

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

REVELATION, ECCLESIASTES
YEAR SEVEN | SUMMER QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR OLDER ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS07SU-E

LESSON SEQUENCE

SUMMER QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	Revelation 1:1–2:11
LESSON TWO	Revelation 2:12–3:22
LESSON THREE	Revelation 4–6
LESSON FOUR	Revelation 7:1–9:12
LESSON FIVE	Revelation 9:13–11:19
LESSON SIX	Revelation 12–13
LESSON SEVEN	Revelation 14–15
LESSON EIGHT	Revelation 16–17
LESSON NINE	Revelation 18:1–19:10
LESSON TEN	Revelation 19:11–21:8
LESSON ELEVEN	Revelation 21:9–22:21
LESSON TWELVE	Ecclesiastes 1–6
LESSON THIRTEEN	Ecclesiastes 7–12

LESSON ONE | REVELATION 1:1–2:11

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 1:5–7
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Birth of Christ
5 mins.

W.O.W!

Revelation
5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Revelation 1:1–2:11
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Revelation 1:8
2–3 mins.

OVERVIEW

The Book of Revelation is a prophecy in the form of a letter. While exiled on the island of Patmos, the Apostle John receives this series of visions from God. The prophecy opens with the statement that this is a revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave him to show his servants what will take place in the future. The letter is specifically addressed to the seven churches in Asia Minor.

Chapter One includes greetings from John and a doxology culminating with the famous words of Jesus: “I am the Alpha and the Omega....” While John is worshipping God on the Lord’s Day, he receives a vision of Jesus after hearing a loud voice like a trumpet. Jesus shows himself to John in all His glory, as a conquering and powerful King. King Jesus is walking amidst seven lampstands (which represent the seven churches) and holding seven stars (which are the seven angels that have been given to those churches). The number seven, known as the number of completeness, occurs throughout the book.

Chapter Two begins the specific messages to the seven churches. The church at Ephesus is commended for its hard work and perseverance, yet rebuked for losing its first love. The church at Smyrna is praised for being spiritually rich in the face of trial, and is told that more suffering is on the way.

PREPARATION

Read through and meditate on Revelation 1-2 this week.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

What a shame that so many Christians avoid studying the Book of Revelation! It is often thought of as being a puzzle that cannot be solved rather than a picture book of the glory of the returning King. In some ways, this book is better suited for children who will not be as tempted to try to interpret every little detail. Encourage them to study this incredible last book of the Bible with you by focusing on the greatness of God in Christ and in history. Marvel at the power of Christ to conquer sin, death, the devil and Hell. Drink in the vivid pictures of King Jesus and lead your children to bow at His feet.

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED. EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 1:5–7.

⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Say: *As Solomon says, the wise listen because they fear the LORD. There is no such thing as a wise person who doesn't listen to God and His Word. So, let's demonstrate wise hearts today!*



DRILL TIME

Now, let's have our DRILL TIME. This is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *How could the virgin Mary give birth to Jesus Christ? Where was Jesus born? Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem? Why was Jesus placed in a manger? Why did the shepherds come to visit Jesus in Bethlehem?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. The Holy Spirit came upon her and overshadowed her.
2. In Bethlehem.
3. Because a census was taken of the Roman world, and Joseph belonged to the house of David.
4. Because there was no room for them in the inn.
5. Because an angel told them that their Savior was born in Bethlehem.

Say: *One of the greatest miracles of all time is the Incarnation—that Jesus Christ became man and dwelt among us. He is fully God and fully man, lived a perfect life on earth, and died a perfect death for our sins. We will read more about Jesus in our study today. Timothy later became a pastor of a church!*

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** BY USE OF A TIMELINE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **REVELATION**. Write it on the board. Who can define this word for me? **Allow answers.**

For Christians, REVELATION is God's communication of Himself to people. God REVEALS Himself through His Word, in Creation, and in His Son, Jesus Christ. His REVELATION consists of His character qualities and His plan of salvation for His people.

Without REVELATION, people would know nothing about God, or even that God exists. Human beings are limited in knowledge; therefore, we need REVELATION in order to know the truth about anything, since God is truth. We should always praise God that He has chosen to REVEAL Himself to us—and show us our sin—and our need for salvation.

