



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Revelation 20:11 - 21:4

Matthew 19:28-30

Session Theme:

Fulfillment

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: Good News?

Bring a newspaper to class with you. Show it to the kids, and ask what kinds of stories are usually reported in newspapers, on television, or in online news programs.

Sometimes, the news covers happy stories, but other times, we hear or see things we don't like or that we find scary. No matter what we read or hear on the news, however, the Bible teaches us that in the end, good will win. How? Let's begin our lesson and find out more.

There may be a lot of bad news on this earth, but because of Jesus and his saving work, there is also true and lasting Good News. As Christians, it is important for us to know this and to share this Good News with a world that desperately needs to hear it.

c. Opening Prayer

Lord God, no matter what news we hear, we know that you are in control, and that in the end, good wins over evil. Thank you for this. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (hymn)
- "When the Saints Go Marching In" (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Revelation

The last book of the Bible was a vision given to John, with symbolic picture images describing events of the past, present, and future, as well as God's final victory. The Book of Revelation tells how God will fulfill his promises and in the age to come will dwell with us!

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children's Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format

Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Revelation 20:11 - 21:4

1. Read Matthew 25:31-32. Who is the One who will be seated on the final throne of judgment? When will this happen? Will we be there?

Jesus himself is the one who will “come again to judge the living and the dead.” As he says in Matthew and Revelation, Jesus will be the King seated on the throne. All human beings who have lived and died, from the beginning of time to the end, will stand before Jesus’ throne.

2. In Revelation 20 we are told that God will raise all the dead to appear before the throne. According to verse 12, how will all people be judged? What is written in the books?

Revelation says: “I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened ... and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done” (v. 12). These “books” are the record of our deeds in life.

3. Romans 3:20 says, “By works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight.” Is there anyone who has not sinned before God? How do you think things would turn out for you if you were judged according to your works?

Jesus is the only sinless one. All the rest of us will be judged for our sin — our thoughts, words, and deeds. None of us has earned eternal life by what we have done. When the record of our deeds is read on Judgment Day, the verdict will be “guilty” for us all. But the Good News is: that is not the last Word!

4. What is the other book mentioned in verse 12 that will also be opened? How does this special book differ from the other books read on Judgment Day? What is written in the Book of Life?

The Lamb’s Book of Life is an entirely different book. It is a book of promise, not a record of deeds. In the Book of Life, Jesus has written down the names of all who belong to him in faith — not based on our deeds, good or bad — but simply by his love and grace. As Jesus once said to his disciples, “Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

5. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death, but the

free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” How does the Book of Revelation show that this will be the case for us?

Revelation 20:15 describes the final judgment and consequences of our sin. “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (v. 10).

The guilt of sin leads to ultimate death, which in verse 14 is called “the second death, the lake of fire.” This is the fiery Hell of Gehenna, of which Jesus often spoke (e.g. Matthew 5:22, 18:9, etc.).

6. According to Revelation 21:1-4, when God creates a new heaven and earth, what will no longer exist? Where will God dwell?

Verse 21:4 says that in that day there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, and that the Lord will wipe away every tear from our eyes. God will come down to dwell with us forever here on the new earth he has made. We will be his people, and he will be our God, forever!

7. Read Matthew 19:28-30. As we face Judgment Day, why is it important to know that the One who will judge the world is our friend? What difference does it make that he knows us and we know him?

Scripture tells us that Jesus will be the Judge of all people. This is Good News for us! To those who have faith, our Judge is no stranger. Jesus, the One who sits on the throne, has chosen us and called us his friends. As Jesus promised in John 15:13-15: “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

8. Many people find the Book of Revelation to be dark and scary. But how might these promises from Revelation help our faith when times are hard? How does this book let you know that you have nothing to fear?

As we live our lives, we experience hardship, struggle, and pain. The world is filled with scary and dangerous things, and by ourselves, we do not have the power to stand up to what we face. We need God!

But those who have read the Book of Revelation know how the story ends. No matter how dark and frightening things may be in life, God is certain to win in the end. He has promised to be with us always, and he will fulfill his promise!

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: “All Will Be Well” Craft

For all children

Materials Needed:

- Markers
- Glue or glue sticks
- Hole punch
- Jute or yarn
- Scissors
- White copy paper, cut in half
- Colored construction paper, cut in half
- Colored card stock, left whole



Instructions:

Give each person a piece of copy paper, a piece of construction paper, and a piece of card stock. Set out other supplies as well.

Invite kids to use markers to write on the copy paper, “All will be well.” Tell the kids that “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well” is a quote by the Christian Julian of Norwich, from 1373.

Let kids decorate around the words as desired, with lines, dots, and other graphic symbols.

