

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!

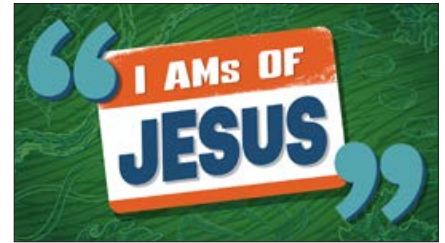
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the light of the world. —from John 8:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God’s Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend
- God’s Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[I Ams of Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

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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

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.



LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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: From John 8:12

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: ball of yarn

Before the skit, take a small length of yarn and wad it up into a ball shape. Make sure the end pieces of yarn are easily visible and the yarn can be easily untangled.

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: I wonder what our friend Tac, the curious cat, is up to today. Let's find out! Tac, are you here?

Tac the Cat: Hi, friends! I was just playing with my favorite ball of yarn.
(If possible, have Tac hold up or gesture to a ball of yarn.)

Leader: (Leader picks up the ball of yarn) Oh, that looks ... fun? What do you do with a ball of yarn?

Tac the Cat: Well, I like my ball of yarn because it's round. And I can throw it up in the air and chase after it and play with it.

Leader: That does sound like fun! But, Tac, this doesn't look like much of a ball anymore.

Tac the Cat: Well, it usually is, but I was playing with my ball of yarn, and something happened. I thought it went on forever, but it doesn't look like a ball anymore.

Leader: (Show the kids the ball of yarn and start to pull at one end of the string.) Oh, Tac, I see what you mean. I see the beginning of the string here!

Tac the Cat: Yeah, it has a beginning. Do you think the string has an ending too?

Leader: I bet it does! Let's see if we can untangle it and find out. (*Untangle the string to find the ending.*)

Tac the Cat: My string has a beginning and an end! It doesn't go on forever.

Leader: Nope, your string doesn't go on forever, but do you know who does?

Tac the Cat: Who?

Leader: God! God always has been and always will be. Today in our God's big story we're going to learn that Jesus is the beginning and the end.

Tac the Cat: That sounds amazing! I'm going to take my yarn and see if I can put it back into a ball while I wait for our story later!

Leader: Good luck, Tac. See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever made up a different ending to your favorite movie? Tell us about it! Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever guessed correctly how a story might end? Tell us about it! Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God doesn't have a beginning or an end? He always was—and always will be!"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END**. Today, we'll discover how Jesus is the beginning and the end!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

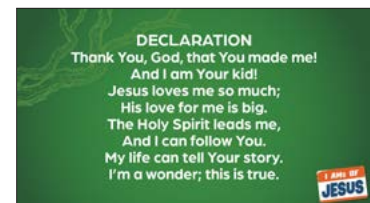
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **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.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how Jesus is the beginning and the end! Let's sing about Jesus together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Revelation in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Revelation. Revelation is the last book of the Bible. It's at the very end!"

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

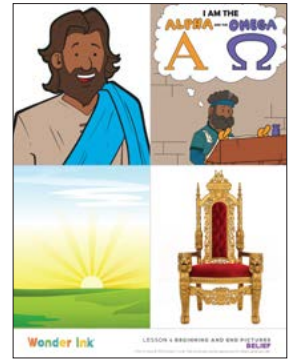
GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), tape, disposable cups (8)

RESOURCES: [Beginning and End Pictures \(2-3 / campus\)](#)

Ahead of time print one set of the Beginning and End Pictures. Cut the eight pictures apart on the dotted lines as indicated. Tape each picture to a different disposable cup.

Gather kids together and hand out the cups to different kids. If you have more than eight kids, you could pair them up and give each pair a cup. When you hand the cups to the kids, point out the number on each cup and ask if they know what number it is. Tell the kids to set the cups in front of them until you call out their number, and then they will pick up their cup and bring it up to the front of the room.



"Before Jesus rose from the dead and went to be with God the Father, He promised His disciples He would prepare a place for them in God's family. Jesus was going to heaven to His Father's house—the place where God lives. Jesus was going to prepare a place for His disciples there. Please bring cup #1 to the front. Encourage the kid who has the #1 cup to bring it to you. Show the kids the picture on the cup. **Who do you think this is a picture of on this cup?** Allow answers. **It's Jesus! Jesus is the beginning of our story.** Place the cup where kids can see the picture. You will need enough space to set seven more cups out in a line next to it.