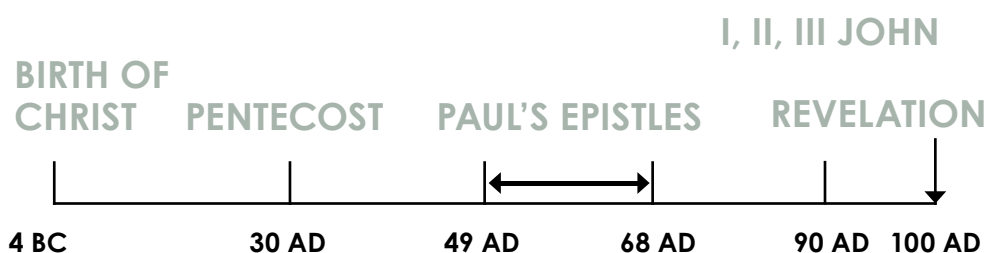
Our last book of the New Testament is named the Book of REVELATION. John receives a REVELATION from God—a special set of visions—that reveal things about the kingdom of God and the end times. We will begin reading the Book of REVELATION to learn more REVELATION about God!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

As you begin your study of the Book of Revelation today, put this timeline on the board for some historical perspective.

This Week's Timeline





THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS. THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Have the students turn in their Bibles to the New Testament Book of Revelation.

Introduction: *This quarter, we will study the last book of the Bible: The Book of Revelation. Revelation was written by the Apostle John. What other books of the Bible did John write? [The Gospel of John; I, II, III John.] John wrote this book towards the end of his life while he was exiled on an island called Patmos. It is a challenging book, filled with prophecies, visions, and figurative language. Yet it also is a “picture book” of God’s victory over Satan that we can truly understand.*

*Let’s begin our investigation. **Read Revelation 1:1-3.***

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Discussion: *The beginning of the Book of REVELATION reads like an introduction to a letter. Did you catch our Word of the Week right at the beginning? Whose REVELATION is this? [The REVELATION of Jesus Christ!] What is the purpose of this particular REVELATION? [To show His servants what must soon take place.] How did this REVELATION come to John? [Through an angel of God.] Notice that the introduction also says that this letter is a prophecy—and blessed are those who hear it and take it to heart. Will you?*

Let’s read on. Read verses 4-5.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

Discussion: *Who did John write this letter of prophecy to? [The seven churches in Asia.] These were seven real churches that existed in what was called Asia Minor. Watch for the number SEVEN as we study REVELATION—that number is what is called the “number of*



THIS **GREY SIDEBAR** FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION MAY ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR.

completeness.” So, who are the SEVEN spirits before the throne of God?

Allow answers. Most likely, this is the Holy Spirit in His seven-fold completeness. John is stating that this REVELATION is from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—three persons in one God.

Let’s hear more about Jesus. Read verses 6-8.

⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Discussion: *In the introduction to his letter, John tells us more about King Jesus. What does he say about the King’s return? [He will come with the clouds. Every eye will see Him, and all the people will mourn because of Him.] Why will people mourn when they see King Jesus again? [They will be sad over their sins.] Jesus is also called the “Alpha” and “Omega”—the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. What does that mean? [That Jesus is eternal—He is the first and the last. He always has been and will always be.] King Jesus is also Almighty!*

Let’s continue. Read verses 9-11.

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

Discussion: *Now John tells us more about how he received this REVELATION from God. Where was John when he received it? [On the island of Patmos.] Why was he there? [He was exiled there because of his work for Jesus.] When did he receive this REVELATION? [On the Lord’s Day.] Then, he was instructed to write down all he saw and send it to the seven churches. We’ll read more about these churches later.*



APPLICATION POINTS ARE
WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC
OF THE DISCUSSION,
RATHER THAN BEING
LEFT TO THE END OF THE
LESSON.

