

Bible in 52 Weeks: Week 52

Jesus Comes Again



Take a minute to think about a recent dream you had or one that you have had more than once. Either write down the key words or draw images from that dream. Then write or draw the feelings of that dream. Talk together—what is it like for you to dream? Do you think there is meaning in dreams? What can our feelings while or after dreaming tell us?



Read Revelation 1, 5, 21, 22 OR Read A Dream of Heaven in the Jesus Storybook Bible or other sections of these verses. Some background to know is that the letter is attributed to the disciple John and he written from where he was in prison. He has a vision or a dream about what will happen when Jesus comes back. There is a lot of difficult language in here and the Jesus Storybook Bible sums it up well. With the main idea that Jesus is making a promise that whatever happens in this world or the next, that he will be there. That God will be the light that we need. That hope and salvation live on. John does not end with a prompt “The End” instead he prays for Jesus to come and embrace us all in his promise. This is a way of letting the story be open, fluid and something we keep on telling because the story is about us and FOR us too.

Write down your questions and talk about them together.

Conversations Starters:

For Children:

- How do you image God bringing plants, animals, people, and all the things we love together?
- Jesus makes a promise in this story that darkness and sadness will one day vanish and he says, “I am the beginning and the end” The words for that are alpha and omega. How can Jesus be the beginning and the end?
- What is your favorite story? How does it begin? How does it end? Go back to Genesis 1 and read how God began the world. How does God keep on breathing life into the world?
- When did you begin? What do you imagine your future as an adult will be?

For Youth/Adults:

- What is your favorite story? How does it begin? How does it end? Go back to Genesis 1 and read how God began the world. How does God keep on breathing life into the world?

- In what ways have you experienced Jesus as the beginning and the end?
- What concerns you or scares you about these texts?
- John ends with a ‘to be continued...’ and we are part of that story of continuing. How do we live into this?
- What things have you heard about in pop culture about Revelations or Jesus coming back? Where do these ideas come from? How are they helpful and/or not helpful?
- Luther is quoted as saying, “If the earth were to end tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.” What do you think that means in light of these texts? How do we bear witness to God’s promises in all times?
- How is the kingdom of God a reality in the present? What does it mean for the future?

Activities for All:

- Draw a line or map of your faith life. Start with birth and go into your imagined future. What are key points along the way? Where did you see God? Where did you need God? What do you imagine you will need in the future?
- Draw or paint or write out what you imagine your neighborhood will look like in 20 years—what will be the same, what will be different? Now write your hopes and dreams around them.
- Look back on all the stories you have engaged in this year. What one/s are sticking with you? Which ones do you want to explore more in depth?
- Go outside in the dark together or into a dark room. Get it as dark as you can. Then light a candle or turn on a flashlight. What happens? How is this like God’s promises of light in the darkness?



Pray for each other’s highs and lows for the week. Pray for the future of the world, nation, leaders, the earth, family and friends.



+Jesus is with you, beginning to end, go in peace+