

Revelation 6

“It Begins”

Scripture: Revelation 6

Memory Verse: Revelation 6:17: “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Lesson Focus: This is a very sobering chapter as we see the events of the Great Tribulation happen in sequence like dominos falling. This chapter teaches us how bad and ugly sin actually is, something we too easily forget. Our prayer is that in studying this chapter with the kids, they will see the gravity of their own sin and either be saved for the first time or cling ever more to God in faith who has forgiven us through Jesus Christ.

Activities and Crafts: Jesus Opening the Seals Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Worthy is the Lamb Bookmark

Starter Activity: Dominos Falling Video

We will have all of the kids remain in the Summit Room after worship for a quick and silly video of dominos falling. As we will see in our text, Jesus breaks the first seal of the scroll that He alone was worthy to take, and in doing so, sets the end-times in motion. Just as a series of dominos designed by human hands all fall at their proper time and place, these end-times events designed and planned by God will all take place at their proper time and place.

Here is the video that we will show the kids if you would like to preview it: *

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Nn7NZI_LN4&t=9s

Then we will ask a few relevant questions to bridge into the Bible study.

In this video, each domino had its own place and fell down at its own particular time.

Q: Who designed or planned out this crazy domino course? A: People!

Q: But what got things started? A: The cat! Until the cat knocked over that first domino, nothing would have happened! But once the cat did, then all of the action began!

Last week we saw Jesus make His grand entrance into the heavenly throne room where He took this mysterious scroll that had seven seals. He was described as the “*Lion of the tribe of Judah*” and the only one worthy to take the scroll and open it. (**Revelation 5:5**) What we are going to see today is that God’s plan for the end is like a line of dominos. He planned out all of these events that are going to take place one-by-one.

Q: But who do you think is going to start it all? A: Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah!

Bible Study:

Revelation 6:1a: Jesus was described last week as the Lion and the Lamb. Moving forward we are going to see Him described as the Lamb almost exclusively. By opening this first seal now, He is like that cat which set all of the dominos in motion. *

Revelation 6:1b-2: This first “domino” is described as a conqueror on a white horse. (**Teachers:** We will give you some Jenga pieces that you can use to setup as “dominos”. * As you are going through each of the seals, consider setting each one of them up on a table one-by-one so that by the end of the lesson you have a row of them to knock over. Perhaps consider inviting a different kid to set each one as you go through each seal)

Q: What does it mean to conquer? A: This describes battle victory! This rider has a bow and he is sent into the earth to conquer it. Most Bible experts think this refers to what the Bible calls the Antichrist: The big bad boss of everything that is against God. Notice that it says a crown **is given** to him. *

Q: Who do you think gives him this crown? A: God! Remember He is the One who planned and prophesied these end-times.

Revelation 6:3-4: This second “domino” is described as a rider on a fiery, red horse. * Note, again, that power **is granted** to him by God.

Q: What is he going to do on the earth? A: Bring war and destruction! You probably have noticed that these first two “dominos” falling are not pleasant. This is God pouring out His anger and wrath on an evil world that has rejected Him! **Read Matthew 24:21.** As Jesus prophesied, this time on earth is known as the “Great Tribulation”. *

Revelation 6:5-6: This third “domino” is described as a rider on a black horse. * This rider is going to bring famine across the earth.

Q: Who knows what “famine” means? A: It means shortage of food. Imagine going to King Soopers with your Mom to buy groceries, but all they have is toilet paper! No food! (**Teachers:** Ask if any of the kids remember the shortage of toilet paper at the beginning of COVID. But now instead of a shortage of toilet paper, there will be a shortage of food)

Revelation 6:7-8: This fourth “domino” is described as death riding on a pale green horse. Whoa and Yikes! * Once again, power **is given** to this rider. NOTHING is happening apart from the will and permission of God.

Q: Do you know how many people are on the earth today? A: Almost 8 billion, or 8,000,000,000. That’s a lot of zeroes! Let’s see how good you are at your fractions. What is one fourth of 8 billion? 2 billion! If this judgment were to happen today, almost 2,000,000,000 people would die! *

This is serious boys and girls and very difficult to even imagine. How hard it must be for John to write this down! This stuff can be hard to read, but it is important.

