

John Hears The voice
As Of A Trumpet

Revelation 1:9-19

MEMORY VERSE

REVELATION 1:18

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Several items small enough to fit in a box or grocery bag. Items will be used for a guessing game (shoe, ball, toothbrush, etc. are good items).

Twelve to fifteen chairs, several sheets of construction paper (various colors) and tape.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Guess What!

This game is a guessing game. Choose some different items, all small enough to fit into a cardboard box or grocery bag. List some characteristics of each item as hints for the kids to guess.

For example: If your item is a flower you can say, “It smells good, grows, is delicate, colorful, may have thorns.” If your item is a shoe you can say, “Everyone here has two of them, they protect, have a string or has a buckle.” If it is a ruler say, “Is about 12 inches long, has little lines on it, and has numbers on it.” If it’s a ball say, “Usually flies through the air, can be hard or soft, babies play with them and some people play with them as a job.” Other items could be a hairbrush, a toothbrush, a sheet of paper, a rubber band, or a coffee cup.

After you have given the hints, let the kids guess what the item is. Instead of telling them yes or no, “reveal” the item to them. Use the word “reveal” as often as you can during the game to familiarize them with the word. Then tell them **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

LESSON TIME!

Today we are beginning the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. Revelation talks about “last things” or things that will take place in the future. Revelation means “to reveal or to unveil.” So we know that the book of Revelation is revealing something or someone to us. In today’s lesson we will learn about whom the revelation was given. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

REVELATION 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

When God wanted to tell people about Himself, He chose to deliver it to the world through men. He could have set up a giant billboard in the sky and wrote on it the whole Bible, but He didn’t. He could have made the sky a huge video-screen and played a video of Scripture scrolling down from top to bottom. He also could have had the angels come together in a great choir and sing the Bible to us, but He didn’t! Instead He chose men to speak to and through. In fact there were 40 different writers of the Bible over a period of about 1,500 years. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

We know that God has used men throughout the years to write the Bible so we can understand more about who God is and what He is like. But God didn’t just stop there. He still wanted us to understand more about His great love and character, so He sent His Son Jesus to live on this earth as a man to show us very clearly who He is. Jesus Himself said to His disciples in John 14 that when if you have seen Him you have seen the Father.

The book of Revelation is all about Jesus. It means “to reveal or to unveil.” God is revealing to us more about Himself through His Son Jesus. The book of Revelation was given to a man named John. John was one of Jesus’ disciples. He was a man who had suffered many things for his faith in Jesus Christ. He was also a man who loved Jesus very much.

As God shows John this revelation He tells him that this revelation is to be shown to the servants of Jesus Christ. The revelation is not for John alone, but it is for all of us who have made Jesus the Lord of our lives. John was just a companion and brother to all of us who suffer tribulation and walk in the kingdom of God. It is good to receive letters from those who you can trust and relate to.

REVELATION 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

It is interesting to note that God gave important revelations on Sundays. He revealed the resurrection of Jesus on Sunday. He revealed to us His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, which was on a Sunday. Now this does not mean that God only gives revelations on Sundays; He is willing and wanting to speak to us everyday.

John heard a voice that was loud like a trumpet. The loud voice came from behind him. Have you ever had a sudden loud voice blast in your ears from behind? I'm sure it got his attention.

REVELATION 1:11

saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

The voice, which John heard was the voice of Jesus Christ. Jesus was declaring to John who He was. Jesus is the first and last, the beginning and the end. God is before all things and God will always be; God is eternal and everlasting. This is a Scripture that confirms to us that Jesus is God. So God Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) is giving revelation to John. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

He tells John that the first group of people He wanted to hear this message from God is the churches in Asia Minor. The first group of people God speaks to are the believers in these seven churches. Can you name the seven without looking at your Bible? So the Revelation is given to the church (God's people) first.

Tell About Me

Divide your class into pairs. Tell the pairs to sit down together and get to know each other by asking questions such as; "What is your favorite color? Food? Season of the year? Do you have a pet/what kind of pet? What school do you go to? What is your favorite subject? What is your favorite thing to do?"

