

Revelation 7

“God’s VIPs”

Scripture: Revelation 7

Memory Verse: Revelation 7:17a: *“The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them”*

Lesson Focus: Last week’s sobering chapter ended with a question, *“God’s wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”* We find the wonderful answer to that question in today’s chapter as we see many people turn to Him in faith during the great tribulation. We will call these people God’s VIPs and invite the kids to become God’s VIPs too!

Activities and Crafts: The Four Angels Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Hold My Hand Craft

Starter Activity: Freeze Frame Fun

We will have all of the kids remain in the Summit Room after worship for a quick and silly activity that will introduce the lesson. Most of the kids should be familiar with Zoom meetings. Often when you are in a Zoom meeting, you have a bad internet connection.

Q: What happens to the picture when there is a bad connection? A: It freezes! And the people you are “Zoom-ing” with can sometimes have really funny facial expressions!

We will then share a video of Pastor Doug * talking and freeze the video multiple times to see some pretty funny facial expressions. We will then have the kids try to mimic the facial expression the best they can. This should provide some good laughs.

Last week we saw Jesus open the first six of seven seals of this mysterious scroll and then immediately God’s punishment and wrath upon our evil world came down like dominos falling. But what we see this week is that God pushes the “pause” button to sort of “freeze” all of the action. There is still one more seal left on the scroll for Jesus to open, but before He does that we get some more details on what has happened. Let’s take a look!

Teachers: We will dismiss the 1st and 2nd graders at this point to their classes. Before you open the Bibles, consider playing a little “freeze frame” game with your kids in the class. Invite a few kids up one-by-one in front of the class to take turns making a silly pose or face and have the other kids try to mimic or match it! Then jump into the Bible study!

Bible Study:

Revelation 7:1a: After these things...what things? (**Teachers:** See the lesson from last week where we used Jenga pieces falling like dominos to illustrate the six seal judgments brought upon the earth by God. Consider using these again to jog their memory and explain that these judgments are things that will happen in the future) * **Read Revelation 6:17.** Our text today answers this question!

Revelation 7:1b: Whoa! Remember that this is a “*Show & Tell*” book. John is being **shown** intense and indescribable things and doing the best he can to **tell** us what he sees. It seems these angels are given power by God to bring punishment on the earth.

Revelation 7:2-3: But they are told by another angel to not bring about this punishment until something else happens first.

Q: What needs to happen first? A: God’s “VIPs” need to be sealed or protected.

Q: Do you know what VIP stands for? A: Very Important Person. * (**Teachers:** We will put one chair in your room * that is nicer than the others. Consider using this to act out some sort of VIP activity. For example, invite one kid to come and sit on the chair while you have others serve him a cup of water or fan him with one of the palm branches we will leave in the room for another activity later in the lesson) *

Well, God has VIPs too. And while they aren’t going to be waited on hand and foot like we just pretended, they are very important to God. Let’s see who they are!

Revelation 7:4-8: These are 144,000 people from the nation of Israel who are chosen by God and united to Him by faith in Jesus.

Israel, the nation of the Jewish people, have always been God’s VIPs. Most of the Bible (the OT) is about Israel and how God works out His plan through Israel to redeem and restore our world that has rejected Him. As you read through this book, you see God protecting these VIPs with mighty acts over and over again. The most famous example is how God rescued Israel from the Egyptians. (**Read Exodus 14:27-30**)

Now what is so sad though, is that while God loved and protected Israel, most of the time they did not love Him back! Something else we read about in the Bible is how God brings severe punishment upon them so that they no longer exist as a nation. For hundreds of years, they were a lost/scattered people throughout the earth! People would read verses like this in **Revelation 7** and be confused because it seemed Israel was gone!

But in 1948, something **AMAZING** happened: They suddenly became a nation again! The scattered Jewish people came back to their land and they are a thriving nation once again and are still today. (**Teachers:** Consider pointing out Israel on the map in your room and explaining how this tiny little nation is amazingly strong today). We should not be surprised though, because God is a promise-keeping God. **Read Ezekiel 36:24.** People * saw this prophecy fulfilled 70 years ago! God keeps His promises!