Years after Jesus returned to heaven, God gave a vision to a man named John. Who has cup #2? Have the kid with second cup bring it to you. Show the kids the picture on the cup. **Here is a picture of John! He was a follower of Jesus. John's vision was about God's great power and Jesus beating evil! God was going to make a home with His people forever! John wrote down what he saw in the vision. The vision showed that the same God who created everything in the beginning is still in control and will make everything right in the end.** Place the second cup in line next to the first cup.

In his vision, John saw what will happen at the very end of history. Who has cup #3? Have the kid with cup #3 bring it to you. Show the kids the picture on the cup. **He saw a new heaven and a new earth. Hundreds of years before, God promised that He would create new heavens and a new earth. God was going to keep that promise. What John saw in the vision was beautiful! Look at this beautiful picture on this cup!** Place the third cup in line next to the other cups.

Leader Tip: Kids might be confused by what a vision is. You can explain to them a vision is a special picture given to someone from God's Spirit.

Heaven and earth were coming together! John saw God's throne. Who has cup #4? Have the kid with the fourth cup bring it to you. **A throne is where the ruler of a kingdom sits.** Show kids the picture on cup #4. **God rules everything and has a throne in heaven. In the vision, John heard a loud voice from God's throne that said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God"** (Revelation 21:3). **God was going to make a forever home with His people, to live with them always.** Place the fourth cup in line next to the other cups.

The voice from God's throne said, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" (Revelation 21:4). This was another promise God had made before. At home with God, no one would feel sad. No one would cry or feel pain. People would only feel joy and fully alive! God is making everything new! Who has cup #5? Have the kid with the fifth cup bring it to you. Show the kids the picture. **Look how happy these people look!** Place the fifth cup in line next to the other cups.

The vision God showed John isn't a "maybe" plan. It's a "for sure" plan! It will happen! John heard the one who sits on the throne say, "Write this down. You can trust these words. They are true" (Revelation 21:5). Then John heard, "It is done. I Am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 21:6). Who has cup #6? Have the kid with the sixth cup bring it to you. Show the kids the symbols for *alpha* and *omega* on the cup. **Alpha means beginning, and omega means end.** Place cup #6 in line next to the other cups.

God is the Creator of all things. He is the One who makes all things end at the right time. God keeps all His promises and makes everything happen that He plans to have happen. And Jesus is one with God the Father! Jesus is God!

Who has cup #7? Have the kid with cup #7 bring it to you. Show the kids the picture on the cup. **In his vision, John saw Jesus sharing heaven's throne with the Father (Revelation 5:6). "I am the Alpha and Omega," Jesus says. "I am the First and the Last. I am the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13). Jesus was there before anything was created. He gets the last word on what happens at the end.** Place the cup in line next to the other cups.

We are almost at the end of our story for today, but really this story has no ending! Who has cup #8? Have the kid with cup #8 bring it to you. Show kids the picture on the cup. **Does this look familiar? Who is on this cup?** Allow answers. **It's Jesus again. This is the same as cup #1 at the beginning of our story!** Place the cup at the end of the line of cups. **At home with God in the new heaven and the new earth, God's people will live with Him forever. No one will die. God told John, "Those who have victory will receive all this from me. I will be their God, and they will be my children" (Revelation 21:7). Followers of Jesus become children of God! They have a place in God's forever family. All because of who Jesus is and what He did. Jesus is the beginning and the end.**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesus beats everything, even death! By dying on the cross and rising again, Jesus won over death and made way for the new heaven and new earth! One day all Jesus-followers—including us!—will live forever with God. Jesus is the beginning and the end!

Prayer and Blessing

Close by praying over kids, thanking God for being the beginning and the end. Use your own words. Here is an example:

"Let's talk to God."

Thank You, God, for being the beginning and the end. Thank You for making everything new. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May the Lord bless and keep you as you go this week. Know that He is Creator and King and the beginning and the end!