Next, take the construction paper and cut notches or other designs into the edges to make it a little fancy. Center the copy paper with the words on the decorated construction paper. Glue in place.

Center this artwork on a piece of card stock. Glue this in place. Using a hole punch, make two holes near the left and right edges along the top edge of the card stock. Cut a piece of jute, thread an end through each hole, and tie to make a hanger for the sign. Invite kids to take the sign home and hang it up as a reminder that there is always reason for hope.

All of us, even adults, can get shaken by what we hear on the news. This is where the book of Revelation actually has a message of hope for Christians. It acknowledges that hard things will happen in the world. But it also says that in the end, good will win out over evil. The ultimate point is one of hope. Indeed, we can trust that because of Christ, in the end, all will indeed be well.

Activity 2: Books of Deeds/Life Relay

For all children

Materials Needed:

- Two heavy books
- Heavy paper or stretchy book covers
- Masking tape
- Large area to play a game



Instructions:

Before class: Cover the books with paper or stretchy book covers and label them “Book of Deeds” and “Book of Life.” If using book covers, put masking tape on them and write on the tape. Make a starting line out of masking tape.

To play the game:

Divide the class into two teams for a relay race. When you say “Go,” the first person from each team will balance one of the books on their head, walk from the starting line to the opposite wall, tag the opposite wall, return to the starting line, and pass the book to the next person in line.

Older kids will have to do this without touching the book in any way (once they have put it on their heads). Younger kids can use one hand to help them balance the book if need be. Anyone who drops the book returns to the starting line and begins again. Whichever team gets all members back across the starting line first wins the game.

To play non-competitively, invite all kids to race as one big team against a timer, rather than against each other.

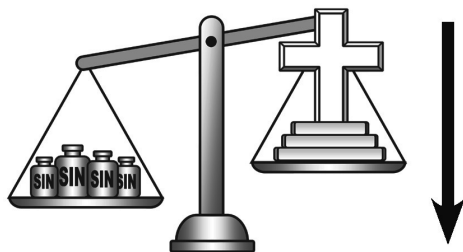
Why did our relay race involve books? In John’s vision of the final judgment, which we studied today, books were opened, recounting the deeds of every person. As our lesson said: “All were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done in their life. But then there was another book opened. This was not a book of deeds, but a book of promise. It was called the ‘Book of Life’ — and in it was written the names of all those who belong to Jesus. On that day of judgment, all those whose names were written the Book of Life were spared from the final punishment.”

May we be steadfast in faith as we run our race in this world, trusting Jesus, whose sacrifice made it possible for our names to be written in the Book of Life.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Only the cross of Jesus (and what he has done for us) is able to outweigh our sins.



Map Answer Key:

From what you have learned in previous lessons, can you correctly name the lands around the Mediterranean Sea?

A: Greece

C: Judea

B: Asia Minor

D: Africa

The island of Patmos is closest to: **Asia Minor**

The Seven Churches of Asia (Revelation 2-3)

1) Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

Very large city (fourth-largest in the empire); important commercial seaport; home of the pagan Temple of Artemis; center for worship of Roma/imperial cult; important city in Paul's missionary journeys.

2) Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

Loyal to Rome and a center for the imperial cult; only one of the seven cities in which the Christian church still exists to the present day.

3) Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)

Official seat of the Roman government for the region; another center of the imperial cult; pagan temples to Roma, Augustus, Zeus and Aesclepius (healing).

4) Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-28)

Small, rather unimportant town; city of craftsmen and merchant guilds; Paul met Lydia in this city (Acts 16).

5) Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)

Very wealthy city; former capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Had been conquered several times, and suffered from a great earthquake in previous years.

6) Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

City rebuilt after a great earthquake during Jesus' time, and was rebuilt by emperor.

7) Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

Wealthy city located at juncture of three important trade routes; a commercial and industrial center, produced black cloth and eye medication.

Reflection for the Week Ahead

The phrase "Judgment Day" can strike fear into even the calmest of people. After all, who wants to be judged? Who wants to be found lacking? If we are honest with ourselves, we know that every one of us deserves judgment, for we *all* have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

This is why John's vision, which we read in today's lesson, offers such a message of hope. The books of our deeds are not the only ones that will be opened on that final Judgment Day. There is also a Book of Life. The names of those who belong to Christ are written in *that* book and will be spared. All the more reason for us to share the Good News of Jesus with as many people as we can during our time on earth!

Talk to one another about these questions:

Does this mean that our deeds don't matter? No. God wants us to live good lives; but when we sin, we are to turn to God and ask forgiveness, trusting that he will forgive us.

How can we know that we belong to Christ? At baptism, we are "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." We become part of God's family of faith.

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, pray to God to help you and your church family to be faithful to God's call. Ask the Lord to point out those places that need attending to in your faith family.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____