Revelation 7:9a: So while God marks out these particular Jewish believers to be His VIPs who He will protect on earth, there is another group of VIPs that John now focuses on who are in heaven. These people aren't just from Israel, but from all nations!

Q: How many of you watched the Olympics this Summer? The Olympic opening ceremony has a wonderful parade of nations where the Olympic athletes (VIPs from each country!) from every nation on earth enter together hoisting their national flag. *

Revelation 7:9b-10: But these VIPs that John sees are gathering not as athletes to perform, but as worshipers around the throne of God and the Lamb.

Q: Who is the Lamb? A: Jesus! (**Teachers:** We will leave a lamb stuffy in your room as well as a couple of palm branches and white robes or sheets. * Consider inviting two kids to come up and pretend to be two of these VIPs. If appropriate, pick two kids of different ethnicities and point out how these VIPs will be from among all peoples. Now put the lamb stuffy on the fancy chair and have the kids recite v. 10 together!)

Revelation 7:11-12: Now the 24 elders and the four creatures * that we have read about before join in the worship party again. (**Teachers:** Consider having several other kids or the whole class also gather around the Lamb on the chair and recite v. 12 together. Be sure you make it clear that these words are spoken to God, and that the lamb stuffy is merely something we are using to represent Jesus, the Son of God.)

Revelation 7:13-14: Here we are told who these other VIPs are. They are the one's who "came out of the great tribulation". It seems these are people who die in faith in Jesus Christ during the difficult times we read about last week (the dominos falling). And back in v. 9, these VIPs are described as so many, they couldn't be numbered! So while all that punishment is being poured out, people are turning to Jesus! This is HUGE revival! *

Revelation 7:15: These VIPs are before God's throne serving Him and He is dwelling among them. God wants to be with His VIPs and they want to be with Him!

Q: Where do you feel the safest? * Think about the terror these VIPs experienced during the great tribulation! Do you think they feel safe now being with God?

Revelation 7:16-17: God takes care of His VIPs, because He loves them. This is a beautiful "sneak peak" of heaven where there is no crying, no pain, only indescribable joy and peace in the presence of God and the Lamb.

Key Point: At the beginning of our lesson we read **Revelation 6:17** which asked the question, "who is able to stand?" We got our answer in this chapter. Only God's VIPs. And who are God's VIPs? Those who believe in Jesus and trust in Him!

Psalms 29:11 says that the Lord gives strength and peace to His people. His people are VERY IMPORTANT to Him! That's why we call them VIPs.

Q: Are you one of God's VIPs? Become one today by trusting in Jesus!

Q: Are you already a VIP? Serve Him this week just like the VIPs in v. 15 were doing!

Bring It Home

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

Lesson Theme: “God’s VIPs”

Scripture: Revelation 7

Memory Verse: Revelation 7:17a: *“The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them”*

Teachers/Parents: In reading through **Revelation 7** with your kids, we described the two groups of people mentioned as God’s VIPs (Very Important Persons). Describe an experience you once had where you clearly had “VIP” status. What made the experience so special?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Revelation 7:3-4**. It appears that this first group of VIPs are Jewish believers whom God will protect. The Bible has so many instances of God miraculously protecting His people from harm. **Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-22** for one example. What triggered God to act here?
- 2) In class we talked about the miracle of the modern nation of Israel. For hundreds of years, this nation did not exist only to suddenly reappear again in 1948. **Read Ezekiel 36:24**, written 2500 years ago, but which appears to be a prophecy that was fulfilled just 73 years ago. Wow! Even though it might take hundreds of years, does God keep His promises?
- 3) Read **Revelation 7:9-10**. In class, we called them the second group of God’s VIPs. Talk about some of the features of this group. How are they described?
- 4) In **Revelation 7:14**, this second group of VIPs are described as *“those who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”*. What do you think this means? (Hint: See **Revelation 5:9**)
- 5) In class we talked about where we feel safe and secure. Talk about where you feel the safest and most secure. Then read **Revelation 7:17**. Can you imagine any place safer?
- 6) We taught the kids that all believers in Jesus are His VIPs: VERY IMPORTANT to Him. What are some ways, like the VIPs in **Revelation 7:15**, that you can serve Him this week?