Why? Because it reminds us how bad, ugly, and serious sin actually is. **Teachers:** At this point, consider showing the picture of the meal that we will give you * (see last page of lesson) with the fries, chicken nuggets, and salad and consider asking these Qs:

- 1) What looks the most delicious in this picture? (Consider taking a class vote!)
- 2) What is the healthiest item on this picture? A: The greens of course!

So, while we might enjoy eating the nuggets and the fries, the greens have the vitamins and nutrients that our body needs (even if we don't think the greens taste good).

Boys And Girls: The Bible says a lot about God's love (chicken nuggets) and forgiveness (French fries), but it also has a lot to say about our sin and punishment (greens) that is **hard to swallow**. When reading the Bible, we need to pursue a balanced diet. It is easy to only read the "yummy stuff" (God's love and forgiveness) and skip over the greens! *

Revelation 6:9-11: This fifth "domino" points to Christian martyrs. *

Q: Do you know what a martyr is? A: Someone who dies for their faith. This is a time where identifying as a follower of Jesus may cost people their lives!

Revelation 6:12-14: This sixth "domino" describes worldwide natural disasters. *

Q: Has anyone experienced an earthquake? * Some Bible experts think that the stars of heaven falling to earth may describe a meteor shower! Whatever it is, it is global and cosmic destruction. * (**Teachers:** As you read through some more of the difficult sections of this chapter, consider pulling out a stalk of celery or something else healthy but unpopular. Take a bite to further emphasize this idea of eating your "greens"!)

Revelation 6:15-16: This may be the saddest section of the whole chapter. These survivors of all of these judgments actually know why this is all happening. They know that God, the One on the throne, is punishing the world for its evil. (**Teachers:** At this point consider knocking down those six Jenga pieces to illustrate)

Yet, instead of running to God for mercy and asking Him for forgiveness, they hide from Him! Instead of surrendering to God, they try to flee from Him!

Revelation 6:17: God's wrath is being poured out. Why? Because of sin and evil.

Key Point: Some of you might remember weeks ago we read **Revelation 1:3**, where God promises to bless those who hear and keep the words of this book. There were a lot of "greens" in this chapter that were hard to swallow. But just like the "greens" on your dinner plate are a blessing to your body when you eat them, this chapter is a blessing to your soul when you read and keep it.

Here's why:

- 1) If you are a believer in Jesus, this should remind you how bad your sin really is. The next time you are tempted to sin, remember what sinners deserve and be amazed that God, in His love, has saved you from this. Read **Romans 5:8-9**. Remembering this will help you resist that sin!
- 2) If you are not a believer in Jesus, do not be like those who were so unwilling to surrender to God, but come to Him today and be saved from this Great Tribulation. * These events could start to happen any day (once Jesus takes that scroll, the dominos will start to fall!) * Begin to walk with God who loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life! (**John 3:16**)



Bring It Home

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

Lesson Theme: “It Begins”

Scripture: Revelation 6

Memory Verse: Revelation 6:17: *“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”*

Teachers/Parents: We read through all of **Revelation 6** with your kids and described this chapter like “greens” on your dinner plate. While “greens” are good for you, they are sometimes hard to swallow because they don’t taste good. This chapter is also good for us as it reminds us of the gravity and ugliness of sin, but it is not an easy read. Have some discussion with your kids about what “greens” you like/dislike and why they are good for you!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Revelation 6:1-2**. Who is the one that initiated or caused the events of this chapter to begin?
- 2) Furthermore, notice that in v. 2 it says that a crown “was given” to the rider. Who is the One giving? In class we emphasized that despite how horrible all of the events of this chapter are, nothing is happening apart from the will and permission of God and the Lamb.
- 3) It is striking how similar these seal judgments correspond with Jesus’s end-times prophecy in **Matthew 24**. Read **Matthew 24:3-7**. What similarities do you see between these verses and **Revelation 6:1-6**?
- 4) COVID has tragically taken almost 5 million people’s lives. Read **Revelation 6:7-8**. In class we mentioned that there are almost 8 billion people on the earth. If this “rider” were to come today, how many people would die?
- 5) In **Revelation 6:17**, a question is asked. How would you answer this question? Read **Psalms 130:3** where a similar question is asked. What is the answer in **Psalms 130:4-5**?
- 6) This chapter solemnly reminds us how bad and ugly sin is and what sin deserves. Read **Romans 5:8-9**. There we see both the love and justice of God. How are we saved from the wrath of God?