

Revelation 4

“The Heavenly Throne (Part 1)”

Scripture: Revelation 4

Memory Verse: Revelation 4:11: *“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”*

Lesson Focus: As we get a “sneak-peak” of God’s heavenly throne room in this chapter, we want the kids to be amazed at God’s greatness and holiness and respond with worship. We will encourage everyone to end the lesson with a song of worship which we can consider as “practice” for one of the most important things we will be doing forever with God!

Activities and Crafts: Four Living Creatures Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Heavenly Throne Craft

Starter Activity: King or Queen for a Day

What must it be like to sit on a throne! To get the lesson started consider having a few kids pretend to be king or queen. We will provide you with a fancy chair that you can use as an “earthly throne”. Have a few kids take turns coming up, sitting on the “throne”, and sharing with the class what they would do if they could be king or queen for a day. To make it more fun, prepare a few props like a crown, a cloak, and/or a scepter that they can wear.

As kids share what they would do if they could be king/queen for a day, listen to their answers and try and have a little bit of discussion both with the class and each kid.

Questions like:

Q: Why would you do those things if you were king or queen?

Q: Do you think people would like having you be king or queen?

Q: Do you think it would be easy or hard to be king or queen?

After getting a few kids up and having some fun discussion, transition into the lesson by reminding the kids that we are going to continue our study of the book of Revelation. As we have said many times before, this book is a “*Show & Tell*” book. John is going to be shown many wonderful things so that he can tell us.

And what John is going to be shown in our text today is not a measly little earthly throne, but the majestic heavenly throne. Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

Revelation 4:1: After these things. “These things” refers back to the letters to the seven churches that we have studied and also acted out the last several weeks. John was first shown the condition of the church *, but now he is going to be shown something new.

He is being invited into heaven itself to be shown things that will take place in the future!
Wow! *

Revelation 4:2: It seems like while John’s body remains on the earth, his spirit is beamed up into heaven itself.

Q: What did he see right away? A: A THRONE and the One sitting on the throne!!! This is God the Father!

There is actually very little said about heaven in the Bible. John is one of just a few humans who have the privilege of seeing heaven. * What captures his attention more than anything is God on His throne.

This is important because there are books and movies from people claiming to have been to heaven and back. But if their story doesn’t match what the Bible says about heaven or the focus is not on God, then we would be wise to question whether those experiences are actually true.

Revelation 4:3: John does the best he can to describe what is truly indescribable: God sitting on His throne. He mentions precious stones and a rainbow. * Living in Colorado, we can see some really impressive rainbows that take our breath away, don’t we? *

Q: Does anyone know when the first rainbow on all of the earth was? A: Read **Genesis 9:11-13**. Rainbows are a sign of God’s mercy (not getting what you deserve)!

Revelation 4:4: So moving outward from the throne, John describes what he sees around the throne: 24 elders sitting on mini-thrones. Who are they? I think we get a hint from their description. Teachers: Consider reading through the verse again slowly and ask the kids to tell you three things these guys are doing. Write these answers on the white board:
1) Sitting on thrones 2) Wearing white robes 3) Wearing crowns of gold

Now you might not remember this, but this sounds a lot like what we all acted out and saw the last few weeks as we read through the letters to the churches. (Teachers: Read **Revelation 3:21b, 2:10b, and 3:5a** and under each activity above add the verse. *

If these elders are described in the same way as faithful Christians in the churches, it seems these elders represent believers in heaven like you and me! *

Revelation 4:5: Whoa! Think of a mighty thunderstorm. Powerful, right?

Q: Have any of you seen a thunderstorm that just takes your breath away?

Revelation 4:6-7: I've said before that throughout the book of Revelation we are going to be saying, "Huh?" a lot. John is being shown God's heavenly throne room and he is doing the best he can to tell us what he sees by using earthly things that he knows. Notice each living creature is "like" something. That means it is not exactly a lion, for example, but it is like a lion.

Q: Ever heard someone say, "*She has eyes on the back of her head*"? They say this when someone seems to be able to see everything. Most Bible experts think that is the case with these four creatures that have "eyes front in back".

Revelation 4:8: But what is more important is what they are doing: praising God!

Q: Three times they proclaim that God is holy. What does "holy" mean? *

A: It means God is perfectly good, right, and separate from all that is bad and wrong.

Remember at the beginning we asked many of you to pretend to be king/queen for a day.

Q: Do you think you could be perfectly good and right for a day? A: No way! Only God is perfectly holy and that is why praise and worship is reserved for Him and Him alone!

Notice that God is three times proclaimed to be holy. That might seem a little strange to us as we don't describe one another with "three-peats". **Teachers:** To get a few laughs, consider picking a few kids in class and describing something about them with "three-peats". (i.e. your hair is pretty, pretty, pretty or my feet are stinky, stinky, stinky)

This "three-peat" reminds us of the Trinity: God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. * God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are ALL holy!

Revelation 4:9-10: A lot of people wonder what we will be doing in heaven for all eternity. While we can speculate and wonder, we know from these verses there is one thing we will certainly be doing: worshipping! For if the twenty-four elders represent Christians, this is us, worshipping God in the future!

Revelation 4:11: And words like this are what we will be proclaiming with other believers across all time. **Teachers:** This is our memory verse as well. Practice saying it together and point out how we are actually getting earthly practice of something we will be doing in heaven!

Key Point: Someone else who got to see God on His throne was Isaiah the prophet.

Read Isaiah 6:1-4. Notice the similarities. But then in v. 5 he says he is "undone". The holiness, power, and glory of God was too much for him. We all need to understand God in this way, because it is Who He is! This is what John wants us to know! And it is only through faith in Jesus Christ that we can be in the presence of this holy, holy, holy God!

We actually did not see Jesus in this chapter anywhere. Where is He? We're going to continue next week with more "*Show & Tell*" in God's heavenly throne room and He will make His appearance. For now, let's worship! * **Teachers:** Consider closing the lesson out by singing a song like "*Here I Am To Worship*" with the kids.

Bring It Home

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

Lesson Theme: “The Heavenly Throne (Part 1)”

Scripture: Revelation 4

Memory Verse: Revelation 4:11: *“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”*

Teachers/Parents: We kicked off our lesson by having several kids pretend to be an earthly king or queen for a day. We invited them to come up and sit on a “throne” and tell us what they would do if they could be king or queen for a day. How about you? If you had power and a throne for a day, what would you do and why?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In class we pointed out how this is one of just a few chapters in all of the Bible that reveals details about heaven to us. **Read Revelation 4:2.** Also see **Isaiah 6:1-3.** In both cases, what (or Who) is emphasized?
- 2) There are books and movies about alleged experiences of people going to heaven and back. While these may be entertaining and interesting, we should be careful to test the authenticity of such experiences. **Read Acts 17:11.** What did these people do when they were told things about God?
- 3) **Read Revelation 4:3.** While the rainbow has become a symbol of immorality in our culture, note that there is one around God’s throne. **Read Genesis 9:11-13.** What did the very first rainbow on earth symbolize?
- 4) In **Revelation 4:8,** three times God is proclaimed to be holy. In class we talked about how this word describes God’s perfection and separation from our fallen world. **Read Isaiah 59:1-2.** What separates us from God?
- 5) In **Revelation 4:11** God is worshipped as the One who is worthy. What does this mean?
- 6) Throughout this chapter we see God as the One who is on the throne over all of creation. That’s easy to say, but do we really believe this despite all that is going on in the world? What can you do this week to truly show that God is on the throne in your own life?