*Listen to more. **Read verses 12-16.***

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Discussion: *Again we have the number seven repeating—the number of completeness. We’ll find out in the next verses what the seven lampstands and the seven stars represent. Who is this that is walking among the seven stars? [Jesus.] Jesus is revealed to John in His royal glory, isn’t He? He was wearing a robe and a golden sash. What was His hair like? [White as snow.] What were His eyes like? [A blazing fire.] What were His feet like? [Bronze.] From head to toe, Jesus is glorious! What came out of His mouth? [A two-double-edged sword.] Elsewhere in the Bible we learn that the “two-edged sword” is the Word of God!*

Application: *Do you ever picture Jesus like this? We must never forget that He is the Almighty King who is totally pure, powerful, and glorious. This REVELATION of Jesus shows that He is totally deserving of your worship, awe, and obedience.*

*Look at John’s response. **Read verses 17-18.***

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Discussion: *What did John do when he saw Jesus? [He fell down as though he was dead.] This is the only right response—fear and worship. Yet Jesus tells John not to be afraid. Why should John rejoice instead of being afraid of Jesus? [Because Jesus is the Living One who has conquered death.] What does it mean that Jesus holds the keys of death and Hades? [He has conquered death and he “owns” the right to Hades. He is in control of even Hell!]*

Application: *If you have put your faith in King Jesus, then you fully participate in His victory over death and Hell. He has saved you from*



everlasting punishment in Hell, giving you everlasting life in Him. That should give you great joy and comfort!

*Now, let's finish this first chapter. **Read verses 19-20.***

¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Discussion: *Now, Jesus gives John the REVELATION of what the seven stars and seven lampstands are. What are the seven stars? [The angels of the seven churches.] And, what are the seven lampstands? [The seven churches.] Do you get the picture? King Jesus is walking among the seven churches (seven lampstands). He is leading and guiding and loving those churches, as He does for all of His churches. He sends His angels to minister to those churches. Now, Jesus gives John specific messages for those seven churches and for us today.*

Application: *Remember, since SEVEN is the number of completeness, these seven churches represent all of Christ's churches throughout all time. That includes our church too!*

*Now, to Chapter Two. **Read Revelation 2:1.***

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

Discussion: *The first message is to the church in Ephesus. But who is the true recipient of the message from Jesus? [The angel of the church in Ephesus.] REVELATION suggests that specific angels were assigned to specific churches to help them. So, these messages to the seven churches also went to the angels who were given to them by God. Does anyone remember the church at Ephesus? **Allow answers.** Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians to encourage the church that was planted there.*

*Let's continue. **Read verses 2-3.***

² " 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be



false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

Discussion: *What words of praise did King Jesus have for the church at Ephesus? [He praised them for their hard work and their perseverance through hardships.] This church stood up to false teachers, even through persecution.*

Let's read the rest of the message. Read verses 4-7.

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Discussion: *What did King Jesus judge them for? [For forsaking Him and not repenting.] Christ warns them of judgment for their "lost love," but again praises them for standing against the false teachers called "Nicolaitans." If the church at Ephesus repents, what does Christ promise them? [The right to eat the tree of life.]*

Now, on to the second church. Read verses 8-9.

⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹ " 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Discussion: *The church in Smyrna also received a message from King Jesus. What words of praise did He give them? [That He knew they suffered afflictions and poverty for Him.] This church was "rich" because it followed Jesus and did not give in to those who tried to speak against them.*

Listen to the rest of the message. Read verses 10-11.

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'



Discussion: *Did Jesus say that the church at Smyrna had a problem? [No.] This is the only church that Jesus does not point out a weakness or sin. But this church would continue to suffer. What will happen to some of these Christians in the future? [They will be imprisoned and nearly die.] Christ promises life to all who will be faithful and continue to follow Him.*

Conclusion: *These first two churches were commended for following Jesus, even through persecution. The church at Ephesus was rebuked for losing its love for Jesus while the church at Smyrna continued to be faithful. What about you? Will you follow Jesus even when you suffer because of it? Will you rest in the coming victorious return of King Jesus? We will continue to study this amazing REVELATION next time!*



LESSON-AT-HOME

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Revelation 1:8) together.

Revelation 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Say: *What is the “Alpha and Omega?” [The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.] King Jesus is the beginning and the end, the eternal King of Heaven. This should give us great awe as well as bow our knees in worship of Him. He is the one who is coming back for His children in power!*

Repeat the verse.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.