Have a sharing time and let everyone share what he/she learned about his/her partner. Then ask the group if their partner was correct in the information they shared. Ask what it would feel like if someone said a lot of things that weren't true. We always like to be rightly represented. God was perfectly represented by Jesus. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

REVELATION 1:12-16

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ. It is not just a revelation of future events. What does He look like? Does He look like a lowly shepherd? Does He look like a soft, meek, broken lamb? No! He is revealed as the mighty Judge of the universe. He is no longer in the role of the suffering servant that He was to mankind the first time He came to earth. Now He is risen from the dead and is the Lord of lords and King of kings. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

What did John see? John saw seven golden lamp stands. The lamp stands represent the seven churches. Churches should be like lamps to shine the light of Jesus to their city. In the middle of these churches stood Jesus Himself. He saw Jesus with a robe that went down to His feet. He saw around Jesus Christ a golden band which symbolizes righteousness and faithfulness (Isaiah 11:5). So Jesus looked like a righteous and faithful judge in the middle of these seven churches.

Next, John saw Jesus' head. His hair was as white as wool. This was a picture of Him being eternal, like the ancient of days shown in Daniel 7:9. His eyes were like a flame of fire, which represents His ability to see everything.

His feet were like shining brass. In the Bible, brass is often used as a representation of judgment. The Scripture tells us that it was brass that was refined in a furnace. Jesus is judge over all. He is a righteous judge who will one day judge the world. And His voice sounded like a strong, rushing waterfall. His voice was powerful and authoritative.

In His right hand He held seven stars. Stars can represent either angels or pastors. God controls and places those whom He wants to minister as leaders. He causes them to shine in the church. He holds the pastors in His mighty and secure hand where He always keeps them safe from harm.

Out of His mouth came a two-edged sword. Can you imagine what that would look like: Jesus with this huge sword coming out of His mouth. Which side do you want to be on – in front of Him or against Him? The whole picture of Jesus was shining like the sun, just as He looked on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2). It was an awesome revelation of Jesus. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

REVELATION 1:17,18

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

The scene was overwhelming for John. It was so awesome that he collapsed at Jesus' feet with fear and trembling. But Jesus put His hand on John and said, "Do not be afraid." The same voice that could bring incredible holy fear and respect can also bring peace and comfort.

Jesus makes sure John knows who He is. He is God in the flesh. He was the same Jesus whose chest John leaned on at the Last Supper.

We saw Jesus as a humble servant who died on the cross. Now, we see Him as He always has been: King of kings and Lord of lords. He has always been king. He has always been the One who would be the judge of the godly and the ungodly, Christians and the lost, the righteous and the unrighteous. Jesus is the ruler over death and of hell. He has the authority (keys) to them both.

REVELATION 1:19

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

John was now commanded to write down what he had just seen (chapter 1). Also he would write about the things that are. This is referring to the seven churches that Jesus was speaking to (chapters 2-3). Jesus had a message for His churches and He was going to use John to deliver it. Then lastly, Jesus wanted John to record the things that would take place in the future, the things that were to come. This is the judgment of Jesus on those that have chosen to reject Him as the Son of God (chapters 4-22).

Let's review. First, we see in our Bible reading today that the purpose of the Book of Revelation is to reveal Jesus Christ to His people. The revelation was given to John who gave it to the seven churches, who left it for all of us to read. We saw a beautiful yet awesome picture of Jesus in His glorified body. Jesus is no longer a suffering servant but now is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will rule the world with justice and righteousness eventually putting an end to sin and evil and all death and destruction.

Jesus is truly high and lifted up (Isaiah 6:1). All men should worship Jesus the King.
God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.

Listen to the Rep!

Make this simple game by putting about twelve or fifteen chairs in a circle. Tape a sheet of construction paper on each chair. Use several different colors and alternate them. If you have a younger class, use fewer colors. If you have an older class, use more colors.

Have the children line up and allow one child to go at a time. Call out sequences of colors for them to touch (for example: Yellow, Red, Blue, Yellow). Start with short sequences, then go to longer and longer ones. Have the children take turns remembering the sequences of colors.

After allowing a few children to go and you know that they have the hang of it, tell the kids that you have to do something else for a few minutes (working on papers or reading a book). What this means is that you will be sending the sequences through a helper, called a representative. Choose a helper to call out the color sequences for the rest of the children.

After the game tell how Jesus is the one who God sent to represent Him. Just like the helper in class acted on behalf of the teacher, so Jesus always acted on behalf of the Father. Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." When we study about Jesus, we learn about God the Father because Jesus is God in the flesh. **God reveals Himself to us through His Son Jesus.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that God has given us His son Jesus so that we can understand who He is and His great love for us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.