

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God is creating a New Heaven and New Earth that will never end.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn what God has planned for all who believe in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:1-7, A New Heaven and a New Earth

INTRO:

When you're making up trivia questions about movies and books, there are a lot of things you can use. You can ask questions about the actors who played certain characters - like Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars movies. You can ask where a certain character comes from, like what planet Luke grew up on - the planet Tatooine. You can ask what ship Luke used to escape from Tatooine and set off on an adventure. That ship was the famous Millennium Falcon.

But there are some questions that, out of politeness, we can't or shouldn't ask. For example: who is Luke's father? What happens when Luke faces Darth Vader? And what happens at the end of Return of the Jedi? It's bad form to ask questions like these because there are people who haven't seen the movies. If you ask and answer questions about the ending, you could spoil it for someone, and that wouldn't be very kind.

You don't tell someone starting a book series how the series ends. It's better to experience things on your own, and let the story unfold. It's no fun to spoil the ending!

On the other hand, there are people who want to have the ending spoiled for them. There are people who flip to the last page of a book first and read it before they even start the first page. There are people who go on websites to see what happens at the end of a new movie they haven't seen. Some people even read and post spoilers for TV shows that haven't aired yet!

Why do we like to know the ending first? Sometimes we're just nosy. Sometimes we can't wait to find out what the ending will be.

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Some people want to avoid the unpleasantness of knowing something sad happens. And some people like to have peace of mind knowing what's coming at the end of the story.

This last reason is a good explanation for the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. Revelation is the end of the story. It's the end of OUR story, of the history of Earth itself. It tells us that Jesus will return. It tells us Jesus' people will face persecution. It tells us that there will be judgment and destruction for all who do not believe in Jesus. And then, it tells us something wonderful Jesus is doing for us.

READ REVELATION 21:1-7

MAIN POINT:

Most of Revelation is a bit on the frightening side. We read the prophecies about judgment, about persecution of Christians, about earthquakes and storms, about God ending the world as we know it. But all this sadness comes to an end when Jesus reveals the new Heaven and new Earth he is preparing for us.

God gave us Revelation so we would not be afraid of anything. No matter how bad it gets, it will get better. Gloriously better! Jesus is preparing a place for us, and if we believe in him, we will live forever in that paradise!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Revelation is a fitting end to the Bible. The story began with the Creation and the fall of man. The story changed when Jesus came to become our Savior. The story ends with Jesus saving us, taking us away from this world of sin, and placing us in a new world. There will be no tears, no sadness, no sickness, and no death in this new world. Heaven will be lit with the glory of God, and we will spend eternity worshipping him.

Revelation is also a new beginning. It's the start of a story that will never end. We will be reunited with Jesus, and we will live in the place he is preparing for us.

God wants us to know what is coming. He wants to spare us from judgment, and he wants to give us new life. New life can only be had if we believe in Jesus.

If you've never made the commitment to receive Jesus into your heart, do it today. Start a new adventure of your own, and you'll be prepared for whatever this life brings. Revelation may happen in our lifetime. It may happen hundreds of years from now. Whenever it does, you will be ready, and you will be saved.

God wants to give us all peace of mind about the future. He wants to give us Heaven. If you have questions about what it means to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, please talk to your parents or small group leader today!

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CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the hope of eternal life you've given us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen