

Revelation Church Pageant

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-3:13

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:13 *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Lesson Focus: We are going to jump right into some of the letters to the churches by acting several of them out as a class! We think this will be a fun way for the kids to learn with their hands and their feet. And as our memory verse says, we hope by doing this interactive activity the kids will have “open ears” to hear what the Spirit has to say to us! The following weeks we will study the letters to Ephesus and Laodicea in depth.

Teachers: See each church and section of Scripture below assigned by grade. You and the kids in your class (you will also have one or two Jr High helpers!) will be responsible for silently acting out that church’s letter from Jesus in Revelation. You will have 15 minutes to prepare and then each class will be given 5 minutes to perform their section. We will have one narrator slowly reading through the Scripture while you and your class silently perform it. You can use your “kingdom” area of the Summit Room as well as the middle of the room. We encourage you to bring in props/supplies and to come up with your own motions/designs as a class (ask the kids for their input!). You can also use whatever you can find in the resource room! There is a lot of action in these verses that should be fun to have the kids act out. In case you are drawing blanks on ideas, we have provided an option for each verse of Scripture below. We will also provide you with some poster board in which you can design a sign that identifies your church (maybe even come up with a mascot!). Have fun! We think this activity will give the kids a fresh and fun way to engage the Scriptures.

AND we will award the class with the most original and enjoyable skit with prizes!

Schedule:

- 1) Please bring kids into the main sanctuary 5-10 minutes after service starts which is 5 minutes EARLIER than usual (we will start countdown earlier).
- 2) After some shortened worship, we will provide instructions and then dismiss you back to your classes to prepare your skit.
- 3) You will have 15 minutes to prepare in your classroom. Then all classes will come back out and be given 5 minutes to perform as the narrator reads Revelation 2:8-3:13.
- 4) We will wrap it up with a quick teaching and dismiss you back to the classrooms.

Room Time Afterwards: We will have a coloring page and a crossword puzzle available for the lesson. Also consider going through your church’s letter in depth and review what some of your actions were supposed to communicate. Notice the “Bring It Home” handout has a sample question from each church so consider leveraging that. Challenge the kids to think through how the letter to your class’s church applies to them today!

Smyrna: Revelation 2:8-11 (1st grade)

2:8a- Have one kiddo be an angel/messenger and another be John who starts writing frantically. Make a Smyrna sign and have some kids hold it up really high when “church of Smyrna” is mentioned. Then have the angel/messenger pretend to frantically take what is being written and deliver it to each kid holding up the sign.

2:8b- Have a bunch of kids line up in a row sitting down and have the “First” kid jump up and the “Last” kid jump up and the mention of the “First and the Last”. Have another kid pretend to be dead and then jump back to life.

2:9a- Have all of the kids pretend to be hammering something on the floor to represent “works”. For “poverty” have a kid pull out his empty pockets, but then hand him a big handful of fake money at the mention of “you are rich”.

2:9b- Have all of the kids do a big thumbs down at the mention of Satan.

2:10- As a few kids are pretending to be afraid, have some other kids pretend to be a jailhouse (kids facing each other with hands forming roof over their heads). Have a couple of kids lead one of the afraid kids into jail. But then have another kid bring out a crown to put on the kid in jail.

2:11- Have all of the kids put one hand to their ear and have them pretend to listen very well.

Pergamos: Revelation 2:12-17 (4th grade)

TEACHERS: Note that in 2:14 we will say “evil” instead of sexual immorality when we narrate the section)

2:12a- Make a Pergamos sign and have some kids hold it up really high when “church in Pergamos” is mentioned.

2:12b- Either bring in a sword, or make a sword out of cardboard that you can have someone hold up at this point.

2:13a- Have several kids make a house or “dwelling place” that is big enough for all of the action to take place on. Consider using some carpet squares to serve as a stage for the action with kids standing around them.

2:13b- Have two kids pretend to engage in combat with one of them pretending to die. Bring in some white sheets to wrap him in to indicate he died in faith.

2:14- Have the victor in the battle from the previous verse stand in the middle, proud and laughing. But have all of the kids perform the shame-shame finger-rubbing gesture toward him throughout this verse.

2:15- At the mention of Jesus hating, have all of the kids make really mad faces toward the victor in the battle.

2:16- Have the person with the sword come out and pretend to slay the one laughing and proud of his evil.

2:17- Have all of the kids put one hand to their ear and have them pretend to listen very well. Afterwards, have them all flex their muscles while the one with the sword pretends to hand out rewards to each one.

Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-29 (5th grade)

TEACHERS: Note that in 2:20-22 we will say “evil” instead of sexual immorality when we narrate the section. Also, in 2:23 we will say “followers” instead of children to eliminate confusion)

2:18- Make a Thyatira sign and have some kids hold it up really high when “church in Thyatira” is mentioned.

2:19- Have some kids in a line ready to exhibit the virtues described in this verse. (Ex: two kids hug each other for love)

2:20-21: Have a girl (maybe a leader) strut around pretending to be sassy and “all that” while everyone else put their hands on their hips and shaking their heads in disapproval.

2:22-23: Have a couple of kids follow her and have them one-by-one fall sick onto beds (maybe use some carpet squares for the beds). Give them thermometers to indicate sickness and have a couple of them pretend to be dead.

2:24- At the mention of Thyatira, hold up the sign really high again. At the mention of Satan, have everyone put their thumb on their nose and wiggle their fingers.

2:25- Have everyone grab a Bible and clutch it tight to their chest.

2:26-28: Have all of the kids flex their muscles and have two kids remain in the room. One will bring out a strong-looking rod to hand to one of the kids and then the other will bring out a morning-star (make with cardboard) to give to another.

2:29- Have all of the kids put one hand to their ear and have them pretend to listen very well.

Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6 (2nd grade)

3:1a- Make a Sardis sign and have some kids hold it up really high when “church of Sardis” is mentioned.

3:1b- Have a bunch of kids put up seven fingers to describe the seven stars and Spirits while another kiddo pretends to be alive and strong but then have him fall dead.

3:2- Have a group of kids wake up the “dead” kid and show him how to flex his muscles to portray strength.

3:3- Line up a bunch of kids to all face one direction and have them suddenly turn 180 degrees at the word repent.

3:4- Have kids hold the sign up again at the mention of “Sardis”. Have someone walk out of the classroom wrapped in white sheets with another set of sheets to give to someone else.

3:5a- Have him give that extra set of sheets to the kid who was “dead” from v. 2. Have him flex his muscles again while other kids wrap him in those sheets.

3:5b- Have another kid hold a big book (or a Bible) open and have the kids in white approach him/her to confirm their names are in the book.

3:6- Have all of the kids put one hand to their ear and have them pretend to listen very well.

Philadelphia: Revelation 3:7-13 (3rd grade)

3:7a- Make a Philadelphia sign and have some kids hold it up really high when “church of Philadelphia” is mentioned.

3:7b- Have one kid pretend to be Jesus. Have him shut the door to the classroom and pretend to lock it. Then have some other kids pretend to open it and they can’t.

3:8- Have that kid open the door again and then have those kids pretend to shut it (but they can’t again).

3:9- At the mention of Satan, have everyone hold their noses and stick out their tongues with a yucky face. Have the kids all do a big group hug when Jesus says “I have loved you.”

3:10- Have the “Jesus kid” stand before the sign to “protect” the kids holding it from two other kids that are pretending to fight on the ground (the tribulation).

3:11- Have the kids pretend to be wearing crowns and have the two kids that were fighting try to take the crowns from kids (but they can’t).

3:12- Have five kids build a human pyramid on their hands and knees, three on the bottom, two on the top. (Consider adding a sixth kid on top, but be very careful). This will represent the temple. Then have someone approach the temple with the “Jesus kid” pretending to write all of these things on his back.

3:13- Have all of the kids put one hand to their ear and have them pretend to listen very well.

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Revelation Church Pageant”

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-3:13

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:13 *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Teachers/Parents: During class your kid was part of a “Pageant” where they acted out one of the letters to the churches in Revelation. Each class was assigned a different church. We thought this would be fun and fresh way of engaging the Scriptures. Ask your kid what church they represented and what role they played. Talk about a time when you were in a play or acted out a scene.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read Revelation 2:10** (Smyrna). Where did Jesus say a lot of the people in this church were headed? While this is not common in America, this is very common today throughout the world in places like China. Pray for those Christians throughout the world who are being persecuted for their faith.
- 2) **Read Revelation 2:16** (Pergamos). What did Jesus tell the people in this church to do here? How would describe this and what does this look like? Read **Proverbs 28:13** for a good summary.
- 3) **Read Revelation 2:25** (Thyatira). What did Jesus tell the people in this church to do here? How do you think we do this today? Read **Hebrews 10:23** and discuss what this looks like.
- 4) **Read Revelation 3:1** (Sardis). What do you think Jesus means here when He describes the church as appearing alive, but they are actually not? Which group do you fall into: those who are just putting on a show to look good or those who truly desire to please God and follow Jesus?
- 5) **Read Revelation 3:10** (Philadelphia). What did Jesus say His command was in this verse and what does this mean? How do we do this today? Read **Hebrews 12:1-2** to give you some ideas.
- 6) Read **Revelation 3:13** (our memory verse). Notice each letter ends this way and it is addressed to “all” of the churches. That means we are to listen as well! What lesson have you taken from these letters?