

Revelation 20:1-10

“The Crushing of Satan”

Scripture: Revelation 20:1-10

Memory Verse: Revelation 20:10a: *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing through the book of Revelation, we come to one of the most intense and sobering chapters in the entire Bible. We read of God’s final judgement on a rebellious creation and the ultimate destination for death and hades. But with that, we also see the ultimate victory belongs to God. He wins! And as the divine warrior, we can rest in His victory, knowing that the outcome is assured. No matter what our current circumstances are, no matter how dark things may appear, God wins and Satan’s ultimate doom is set.

Activities and Crafts: God’s Victory Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson.

Activity for 1st/2nd Graders: Game Over Video Game Controller

Starter Activity: “Good and Evil”

Begin the lesson by asking the kids to start thinking about the dynamic between good and evil. It’s everywhere. Whether it be in movies, video games, whatever it is, have the kids share a few examples where they have seen good squared up against evil. (**Teachers:** There are tons of examples. We can look at popular movies like Star Wars, where the powers of good and evil are equal. Superhero movies often have a really powerful villain lined up against the “good guys” to fight an epic battle. We can see this in sports too, where the team/player you are rooting against always seem to win.)

Q: Why is it that the bad guy always seems to come back? Or that the evil forces never actually go away? (There’s always a sequel and a new, or even stronger enemy lurking)

This is a pattern that seems to emerge in the Bible as well. Especially in the Old Testament, we see God, who is perfectly good (“there is no darkness in Him (1 John 1:5),” deliver and bring victory to His people. Oftentimes in miraculous ways. And then, usually in the very next chapter, we sometimes read of the Israelites forsaking God and falling back into rebellion.

But in Revelation 20 we see what is the ultimate and final culmination of this seemingly never ending battle between good and evil. It’s here in God’s Word where we can see His plan to once and for all deal with evil. And in particular, God’s victory over Satan. He’s going to crush him under our feet (Rom 16:20) and throw him into the lake of fire, where he will be forever.

It’s finally GAME OVER for Satan and evil and there isn’t another level. So let’s open our Bibles and study this epic conclusion a bit more!

Bible Study:

Intro: Revelation is like a “Show and Tell” book. It’s a vision given to John so that he can then go and tell us. And in this chapter, John’s telling us about the end of the age, and the final battle between good and evil. It’s not meant to cause us to fear or be afraid, but instead to comfort us and be a source of hope.

Revelation 20:1-3: What? “He must be released for a little while.”

Q: What is that all about? Why do you think he’s released?

A: It’s a mystery. And there’s a lot of really smart people who have tried to answer this question and there’s all sorts of different interpretations. But ultimately the Bible doesn’t really tell us. And as one guy put it, “If you could explain why God let Satan go the first time in the garden then maybe you could explain why He does this second time.”

So whatever the reason, Satan is bound for a time and then eventually released.

(We will skip over verses 4-6 and summarize them a bit as we continue)

Revelation 20:7: John gives us a timeframe now. He says after 1,000 years. The first question that comes to mind is, what’s happening during the 1,000 years? The previous section, verses 4-6, give us a bit of a glimpse into that time period.

It says that those who did not follow after the beast and receive his mark lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

But after the thousand years, Satan is released. And as he is released what does he do?

Revelation 20:8-9a: He does what he has always done and launches an all-out attack on God and His people. Satan is truly and completely evil.

Q: Who is the worst bad guy you can think of? How bad are they?

Response: Satan is worse than all of them. He is a true villain and the enemy of our souls (1 Pet 5:8). He’s a liar. He’s deceitful. He robs us of our joy and purpose. He’s a murderer (John 8:44) and seeks to destroy God’s good creation. This is important.

Q: How many of you guys have ever heard of the story the 3 little pigs? Has anyone ever heard or read the book, “The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs?”

Response: It’s supposed to be the story told from the perspective of the big bad wolf. And it sort of makes you feel bad for the wolf because from his perspective, it was just a misunderstanding.

People will often try to empathize and feel sorry for villains and bad guys. As fallen humans, we like to make excuses and we look for reasons to justify our own mistakes. Oftentimes that looks, on the outside, like empathy. But in reality, it’s a perversion of the truth. It’s calling bad things good (Isa 5:20). God wants us to be forgiving, absolutely. But let us not forget God is holy. He is

against evil. Instead of making excuses, God wants us to repent. To acknowledge we are sinners and turn from our wicked ways and trust in God. Satan, even after being chained up, when he is released still thinks he can beat God. And he deceives into thinking they should join him in this battle.

Revelation 20:9b: I love how simple and nonchalant John puts that. “Fire comes down from heaven and God devoured them.”

Teachers: Consider picking a few volunteers who would like to arm wrestle. One side represents good and the other evil. Have them do a couple rounds of this depending on participation. And then have another kid volunteer to represent God in this struggle between good and evil. Except they will just “appear” and evil is defeated.

In the final battle between good and evil, there isn’t any drama needed. There is no epic back and forth battle. God just appears and the battle is won. Fire just comes down from heaven and devours them.

You can’t fight God and win. God is all-powerful, He’s all-knowing. And even an army as big in number as the sand in the sea, empowered by Satan himself, will be destroyed in an instant when God decides it is time to judge. He pours fire from heaven and devours them.

God is truly and perfectly good, and because He will decisively and completely judge evil, we (His children) may enjoy lasting peace and happiness. Free from the presence of sin and wickedness. But this isn’t possible until evil is completely done away with.

Revelation 20:10: This is where we learn of the ultimate destination for Satan. He is thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be tormented forever and ever. This is it for Satan. It’s GAME OVER. God is victorious and evil has lost forever.

Q: Why is this important for us to know? Why did God reveal this vision to John and have him tell us about it?

A: He wants to provide His children with peace and comfort. For us to know that no matter how bad things may look, how difficult and dark things get, that eventually God wins. And we end up reigning and ruling forever and ever with Christ and evil will be judged completely.

Q: Can anyone think of a time in your life where maybe things weren’t going so great or things were really difficult at home or school and maybe you felt like there isn’t a ton of hope?

I’m reminded of a couple stories in the Old Testament that really illustrate this well. The first is in Daniel 3. I’ll quickly review the chapter and highlight that in the midst of great trial and difficulty, Daniel’s three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, demonstrated great faithfulness to God and trusted in His plan, regardless of what the immediate outcome may have been. The second is the story of Joseph, being sold into slavery in Egypt but eventually being raised up to great prominence and power. That’s what living out our faith looks like! (**Teachers:** Consider adding your own example in which God has demonstrated His faithfulness in the face of a trial or difficult circumstance).

Key Point: God wins. Good destroys evil forever. In recent weeks, we have talked about the promise made by God all the way back in the garden. That He would send a deliverer to crush the head of the serpent. In Revelation 20, this is the ultimate fulfillment of that. (**Teachers:** See scan of coloring picture below and consider showing it to your kids as you wrap up).

And I would like each of you to really consider what side of this epic struggle you're really on? Are you on God's side? I know it's easy to say, "Oh yeah, I'm on God's team." But that costs us something doesn't it? It means we now live for God and not ourselves. We love Him and obey what He says. It means that we have acknowledged that we are sinners and that we need Jesus to save us and believe that His death on the cross paid for our sins.

Being on the other side, however, looks a lot like making yourself out to be your own boss. Doing whatever you want and thinking that you don't need Jesus. That you're a good enough person all on your own. You don't necessarily care about breaking God's heart and you can easily just make excuses. So I challenge you all to really consider what side your heart is aligned with. Make sure you are on the winning team, God's team!

