



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Beginning and the End

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21–22

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

My boys love a certain video game that involves building with pixelated blocks. They can use their imaginations to create buildings, machines, and farms from scratch. They make use of color, texture, and shape to bring what's in their minds and hearts into being.

This also means that they can determine what becomes of their creation. They sometimes decide to create something to protect from the creatures that roam at night. However, sometimes they create things just so they can let lava and fire destroy it all. In this manner, they are the beginning and the end of their own little creations.

Jesus says He is likewise the Alpha and Omega of creation. He was there at creation, and He has the final say about creation. Thankfully, His final say is one of redemption.

Turn to Revelation 21 and read verses 1–7. Jesus “will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (v. 4). What makes you sad, mourn, or teary in this life? What does it mean to know Jesus will permanently make it right when He returns?

Now read Revelation 22:12–13. Jesus is coming soon. How does that make you feel? Excited, uncomfortable, ready? Now do your best to fathom the beginning and then the end. What comes to mind? Can you picture Jesus and the Father on the throne? What do you feel when you think about this?

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega! He will make all things new!

—Jeff Stone

Associate Pastor and Professional Counselor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS I
AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The book of Revelation contains a vision given to John on the island of Patmos. John was a servant of God and witness to what God revealed to him. John describes himself as a fellow believer in Jesus, writing to seven churches in Asia Minor.

WHAT?

John sees a vision of the new heaven and new earth, where God will dwell with His people and put an end to death and sadness. He will give His people the water of life, and they will be His children.

WHERE?

John received his vision on the island of Patmos, a rocky island in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Asia Minor. Patmos was located 40–50 miles southwest of Ephesus and was used as a place of exile in the Roman Empire.

WHEN?

This part of John's vision concerns what will happen at the far end of history, when God's new creation fully appears. It comes just after God finally judges Satan and the dead.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

As the beginning and the end, Jesus is Lord over history. Jesus gets the last word on everything. He defeated death and made way for the dawning of the new heaven and the new earth, where followers of Jesus will live forever in God's presence.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

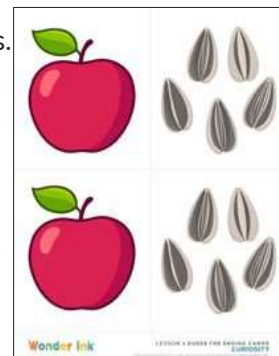
Activity: Guess the Ending

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), cardstock (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Guess the Ending Toddler Cards

Ahead of time, print the Guess the Ending Toddler Cards and cut apart the pictures. You can print them onto cardstock to make them more durable.

Hold up the picture of the sunflower seed. **This is a sunflower seed. This is how sunflowers begin—as little, tiny seeds.** Hold up the picture of the sunflower. **This is how sunflowers end—as really tall flowers! There's a beginning and an end.** Repeat with the other pairs, ending with the *Jesus* cards. Hold up one of the pictures of Jesus. **This is Jesus: He is the beginning!** Hold up the other picture of Jesus. **And the end!**



Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Point up.*

IS THE BEGINNING—*Point to the left.*

AND THE END.—*Point to the right.*



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, thank You for bringing each of us here to worship You and learn more about You today. As we hear Your big story, we ask Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of Your love. Thank You, Jesus, that You are King and that You are the beginning and the end. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 504-508

Jesus is Coming!

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

— John 8:12