

## LESSON 4

# I AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is the Beginning and the End

**SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 21–22

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** John has a vision about when Jesus will bring His kingdom to earth. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and He reigns forever!

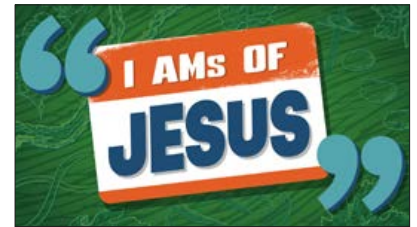
**WORD OF WONDER:** I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life. —John 8:12

## CURIOSITY

## BELIEF

## FAITH

- Welcome Question: Think about your favorite movie. How does it start? How does it end?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: John 8:12
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Beginning and End Group Art



**Notes!** Use the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet each week to help kids stay engaged and remember what they are learning. Encourage kids to make notes, draw pictures, and write questions throughout small group and large group. This also provides parents with resources to keep the conversation going throughout the week!



[I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

### 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:** 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

**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.

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is the Beginning and the End

**SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 21–22

**WORD OF WONDER:** John 8:12

### Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

**RESOURCES:** Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

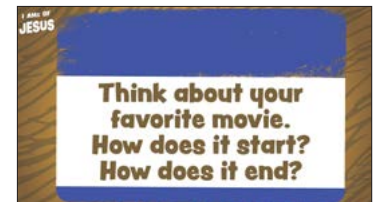
Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

#### Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

#### **As kids arrive..**

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question on the designated board/paper. Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.



#### **While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..**

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- What is the ending of your favorite book?
- Have you ever correctly guessed how a story might end? Tell us about it!

### Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Revelation 21. As kids find the passage, explain that 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.

Read Revelation 21:1–7; 22:12–13 OR pages aloud 408–411 from the My First Hands On Bible.

Then discuss the following:

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and draw a picture of the story as you read.

- **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*)
- **What is the city God will make new?** (*Jerusalem*)
- **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 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."

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite the kids to spend some time praying and thanking Jesus for all the things He's done in their lives. Help them think through things they can be grateful for—family, friends, homes, clothing, food, etc. Allow kids to pray aloud, and then close the prayer by thanking Jesus for His goodness and that He is King now and forever.

### Make It Inclusive!

Make a list of things kids might be grateful for and read it aloud. Some kids struggle to think of things to pray for on the spot, so encourage them to choose something from the list. If you have pre-readers or kids who are nonverbal, print pictures of several things they might be grateful to God for and allow them to point to a picture as a way of praying.

**Leader Tip:** The book of Revelation can be a bit confusing. Consider letting the kids know that this letter in the Bible fits in the genre called apocalyptic literature. This type of writing is often related to a vision given by God with its different imagery and coded language. The most important thing to remember about the book of Revelation is that it is about Jesus—it shows us that He reigns, and He is the beginning and the end!

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Revelation 21. As kids find the passage, explain that 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.

**Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.**

Invite three volunteers to read from Revelation 21:1–3; 21:4–7, and 22:12–13. Then discuss the following:

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **Who wrote down the vision God gave him?** (*John*)
- **Why did John write down his vision?**
- **Who will live with His people at the end of time?** (*God*)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God has promised all these things?**
- **How can knowing that Jesus is the beginning and the end help you today?**
- **What is something you are excited for Jesus to make new in your life or your family's life?**

"John's vision is such an amazing encouragement about how God has promised to bring His kingdom to earth and make all things new. Jesus is King now and forever, and we can trust Him to do what He says. Let's take some time to pray and ask God to make things new in our lives."

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share some prayer requests about where they need Jesus to make something new in their lives. Maybe they need His encouragement with a situation at home, or maybe they need Jesus' wisdom with friends or at school. Consider sharing a request of your own. At the end of your sharing time, invite a volunteer to pray, giving all these requests to God, who can be trusted to keep His promises.

### Make It Inclusive!

Make a list of areas kids might ask for God's help with, such as a situation at school, with friends, with family, etc. Some kids struggle to think of things to pray for on the spot, so encourage them to choose something from the list. If you have kids who are nonverbal, print pictures of several things they might want God's help with and allow them to point to a picture as a way of praying.

## WORD OF WONDER

I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me  
will never walk in darkness. They will have that light.  
They will have life.

