


the
Jesus 
Storybook
Bible
Curriculum

A dream of heaven

John sees into the future, from Revelation 1, 5, 21, 22

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

Copyright © 2011 by Sally Lloyd-Jones (text) and Jago (illustrations). All rights reserved. The original purchaser of this product shall have the right to make unlimited paper copies to facilitate the use of this curriculum by the original purchaser, provided such copies are not resold or distributed to the general public. Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” were written and developed from material by Timothy Keller and Redeemer Presbyterian Church and are used by special permission.

Some of the activity ideas in the curriculum were contributed by Juliet Lloyd-Jones and are used by special permission.

All Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, *New International Version*®, *NIV*®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we said that if you meet and follow Jesus, you will always change. God will send his Holy Spirit to help you obey and tell others about Jesus. We also memorized a great verse to tell others about Jesus.”

- ☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “John 3:16 — ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’”
- ☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, say: “Today we are going to read our last story from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. Before we do that, let’s remember the stories from the New Testament so far.”

Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

Aim: To expend energy and recap the New Testament stories.

Materials: *The Jesus Storybook Bible*; a stopwatch or some way of timing 20-second intervals.

1. Announce that you are going to play “Bible Run.”
2. Explain the game: You will call out the title of a story. Anyone who can remember anything about that story — for example, the name of a character, or something that happened — jumps up. You will pick someone to run to the center of the circle and announce what they remember. They run, announce, and sit down again. The next person in the circle who is standing then does the same and so on, until you have either run out of people or 20 seconds has passed.
3. Announce the title of the first story: “Our first story was titled, ‘He’s here!’”

4. Say: “Jump up if you can remember anything about the story.”
5. Play the game. Try to make sure that the main characters and the main point of the story emerge. Have prompts ready for when the children’s memories fail. You may also like to show them a picture from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* to help them remember.
6. At the end of 20 seconds (or if no one can think of anything else), say “Next.” Ask everyone to sit down and move on to the next story.
7. At the end of the activity, say: “Our last story comes from the very last book of the Bible. A book called Revelation. Are you ready?”

For larger groups: You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher, so that the children can take turns more often.

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 342–350 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD3 track 15.

Notes for Teachers on the Text

In Revelation 21 and 22, when God describes and depicts the end result, the climax, the apex of his redemption, he shows us a city—the New Jerusalem. When we look at the New Jerusalem, we discover something very strange. In the midst of the city is a crystal river, and on each side of the river is the tree of life, bearing fruit and leaves which heal the nations of all their wounds and the effects of the divine covenant curse (Revelation 22:2–3). This city is the fulfillment of the purposes of the Garden of Eden. We began life in a garden, but will end it in a city.

The new heaven and the new earth mean that this world will be restored, purified, and beautified. It is a new material creation, where everything sad that has ever happened will come untrue. It will be the utter defeat of evil, because all the evil and suffering you have ever experienced, and that the world has ever experienced, will only make the eventual glory and joy greater. It is not just that we are going to be consoled for it or compensated for it. In some way it is going to be brought into that glory and made even greater for it having happened. That is the reason why C. S. Lewis says in *The Great Divorce*: “They say of some temporal suffering, ‘No future bliss can make up for it,’ not knowing that heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.”

We read in Revelation 21:1–5: “Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’”

That is our future.

Understanding the Story

15 min. 

Aim: To understand that Jesus will return one day to make everything new.

Materials: 10 index cards – each card has the question number and one question written/printed on it (see below); a microphone (this can be made out of paper, though if you can get a real microphone children enjoy using it); a name tag with John written on it; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: “To be continued. This is not the end of the story, because one day Jesus is going to come back and make everything new again. Who wrote the last book of the Bible which describes what things will be like when Jesus returns? Correct, John. Let’s interview John to find out about his book. I have some questions here for John. Who would like to ask John a question?”

2. Hand the children the index cards in order around the circle. Explain that the person with the index card should stand, hold the microphone, and ask John the question on the card. (NOTE: If the children struggle to read the questions, another teacher can ask the questions talk-show host style while holding the microphone, but still involving the children as much as possible. Alternatively, you could print the questions on large cards and another teacher can hold them up one by one; then everyone can ask the questions by reading them aloud together.)

3. Put on the name tag that says John (or ask another teacher to do so). Put a chair in the circle so everyone can see you, and sit down holding the microphone. Announce that you are John; e.g., “Hello, my name is John, but I’m not John the Baptist; I know you met him before. My name is also John, but I am one of Jesus’ 12 disciples. In the beginning I was a fisherman. I was with Jesus in the beginning. But enough about me. I know you have some questions for me. Who has the first question?”

