



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: metal tray, alphabet letter magnets, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: I Am the Alpha and Omega Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: A to Z

Set-up: Set out a metal tray with alphabet letter magnets on it. Be sure you have an A and a Z.

Play: Encourage kids to find specific letters of the alphabet. See if they can find the A, and tell them it is the beginning of the alphabet. Then see if they can find the letter Z, and tell them it is the end of the alphabet. Even if they can't read or write yet, help them locate specific letters, such as the letters in their names.

Play Station: I Am the Alpha and Omega Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and write as many letters from the alphabet as they can.



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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!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who had a vision (or a picture from God) in God's big story today? (*John*)
- Who is going to wipe away every tear from our eyes? (*God*)
- Who sits on the throne with God in heaven? (*Jesus*)
- What is a throne? Why do you think God is on a throne?
- What do you think it will be like to be with Jesus forever?
- What will be the best thing about when Jesus makes everything new?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the beginning and the end?

John had a vision about the future when Jesus will make all things new and will be King forever. We wait for this day, but we know that Jesus is also King right now. He is the beginning and the end! Let's take some time to talk with Jesus and thank Him for who He is.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

— John 8:12



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Game: Relay to the End

SUPPLIES: painter's tape

Ahead of time, use painter's tape to tape two lines on the floor, one on either side of the room. Split the kids into groups of five or fewer and have each group of kids stand in a line behind one of the lines, which is the starting line. The other line is the ending line.

These lines on the floor have a beginning and an end. You are standing at the beginning of the line! We are going to take turns going from the beginning to the end of the line in fun ways. First, we're going to hop like a bunny down the line from the beginning to the end. When I say, "Go," the first person will hop down the line. Once that person gets to the end of the line on the floor, she should sit down, and then the next person waiting at the beginning of the line can hop down the line. The first team to get everyone across the room to the ending line will win.

Play as time allows with different actions. You can have kids crawl, walk backward, run, crabwalk, tiptoe, jumping-jack-walk, or skip.

The lines in our game had beginnings and endings, but today we learned that Jesus is the beginning and the end! He is with us at the start of our lives and the end of our lives and everywhere in between!



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Responding in Worship: Worship Stations

SUPPLIES: baskets (2), battery-operated tealights (1 per kid), bowl of water, paper towels, leaves (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, prepare three different stations for kids to travel to. The first station will contain a basket of tealights. The second station will contain a bowl of water. Set a roll of paper towels nearby. For the third station, set out a bowl of leaves (either fake or real).

Today we learned about John's vision—how one day Jesus, the beginning and the end, will make everything new. One day there will be no more sadness or pain or death. It will be amazing! And when we look at what God told John in Revelation, we see it's a lot like what God did in the very beginning—in Genesis!

We are going to move from station to station, and we are going to hear verses from the books of Genesis and Revelation. Listen as I read some special verses.

Station 1: Have kids travel with you to the first station, a basket of tealights. Read Genesis 1:5 out loud: **"God called the light 'day.' He called the darkness 'night.' There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one." Genesis 1:5**

Hand each kid a tealight. Have the kids turn on their tealights and then hold them quietly while you read Revelation 22:5:

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. They will rule for ever and ever." Revelation 22:5

Have kids place their tealights back in the basket and travel quietly with you to the second station, a bowl of water.

Station 2: Read Genesis 1:21:

"So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:21

Let kids take turns running their fingers through the water as you read Revelation 21:1:

"I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth.' The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone. There was no longer any sea." Revelation 21:1

Encourage the kids to walk to the third station, a bowl of leaves.