



## 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:** cardstock with holes punched, string or shoelace (at least 12" long), coloring utensils

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: Lacing

**Set-up:** Cut two sheets of cardstock in half. Use a hole punch to punch several holes in a line on both sides of the pieces of cardstock. Pull the end of a piece of string or a shoelace through the first hole on each sheet and tie a knot in it.

**Play:** Kids can lace the string through the holes on the cardstock. Point out how the string starts at the first hole and see if they can lace it all the way through to the end—the last hole.





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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."

—from John 8:12



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## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Craft: Make Your Own Books

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils

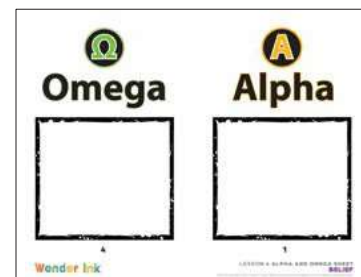
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Alpha and Omega Sheet (1 per kid, 2-sided)

Ahead of time, print an Alpha and Omega Sheet for each kid using two-sided printing. Fold each sheet in half to make a four-page mini-book with the *Alpha* page as the front cover and the *Omega* page as the back.

Hand each kid an Alpha and Omega book and coloring utensils.

**Today we are going to illustrate our own mini-books to help us remember God's big story! The front page of your book has the word *Alpha* and its symbol.** Point to the first page of an Alpha and Omega

book. ***Alpha* is the first letter of the Greek alphabet—like our letter *A*—and it represents Jesus, who is the beginning of all things! Take a moment to draw a picture on the *Alpha* page of your book that shows Jesus and the beginning of God's big story, when God created the world.** Give the kids time to draw.



**Leader Tip:** If time allows, let some of the kids share their drawings and explain what and why they drew what they did with the group.

**Open your book to page 2 and draw a picture of what you think the new heaven and the new earth will look like. No one knows exactly what it will look like, but we know it will be beautiful!** Give the kids time to draw.

**Open your book to page 3. In the new heaven and the new earth, there will be no more sadness or crying—only happiness and joy! Draw a picture of something that makes you happy!** Give the kids time to draw.

**Turn to page 4 of your book. On the back of your books is the word *Omega* and its symbol.** Point to the last page of an Alpha and Omega book. ***Omega* is the last letter of the Greek alphabet—like our letter *Z*—and it also represents Jesus, who is the end! On the last page of your book, draw a picture of Jesus sitting on the throne of heaven at the end.** Give the kids time to draw.

**Those pictures are great! We are at the end of the book. Who is on the last page of your book?** Wait for the kids to say, “Jesus.” **Who is on the first page of your book?** Wait for the kids to say, “Jesus.” **That’s right! Jesus is at the beginning and at the end of our books. You can take your books home to help you remember that Jesus is the beginning and the end.**