



Teacher's Guide: Adaptation for Children with Disabilities
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 6, Lesson 31

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

Challenge Verse for older children:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Optional: Memorize the names of the books of the New Testament.

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	A Letter About Strength—Part 1, Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	God showed Paul how He strengthens us.	To know we are weak and need the invisible armor of God.
29	A Letter About Strength—Part 2, 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 various 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	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Mailbox	Stamp or sticker of a jewel or adhesive craft jewel
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "I will see God."
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: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At The Name Of Jesus," "He Is Mighty to Save," "I Can Do Everything," "Not by Might," "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," "Praise Time!" "Let Everything That Has Breath" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 31 Delbert & Lello or Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Special Delivery: Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, craft jewel Flannel board/figures: Jesus, 2 adults, 2 children Clay or play-dough option: Large jewel
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: 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
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Sweet Jewels from Heaven	Any jewel-colored candy (jellybeans, Skittles, M&M's, etc.)
		Unit 6 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, cross, white pompom or cotton ball, laminated picture of a sword or shield, candle or penlight, craft jewel
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon
		Bible Books Dance	"The New Testament Overture" song, CD player
		Scenes from Mail Call (older children only)	Mail Call scripts for Lessons 29, 30, 31
		Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Bean Bag Toss	Several beanbags, hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)
		Bible Memory Verse Bubbles	Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture," CD player
	Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 6, Lesson 31 Color This Story: "A Letter About Heaven"

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I will see God

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today.** Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. **Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.**

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.)

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| "I" | Point to self. |
| "will see" | 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. |
| "God." | 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children’s percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.

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” 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.”

* May substitute Lesson 31 Mail Call script or storybook.



John sees heaven

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

In the Bible, there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. God showed John a vision of heaven. 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 or you can 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). Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a large jewel from clay or play dough as they listen to the story.

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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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 snacks and drinks.
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!**

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 6 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > **GAMES** > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the New Testament Letters or the Unit 6 Worship Attribute: The Spirit Who Shows Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, cross, white pompom or cotton ball, laminated picture of a sword or shield, candle or penlight, craft jewel

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 6 New Testament Letters. The candle or penlight reminds us of God's Word as the light that leads us (Bible Memory Verse Challenge). The picture of the shield or sword reminds us that God gives us truth, faith, and His Word to protect us just as armor protects a soldier. The cross reminds us that Jesus forgives us and will one day come back to take all who believe to live with Him in heaven. The white pompom or cotton ball reminds us of the clouds Jesus will come through when He returns to earth. The jewel reminds us that the city walls of heaven are decorated with beautiful jewels.

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story, or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say "Thumbs up or thumbs down."
2. If retelling the Bible story, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, "**The armor of God can be bought at the grocery store. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs down.) "**The armor of God is invisible. It is a way to describe how God protects us.**" (Children respond with thumbs up.)
3. If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "**Behold, we are coming soon. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs down.) "**Behold, I am coming soon. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs up.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon

Optional: For a more challenging game, list the books of the New Testament or the Unit 6 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Psalm 119:105). Phrases may be divided as follows: "Your word/ is a lamp/ to my feet/ and a light/ for my path."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball into the air. When the ball lands on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Revelation 22:12): "Behold/ I am/ coming soon."

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place an inflatable ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball into the air.
4. When the ball lands back on the blanket, lead children in saying a word or a phrase ("Behold/ I am / coming soon") of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play several times.

GAME: BIBLE BOOKS DANCE

Purpose: To familiarize children with the names of the New Testament books.

Supplies: "The New Testament Overture" song, CD player

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.
4. When the children hear the name of the book you called, they sit.
5. Play as many times as you like, calling out a different book each time.

GAME: SCENES FROM MAIL CALL

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 6 Bible stories, older children act out today's Mail Call script.

Supplies: Mail Call scripts for Lessons 29, 30, 31

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's New Testament Letter.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: 1 chair per child, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: BEAN BAG TOSS

Purpose: To help children review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)

Prepare: Use hula-hoop, rope, or floor tape to create a large target area on the floor.

Directions:

1. Give a beanbag to the first child.
2. Stand with the child approximately 6 feet from the target.
3. Before tossing the beanbag, the child says part of the Bible Memory Verse. (The teacher may say it with the child, as needed.)
4. Child tosses the beanbag at the target.
5. Children take turns to see who can reach the target.
6. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BUBBLES

Purpose: Children blow bubbles as they listen and sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture," CD player

As we sing our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's take turns blowing bubbles. If you are seated, you may pop or blow the bubbles that float toward you.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. As the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children sing along.
3. Teacher dips the wand in the bubbles and offers each child a turn at blowing on the wand.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Heaven's Gates" craft. Tell someone about what the Bible says heaven looks like.

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way to your family. Tell them there will be no more sadness or hurt in heaven. Tell them you will see God there one day!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "A Letter About Heaven." For today's Color This Story, use a picture of the city of God in heaven. Discuss John's vision of heaven and play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

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. Who will you see in heaven? What does the Bible say heaven will look like? 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 things they will see in heaven. Draw or glue items that remind you of heaven onto a piece of sturdy paper. Attach cotton for clouds and small pieces of white paper for pearls. Color jewels on the walls and color the streets gold.

Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse:

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

Unit 6 Bible Memory Challenge Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Optional: Memorize the names of the books of the New Testament.