

Revelation 1:1-8

“The Big Reveal”

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:7a: *“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.”*

Lesson Focus: As we begin our study of Revelation, we want to hone in on the blessing God promises to those who listen and heed the things of this book. Our hope is that the kids will grow in love for Jesus throughout this study and be excited about His return!

Activities and Crafts: Heavenly Jesus Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: God’s Plan Revealed Craft

Starter Activity: Big Reveal Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship for a quick video and discussion. Most kids should be familiar with what it means to have a “Big Reveal”. They have perhaps been to a “gender reveal” party or they have seen videos of people receiving surprise gifts that were “revealed” to them. * First have some discussion about what this means.

Q: What does it mean to have something “revealed” to you?

A: It means that something important and special was hidden, but is now about to be shown or uncovered for you to understand.

Then we will show this cute video of something good being “revealed” to two little girls:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkhY6URzv8k>

It was “revealed” to them that they were going to Great Wolf Lodge! And they got super-excited!

Q: Who knew what was going to happen? A: The parents! This was all part of their plan!

Well, we are going to start a new book of the Bible today, called the book of Revelation. This is the last book of the Bible and you could call it “God’s Big Reveal!”

God “reveals” in this book, more than any other, what is going to happen in the future. For the whole universe was created by God and just like the parents carried out their plan for those two girls, God has a plan that He will carry out for the whole universe! This book reveals how it all ends! And just like those girls were crazy excited by their parents’ “Big Reveal” we want you to be excited about “God’s Big Reveal”. Let’s get into it!

Bible Study:

Revelation 1:1a: God's big reveal or "revelation" is about who? Jesus Christ!

As we go through this book, you are going to see Jesus like you have never seen Him before! *

Revelation 1:1b: God's big reveal was to be "shown" to His servants. As we will see, the "servants" refer to the church, true believers in God, who serve Him and follow Him. God will "SHOW" His people what will happen.

Q: What is "*Show and Tell*"? A: This is an activity you do at school where you bring something special from home and explain to your class why they chose that item.

Teachers: Consider bringing something unusual from home and "show and tell" your class what it is, why you brought it, and where it came from. *

This book of Revelation is God's "*Show and Tell*"! Just like you might be chosen in your class by your teacher for "*Show and Tell*", John was chosen by God. But he was chosen and **taken into the future** to be SHOWN what will happen to the world! Why? So that he can then TELL the rest of God's people. That's what this whole book is about!

Most of the Bible is about things that happened in the past (i.e. Creation, Moses, Jesus, etc.). But this book of the Bible, more than any other, is about things that will happen in the future! This is called prophecy and it is exciting!

Revelation 1:2: This is the same John who wrote the gospel of John which we studied last week when we looked at how Jesus chose some of His disciples. John refers to Himself there as "*the one whom Jesus loved.*" This is the same John who wrote **John 3:16.** (**Teachers:** Consider reciting this verse together with your class)

Revelation 1:3a: This verse reveals something very important.

Q: Did you catch what God will do in this verse? * A: He will bless those who read, hear, and keep (or heed) what is written in this book!

I'm doing the reading and I'm excited and looking forward to seeing how God blesses our study.

Q: But what are you supposed to do? A: Hear, listen, and obey! (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a special treat to "bless" the kids with to encourage them to listen to you as you teach them. Perhaps even consider preparing something with a "big reveal" at the end of the lesson to keep the kids in suspense.) *

Revelation 1:3b: Finally, we are told that the "time is near". That means the things we read about can happen later today or tomorrow! As we read, listen, and heed this book, God wants to us to be ready.

Revelation 1:4a: Grace and Peace. This is a wonderful greeting from John to these seven ancient churches that originally received his letter. But notice Who else it is from!

