

Teacher's Guide: Ages 8-9 Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation

Unit 6, Lesson 31

Letters About Jesus' Return

Lesson Aim: To know what will happen when Jesus returns.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20

What He Has Done: God gave John a vision of heaven and what it will be like

when Jesus comes back to earth. **Key Verse:** Revelation 22:20

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Daniel 7:13-14

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 4:6-9, 16-18; 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 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 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.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
WELCOME		Game: Horse Race	Floor tape or chalk
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"
		Worship Scripture Reading:	Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Here I Am to Worship" "Awesome God" Bible
		Revelation 4:1-8	
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 31 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, highlighters, bookmarks with "I am Coming Soon" Revelation 22:20 printed on a picture of clouds
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word Christ Connection: Daniel 7:13-14	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards, cloud 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: Heaven's Snack	Any favorite snack
	Up to 10	Game: No More Tissues!	Facial tissues or toilet tissue, trash can
	Up to 15	Craft: Care Package—Heavenly Cookies	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	Activity: The River of Life	Bible, paper banner or large poster paper, paint and paint brushes or markers
	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.



To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question. **Meet & Greet Question: What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?**

GAME: HORSE RACE

Purpose: Children will participate in a pretend horse race as they learn about Jesus' return.

Supplies: Floor tape or chalk

Prepare: Tape or use chalk to draw a circular racetrack with four lanes on the floor. Mark a start line on

the racetrack.

Teacher Tip: Small groups can play with two teams.

Directions:

- 1. Divide children into four equal teams.
- 2. Teach children how to make galloping noises by clapping their hands and slapping their palms on their thighs.
- 3. Have teams line up at the start line, one team in each lane.
- 4. On your signal, the first child on each team "rides his or her horse" by making the galloping noise as they skip around the track.
- 5. When a child gets to the end of his or her team's line, he or she taps the hand of the child at the end of the line, that child taps the hand of the next child, and so on, until the child at the front of the line has his or her hand tapped.
- 6. The child at the front of the line then "rides his or her horse" by making the galloping noise as they skip around the track and repeats step 5. Continue until each child has a turn.
- 7. The first team to have every child complete the relay, wins.
- 8. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

Jesus promised to return to earth with the clouds, riding on a white horse. The book of Revelation says the armies of heaven will follow Him. They will be riding on white horses, too. Last time we met, we started reading Revelation, the letter John wrote about the vision Jesus gave him. Let's keep reading Revelation and find out why Jesus will come on a white horse.

Limited Space? Time teams as they play one at a time. The team sits in a circle. Children pass a picture of a horse or a toy horse around the circle as fast as they can while they are clapping their hands and slapping their thighs to create a galloping sound. For small teams, have them pass the picture around the circle two or three times. The team to complete the challenge in the fastest time wins.



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 when Jesus comes one day with the clouds. He will come to judge the world and make all things right in God's eyes. He will take all believers up to heaven to live with Him forever. Sing: "At the Name of Jesus."



When Jesus takes us to heaven, we will see God on His throne. Jesus gave John a vision of God's throne. As I read John's description of God's throne, imagine what it will be like to see it with your own eyes one day! Read Revelation 4:1-8.



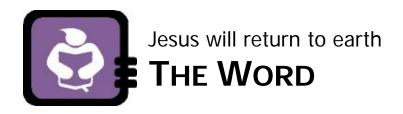
On the day Jesus comes back with the clouds, He will lift His followers up to heaven. We will stand around His throne and praise Him! Sing: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" while collecting the offering.

Sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The New Testament Overture."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as King.



Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 31.



Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: Place the teacher's Bible, highlighters, and bookmarks with "I am Coming Soon" Revelation 22:20 printed on a picture of clouds 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 the letters to the seven churches. We learned Jesus always stands and knocks at the door to our hearts where we can invite Him into our hearts to be Lord of each day of our lives.

Today, we will learn about John's vision of Jesus coming back to take us to heaven. To reveal means to show something or to make something known. God revealed to John what it will be like when Jesus comes back to earth and what heaven looks like. That is why the last book of the Bible is called the book of Revelation. In John's vision, he described what everyone will see in the future when Jesus comes back to earth.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. 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 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20. We will begin with Revelation 22:20. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go! Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. Let's highlight our Key Verse: Revelation 22:20.

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.

John describes Jesus as a rider on a white horse. The rider is called Faithful and True. We call Him Jesus. As I read Revelation 19:11-16, close your eyes and try to picture what Jesus will look like when He returns on His white horse. Read Revelation 19:11-16.

Jesus will come to judge the world and make everything right. He will gather all believers and lift them up to heaven. Listen now as we read about what believers will see there. Read Revelation 21:1-4.

Now, let's read Jesus' last words in the Bible. Read Revelation 22:20.



In the book of Revelation, Jesus gives John a vision of what will happen in the future. Who is the rider on the white horse that is called Faithful and True? (Jesus.) Imagine what it will be like to see Jesus coming with the clouds, riding on the white horse with all of heaven's armies behind Him! What is your favorite part about the description of the rider on the white horse listed in Revelation 19:12-16? (Children respond.)

What did Jesus say that He is coming to do? (Children respond.) Jesus is coming to judge the earth, to make war against evil, and to take believers to heaven. Right now, many things happen that are not fair and many evildoers go unpunished for hurting others. When Jesus comes, He will fairly judge everyone with perfect justice, including the evildoers. He will rule the world and be the best King of all kings. What are you most looking forward to about Jesus' return? (Children respond.)

