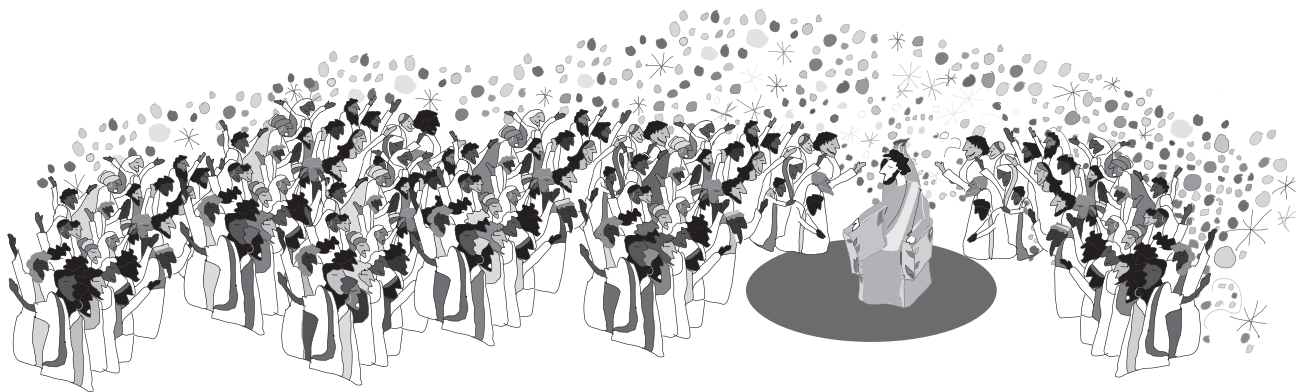


LESSON 78

At the Throne Worshiping

REVELATION 7:9-17



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Revelation 7:9–17 from the Scriptures or read story 156, “At the Throne Worshiping,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Other Palm Branches

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a palm frond or branch (Alternatively, cut a sheet of green construction paper into the shape of a palm branch.)
- ✓ Bibles for the class

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Many Peoples around the Throne

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Review the Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pens or pencils
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God’s promise is fulfilled in heaven—The scene in heaven in Revelation 7 is of a multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language and it signals the fulfillment of God’s promise (Revelation 7:9). God promised by his own initiative to multiply Abraham’s descendants until they would outnumber the stars (Genesis 15:5). God also promised that all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3). These promises will one day be completely fulfilled!

God is exalted in heaven—When Jesus entered Jerusalem the week before his death, the crowd shouted, “Hosanna!” and waved palm branches (John 12:13). Days later, some of the same people shouted, “Crucify him!” (John 19:15). Riding through that first celebration with the palm branches toward the cross, Jesus was looking forward to another celebration. And it was for the joy of that later celebration that he endured the cross, despising its shame (Hebrews 12:2). Here in Revelation we catch a glimpse of that other celebration. God is exalted because of the sacrifice of his Son. One day we who trust in Christ will join their heavenly chorus.

Suffering ends in heaven—Our suffering ends in heaven (Revelation 7:16). Imagine for a moment that we will not hunger; Jesus will be our eternal bread. We will not thirst; Jesus will be our living water. We will not tire; we will have lasting strength. We will not experience sorrow; in Christ we will have everlasting, indescribable joy. Every tear will be wiped from our eyes!

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Great Tribulation

The Great Tribulation is the time that precedes Jesus second coming. There is much disagreement about the details of the tribulation as to when it will begin (or did begin) and when, in the midst of tribulation, Jesus will return. Early scholars believed that the tribulation would be a time of increased persecution and suffering for Christians. Jesus spoke of the tribulation:

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (*Matthew 24:29–31*)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In Revelation 7 the Lamb is Christ, who sits on the throne and has made the robes white by his blood (Revelation 7:14). The blood of the Lamb is the blood of Jesus shed upon the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of all his people. The multitude worships the Lamb in heaven, and he continues to be their shepherd, guiding them to springs of living water. In John 4:10 Jesus said to the woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Revelation 7:9–17 from the Scriptures or read story 156, "At the Throne Worshipping," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Other Palm Branches

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a palm frond or branch (Alternatively, cut a sheet of green construction paper into the shape of a palm branch.)
- ✓ Bibles for the class

- After reading today's story, show the palm frond to the class and ask if they can remember where a palm branch appears in the story of Jesus.
(Palm branches were waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.) See if the class can locate that story in their Bibles—in John's Gospel (John 12:13).
- Finally take some time to act out the scenes from Revelation 7 and John 12.
(The children can use their hands as palm branches.)

Talk about how in the first waving of palm branches the people were hoping for a deliverer who would save them from their Roman oppressors, but in the last celebration everyone will know that Jesus saved them from a much greater enemy, sin and death.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Many Peoples around the Throne

Have five people from different ethnic backgrounds come in to share their testimonies with the class. Point out to the children that God saves people from every nation. Read the passage in Revelation and ask them how God is fulfilling the promise to bless the nations today.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Have the children draw their interpretation of what heaven will look like as described in Revelation 7:9–17.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Review the Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pens or pencils
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Have the students look up and read the following verses and write down God's promises:

Genesis 22:17–18

Genesis 26:4

Jeremiah 30:18–22

Then have them write down how these promises are fulfilled in Revelation 7:9–17 .