This grace and peace is from Him “*who is, who was, and who is to come.*” Let’s see if we can figure out what this means as this sounds kinda tricky. (**Teachers:** Consider writing on the white board three columns: Who is, Who was, Who is to come. Then ask the kids to give you some names of people that fit into each category. As you are doing that you will have to explain this refers to the past, the present, and the future. Afterwards, then explain how God is outside of time and is the One who is ALWAYS THERE. Draw a circle around them all and put God above the circle. Wow!) *

Revelation 1:4b-5: This grace and peace is also from the “seven Spirits” which refers to the Holy Spirit and of course Jesus Christ. Here we have Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God in three Persons, all together providing this grace and peace!

But notice also how at the end of v. 5, Jesus is described as “*Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.*” This explains how we can receive this grace and peace. Q: What do grace and peace mean?

Grace: Freely getting what you do NOT deserve! People actually deserve hell and punishment because of their sin against God. But **Romans 5:8** says that God proves His love in that while we were sinners, Christ died, or shed His blood, for us! When we trust in Jesus, we receive the forgiveness and blessing that we do NOT deserve. This is grace!
Peace: After receiving God’s grace, this is what we experience as God’s children. We are at peace with God! Our sins past, present, future, are forgiven! We are HIS children now!

Revelation 1:6: Believers like you and me now also belong to His kingdom. Our lives are now to be dedicated to serving Him, the true King!

Revelation 1:7: Behold! This is one of the coolest Bible words as it usually means God is about to do something awesome. Today it would be like saying, “Whoa, check it out!” or “Lookit!” * (See **Exodus 7:17** as an example) But here we see that Jesus Christ is coming back. After He rose from the dead He ascended to heaven. He is coming again in glory and in power! This book will SHOW and TELL us what this looks like! * But notice not everyone is excited about this. Many mourn or cry. This is because they never responded to God’s offer of forgiveness and will pay for their own sins in hell!

Revelation 1:8: We close with another awesome description of God: The Almighty. *

Q: What does this mean? A: It means God has all power and control. As King over all He will bring about the end that He has planned and revealed in this book!

Key Point: Let’s reread v. 3 as we close. Read also **Revelation 22:7**. This is the only book of the Bible that begins and ends with a blessing. Let’s get excited about Jesus coming back! We will be blessed if we listen and heed the things of this book. Not because I said so, but because, God the Almighty said so! *

Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

Lesson Theme: “The Big Reveal”

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:7a: *“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.”*

Teachers/Parents: We got our lesson started by sharing a few examples of “big reveal” stories. Ask your kids if they remember the video we watched and what was revealed to the two little girls. Have you ever been the object of or involved in a “big reveal” surprise of some sort? Share some of those experiences.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read Revelation 1:1.** Notice that this revelation of Jesus Christ was to be **shown**. In class we had some discussion about “*Show and Tell*” and how this book of the Bible is God’s “*Show and Tell*” about the future and grand finale of the whole universe. Who did God choose for this “*Show and Tell*”?
- 2) **Read Revelation 1:3 and also 22:7.** What is common between these two passages? In class we stressed the importance of just taking the Lord “at His word” here and expecting His blessing. But there was a qualifier to the blessing. What do you think it means to “keep” the words of this book?
- 3) What are some ways you think God might bless us in our study of this book as we read, hear, and keep the words of it?
- 4) **Read Revelation 1:4-5.** This is a wonderful greeting of grace and peace. In class we talked about how grace is “*getting something good that you don’t deserve*”. How has God given us today something good that we don’t deserve? (Hint: see the last part of v. 5)
- 5) **Read Revelation 1:7.** This is the key theme verse of the whole book and shows God’s “Big Reveal” is the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ over the world. Why do you think some people would mourn when this will happen?
- 6) In **Revelation 1:8** we see Jesus described as “all-powerful”. But back in **Revelation 1:5**, we also see Him described as the One who loved us. Why is it important for God to be both all-loving and all-powerful? What might happen if He was only all-powerful, but not all-loving for example (or vice versa)?