The hard times we have here on earth will not be in heaven. What does John say that we will not see in heaven? (There will be no death, no mourning or crying or pain.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 600 years before John's vision of Jesus coming with the clouds on a white horse, God gave the prophet Daniel the same kind of vision. Both called Jesus "the Son of Man." Daniel called God the Father "the Ancient of Days." Listen to what Jesus will do when He comes back to earth.



<u>FIND IT FIRST></u> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Daniel 7:13-14. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Daniel 7:13-14.

When Jesus returns, He will gather all believers and take us to heaven. It will be a perfect place where everything is right and fair and good. What do you think your favorite thing about heaven will be? (Children respond.)

We just finished learning about the last book in the Bible! What did Jesus promise on the last page of the Bible? (Jesus said, "I am coming soon.") Remove bookmarks from mailbag and distribute. Whenever you look at the clouds on this bookmark and read the final words from Jesus, remember His last promise to you. No one knows the exact time Jesus will come because God's timing is not our timing. We do know the day will mark the beginning of a whole new story—one where believers live forever in heaven with Jesus. Until that day, we are to point others to Jesus, so they might believe in Him and one day go with Him and all believers to heaven.

THE WAY continued...



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 cloud to remind you that Jesus will come back for us one day. 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.

<u>DAILY WAY CHALLENGE</u>: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 31 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.

<u>OFFERING OF ART</u>: 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.



SNACK: HEAVEN'S SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing their thoughts about heaven.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack

God gave John a vision of heaven. He wrote down many details about what he saw, but we won't know everything about heaven until we get there! We do know that God has filled heaven with only good things and there is no sadness or pain. Let's have a snack and imagine what else might be in heaven.

Directions:

- 1. Serve the snack and drink.
- 2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
- 3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: "What do you hope to see in heaven?"

GAME: NO MORE TISSUES!

Purpose: Children will consider the promise of no sadness in heaven.

Supplies: Facial tissues or toilet tissue, trash can

Prepare: Place the trash can in the center of the play area.

Teacher Tips: Have a team competition! Divide children into teams. Each team gets the same number of facial tissues. Teams race to blow tissues into their trash can

What are some things that make you sad? (Children respond.) When people are sad or upset, they may use a tissue or cloth to dry their tears. Will we need to dry our tears in heaven? (No.) Why not? (God will dry our tears. There will be no sadness, pain, or hard times in heaven.) Let's throw away tissues to celebrate the fact that we will not need them in heaven!

- 1. Children stand in a circle around the trash can.
- 2. Each child takes a facial tissue or piece of toilet paper.
- 3. Children place a tissue or paper on their faces and then blow upwards. Without using their hands, children continue blowing to move the tissues through the air and into the trash can.
- 4. As time allows, play again, challenging children with variations, such as starting further away, making it a race, or working in pairs.

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—HEAVENLY COOKIES

Purpose: Children create a gift to help others look forward to life forever in heaven.

Supplies: Large cookies, icing, edible decorations (jellybeans, sprinkles, candy-covered chocolate pieces, writing gel, etc.), plastic knives, small boxes or small paper bags, sturdy paper, crayons or markers, ribbon, scissors

Prepare: Choose a person or group of people who will receive the care package. Where children can see to copy, write:

Dear name of recipient or group,

As you enjoy this beautiful treat we made for you, read how beautiful heaven will be in Revelation 21:1-4. God made heaven special for you!

Your Friend,

Child signs his or her first name

Teacher Tips: You may wish to decorate cupcakes or another favorite treat. You may also choose to give each child a cookie to give and a cookie to eat. If possible, take children with you to deliver the care package or take a picture to share with the children. For younger children or if your time is limited, print the message on a card (inside of a folded sheet of paper).

Today, we learned God gave John a vision of Jesus coming back to earth through the clouds riding on a white horse with all the armies of heaven riding horses behind Him. What will Jesus do when He returns? (Make everything fair and take us to heaven.) John also saw what heaven will be like. It will be a beautiful place with no sadness or pain.

We have been caring for others by making and delivering care packages to them. Today, we will make one more care package. Let's decorate cookies as a beautiful treat to remind others that heaven will be a beautiful place with no sadness and only good things. 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.

- 1. Children frost and decorate a cookie.
- 2. Children place their cookies in a small box or paper bag and tie a ribbon around it.
- 3. Children fold a piece of sturdy paper in half to make a card. Copy the message onto the paper, decorate, and sign.
- 4. Deliver the gift!

ACTIVITY: THE RIVER OF LIFE

Purpose: Children learn more details of John's vision as they illustrate it together. **Supplies:** Bible, paper banner or large poster paper, paint and paint brushes or markers

John saw many details of heaven in his vision, including the throne and the Rider on the white horse, Jesus. Close your eyes and picture this scene in heaven as I read Revelation 22:1-5. Read.

Let's each draw a part of John's vision and hang the banner in a place that will help others worship. Assign children to join specific groups that draw or paint the details in the vision. As the children create, discuss and choose a person or ministry that would most enjoy this collaborative work of art. Give it away upon completion.

Include the following items in the drawing:

- Throne of God and the Lamb
- The river of life with crystal clear water
- Tree of life by the river, with fruit and leaves
 - Servants serving God at the throne



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 Thessalonians,

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.

- 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.

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.

- 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.



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 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.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Jesus' Return (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) The Bible promises that Jesus will return one day to take all believers up to heaven to live with Him forever. Jesus gave John a vision about His return, and John wrote it down for us. What do you think will be the best thing about Jesus' return to earth? (Children respond.)

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.

<u>New Testament Letters</u>: 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