloon.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **ACTIVITY: HEAVEN ON EARTH**

**Purpose:** Children will make a model of heaven using the description in Revelation.

**Supplies:** Large, sturdy sheets of paper in white and bright colors, gold cloth or roll of gold paper, chair

**Prepare:** Cut the white paper in 12 large circles for the 12 pearls gates. Cut several other large jewel shapes from colored paper. Cut gold cloth or paper so it can be rolled out as a path or street. Cut another piece of gold cloth or paper to cover the chair. Designate an area of your room to be made into heaven. Walls can be made from chairs or tables laid on their sides.

**Let's make a model of heaven. Listen carefully to the words John wrote about what heaven looks like: "The city was made of pure gold. The city walls were decorated with every kind of jewel. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. The main street of the city was made of pure gold. The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it. God's glory is its light."**

### **Directions:**

1. **What decorates the city walls of heaven?** (Jewels.) Children help you lean or hang the jewels against the walls.
2. **What are the gates of heaven made from?** (Pearls.) **There are twelve pearl gates in heaven. Can you count to twelve with me?** Hold up each pearl as you count together. Children help you display the pearls.
3. **What is heaven's main street made of?** (Gold.) Children help you lay out the gold cloth or paper to make a street.
4. **Who has a throne in heaven?** (God.) Place a chair at the end of the street for God's throne. Children help you cover it with gold cloth or paper.



## **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 heaven.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 6, Lesson 31: A Letter About Heaven

**PONDER!** Read Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23 with your family. The angel showed John what heaven looks like. We can read about what he saw in the book of Revelation. What does the Bible say heaven will look like? Who will you see in heaven? Remember, in heaven there is no sadness or hurt. God fills heaven with good things!

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for making heaven a beautiful place where we can be with You forever. We are excited to see You face to face just as the Bible says we will! Amen."

**PLAY!** Cheer up a friend or family member by giving them a picture of the things they will see in heaven. Draw or glue on items that remind you of heaven. Attach cotton for clouds and small pieces of white paper for pearls. Draw jewels on the walls and color the streets gold.

### **Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse:**

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