—John 8:12 (NirV)

### Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

"The Word of Wonder for the I AMs of Jesus series is John 8:12. We saw in God's big story today that Jesus is the beginning and the end. All our hope depends on Him! Our verse talks about how Jesus is also the light for the whole world. Let's read the Word of Wonder together."

Invite the kids to open their Bibles to John 8:12. Encourage the whole group to read the verse aloud together. Then ask everyone to read or say the verse in slow motion. Then invite them to read or say the verse very quickly together.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. Encourage the older kids to help the younger kids find the verse in their Bibles. Remind them that John is the fourth book of the New Testament—the last Gospel that tells us about the life of Jesus.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- What do you think it means that Jesus is the Light of the World?
- How does Jesus bring us life?

### Word of Wonder Activity

**SUPPLIES:** glow sticks (20 or more per small group), scissors (optional)

Help the kids learn the Word of Wonder and remember that Jesus is the light by doing this activity with them.

Invite everyone to say the Word of Wonder together. Hand out glow sticks to 1–2 kids and invite them to "crack" them so they light up. Then have kids spell the word *light* using their glow sticks by drawing in the air with the glow sticks. After they've done that, encourage everyone to say the Word of Wonder again, this time emphasizing the word *light* when they come to it.

Now give glow sticks to another pair of kids and invite them to spell the word *world*. Again, encourage everyone to say the verse together, this time emphasizing the word *world*.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. If you have older kids, encourage them to choose words to spell out with their glow sticks instead of you choosing for them.

Continue allowing different kids to use glow sticks to spell out words from the verse—walk, darkness, life, John, etc. Each time, the kids can practice saying the verse together.

## PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

### Responding in Worship: Beginning and End Group Art

**SUPPLIES:** craft foam bases (1 per 4–5 kids, any shape with depth of at least 2"), pipe cleaners (5 per kid, variety of colors), pony beads (15–20 per kid, optional), bowls (1 per group, optional)

**RESOURCES:** [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

#### Make It Inclusive!

Kids with fine motor difficulties might struggle with using pipe cleaners and pony beads. Consider providing additional craft supplies that are easier to grasp, such as large pom-poms, craft sticks, slips of paper, and play dough.

Place kids into groups of 4–5. Give each group a craft foam base and enough pipe cleaners so that each kid will have five. A variety of colored pipe cleaners will make this more fun! Place enough pony beads inside a bowl so each group will have plenty to share. If you would rather not use beads, this activity works well with only pipe cleaners.

**Leader Tip:** Consider creating a sample piece of art with the planned materials for this response activity. What comes to mind when you read the Genesis to Revelation verse parallels? A visual for kids of how unique the artwork can be is helpful.

**Today we learned about John’s vision—how one day Jesus, the beginning and the end, will make everything new. God will bring His kingdom to earth, and there will be no more sadness or pain or death. It will be amazing! And when we look at what God shared with John in Revelation, we see how it reveals connections to the very beginning in Genesis!**

**Each group has a bowl of beads, pipe cleaners, and a foam base. We are going to use these materials to create 3D artwork together. We are going to hear verses from the books of Genesis and Revelation. After you hear each verse, you can use the materials to create something that reminds you of what you hear. When we hear about how God made the world in the very beginning and then that God is going to make the world new, what comes to your mind? What could you do with the pipe cleaners, beads, and foam to remind you of this truth? How might you work with those around you to make something together? We will hear five sets of verses. Between each set of verses, we will take time to create together to help us remember the greatness of God.**



Read (or have kids read Genesis 1:5 and Revelation 22:5 aloud, Genesis 1:21 and Revelation 21:1, Genesis 3:8 and Revelation 21:3, Genesis 2:9 and Revelation 22:2, Genesis 3:19 and Revelation 22:3–4. Instruct kids work together to create their art. They can place beads on the pipe cleaners, attach pipe cleaners

together, make symbols that will eventually be attached together—the possibilities are endless! As kids work, ask: **What connections do you see between these verses?** Repeat this process for each set of verses. If desired, play songs from the [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids create.

Once you have read the verses, bring kids back together. Invite them to share their group creations.

**Jesus was there before anything was created, and He gets the last word on what happens at the end. Jesus was at the beginning of everything and will be there when God’s big story reaches its good and happy ending. Jesus is King forever and ever, and one day the whole world will know it! He will bring His kingdom to earth, and He will live with us!"**