4. Hand the child with index card number 1 the microphone and get them to ask the first question. Take the microphone back to answer the question and then hand it to the child with index card number 2, and so on.

5. Questions for the index cards and answers for John:

NO.	QUESTION FOR INDEX CARD	JOHN’S ANSWER
1	Where do you live?	At the moment I live in a prison, on an island.
2	Why are you in prison?	The Leaders put me in prison to stop me from telling other people about Jesus.
3	Why did you write Revelation?	Jesus gave me a vision of the future and he wanted me to write it down so everyone else would know it too. I wrote down the vision and called the book Revelation because it reveals something. Get it — revelation, reveals ... ?
4	What did you see in this vision?	I saw so many amazing things. Let me tell you about the city I saw. It was beautiful, made of pure gold, with walls of precious stones and gates of pearls. And there was no sun and no moon because the glory of God gives the city light and Jesus the Lamb is its lamp.

NO.	QUESTION FOR INDEX CARD	JOHN'S ANSWER
5	Who will live in this city?	I will, and I can't wait! All God's people will live with God forever in this city. We will all stand in front of the throne of God and in front of Jesus the Lamb and worship. I can't wait!
6	When you say God's people, who do you mean?	Anyone who believes in and follows Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross means that Jesus took our punishment and we can be forgiven all our sin. Jesus' resurrection means that we too one day will be raised from the dead to live with God forever. I think you know a verse about that? Say it with me. "Whoever believes in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life."
7	What happens to people who don't believe in and follow Jesus?	We must pray for people who do not believe in Jesus, because without him they can't be close to God. They will not live with God forever; they will be without God forever. Because they do not believe Jesus took the punishment for their sin, they will be punished for their sin themselves. It is a very sad thing. Let's pray for them now. [Pray aloud here for people to know and love Jesus.] Thank you for praying with me. Who has question number 8?
8	What does your vision of this city and God's people mean?	It means that one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth. This world will be our true, perfect home, like it was in the beginning. Nothing will ever separate us from God again.
9	When will that happen?	When Jesus returns. No one knows when that will be. But he will return and then everything is going to be made new and everything sad is going to come untrue.
10	What do you mean that everything sad will come untrue?	God's people are going to live with him forever. There will be no more tears or loneliness or sickness or pain or death. There will be no more running away and no more sin. There will be no more sin; can you imagine that! Everything will be perfect again. I can't wait! Oh, look at the time. I have to go. Thank you for having me here today and don't forget that one day everything will be perfect again. Bye!

6. Get everyone to say thank-you and good-bye to John.

7. Put away the index cards and give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: "On your paper you can see a picture of the island where John was in prison. But John had a vision of a very different place. He had a vision of a perfect world. This world had no more ...? Go around the square, starting with the arrow, and fill out the letters in order in the blank spaces."

8. Give them a minute to do this and then ask one child and then the entire group together to read the words aloud. You may also want to write the answers on a blackboard to help those who are struggling.

For larger groups: You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher, a microphone, and a set of index cards. This will mean that everyone gets a chance to ask a question and the teacher can check understanding as they play John.

Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: "One day, when Jesus returns, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Everything is going to be made new and everything sad is going to come untrue. This world will be our true, perfect home, like it was in the beginning."

Say: "There will be no more tears or loneliness or sickness or pain or death. There will be no more running away and no more sin. God's people will live with God forever. Nothing will ever separate us from God again."

Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: "What did we discover about Jesus from today's story?"

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God that one day there will be no more tears or loneliness or sickness or pain or death or sin. Thank God that his people will one day live with him forever in the new heaven and the new earth.

Ask the children to pray, thanking God that his people will one day live with him forever. Ask them to use the verse they memorized (John 3:16) to do this.

To Be Continued ...

☉ Say: "There isn't a verse for next time because that was our last story. But there is a new verse on your paper anyway because it is such a good verse to help us remember what we learned in this last story. It is Revelation 21:3-4 — 'God will be with his people. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.'"

☉ Announce when you will next meet and what you will be talking about and reading together.

☉ If it is possible to have some sort of celebration, do so.

☉ Say: "Thank you all very much for exploring *The Jesus Storybook Bible* with me. I hope you can see how the Bible is all about the Rescuer, Jesus, and that every story whispers Jesus' name."

No more ...



running away in fear
 tears and sadness
 death and loneliness
 sickness and pain

Jesus in the Story



What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



Jesus

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

God will be with his people. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. (Revelation 21:3-4)

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation



Notes for parents: From the story we learned about Jesus' future return and that he will bring a new heaven and new earth. There will be no more tears, loneliness, sickness, or death. This world will be our true and perfect home. We will never be separated from God again.

Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference. Please review with them the place of the book of Revelation, using the diagram above.