



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

May 24-25, 2014

DATE

Re-Creation

LESSON TITLE

Revelation 21

WHERE TO FIND IT

One day, Jesus will return and re-create the world into a perfect home.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

As kids enter the room, welcome them by name. It will make them feel known and like they belong.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to show their globe key chains to their parents—and share their favorite part of today's lesson.

## large group heads up

We're talking about the perfect world God will one day re-create for his whole family. In addition to watching "God's Story: Re-Creation," we're also going to look at a couple other things to try to get a picture of what this world will be like: the Garden of Eden, a prophecy God gave Isaiah and a world where everyone lives by the fruit of the Spirit. Our goal is to let our imaginations run wild, which should make us really, really excited!



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### THE PERFECT WORLD

- Divide kids into small groups
- Give each group a large, **tear-off sheet of paper** and **markers**
- Start connect time with asking everyone in the group to share their name.
- Tell the kids that in today's Bible story, we are talking about how God will create a perfect world when Jesus returns.
- Ask the kids to imagine what a perfect world would be like.
  - Draw a line down the middle.
  - On one side, have kids draw things they want to **ADD** to the world.
  - On the other side, have kids draw things they want to take **OUT** of the world.
- Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their weeks. (Relate those to the poster: for example, maybe we'd **ADD** more birthday parties but take **OUT** getting sick.)
- Bring their perfect world creation to large group.

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand that God has promised to re-create the world for everyone who's a part of his family and (2) celebrate the amazing world he has promised.

**Why?** God gave us a picture of this world in order to give us hope for the future—and he told us some pretty amazing parts of it. But it will be SO MUCH better than the most incredible world we can imagine right now (1 Corinthians 2:9).

**Tip:** The Bible is a love story about how God is bringing people close to him. Spend some time celebrating different parts of God's story.

## small group

### REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

**\*Try this for a more engaged discussion: tell kids you're going to ask a question. Then give a beanbag to somebody and it's their job to answer. Then, everybody has to listen carefully to the next question. The kid with the "beanbag" must toss it to someone else.**

1. What was the Garden of Eden like?
2. What happened to spoil the perfect world God created?
3. Why will God re-create a perfect world? Who is it for?
4. What did God show Isaiah about the perfect world?
5. What did God show John about this perfect world?
6. What would the world be like if everyone lived by every fruit of the Spirit? What would it be like if YOU lived by the fruit of the Spirit?

### IMAGINE A HOME WITH GOD (ACTIVITY #1)

Take out the **trash bag** and **treasure box**. The trash bag is the broken world we live in now. The treasure box is the perfect home God will create for us.

- Split your small group into two teams.
- Give each team a **paper bag full of slips of paper**.
  - If a slip of paper has something written on it that happens in or belongs to this broken world, have them crumple it and put it in the trash can.
  - If it shows something that happens or belongs in the *perfect* world, have kids put it in the treasure chest.
- After they've finished the slips of paper, have kids tear out the words from their Connect Time poster and put them either in the trash can or treasure box .
  - Kids should notice that all the items in the take OUT column belong in the trash can.

(Continue on the following page)



- Remind kids that we can put everything in the ADD column in the treasure box because God has promised to make it BETTER than we can possibly imagine.

SAY: The Bible (God's Story) records the beginning of the world and the end of the world, which hasn't even happened yet! It tells us the story of people from the beginning to the end; the fall of Adam and Eve into sin and the rescue of Jesus...and it even tells us about God's ultimate victory over evil, when he makes the whole world perfect again. God's story is amazing!

*(If kids have questions about how to be a part of God's family, talk to them about it. Just share what you know about being part of God's family and tell them about when you made the choice to believe in Jesus.)*

**\*Spend some time praying with the kids. Praise God in your prayer for the wonder and awe of his story.**

#### **GLOBE KEY CHAINS (ACTIVITY #2)**

Pass out the **globe key chains** and tell the kids that this is a reminder to them of the perfect world that God has planned for all who believe in him. With a **sharpie**, have the kids write a word on their globe to remind them of their favorite part of this new home that God is preparing for us.

*Extra time? Have kids share what they wrote on their globe. Ask them to share the part of God's story (from beginning to end or from today's story) that they like the best. Ask them what makes them most excited about God's ultimate plan for us.*

# LARGE group

## special notes

God gave us a picture of the world he'll re-create in order to give us the hope we need to get through the brokenness of this world. Reflect that hope to kids!

## presenter tips

Since we're talking about the end of the Bible (Re-Creation), we're also revisiting the beginning to remember how God first created everything (perfectly!) and how we can ALL be a part of his story and enjoy the amazing (perfect!) world he'll re-create for his family.

## script

Hello! Welcome to Kids Club. I'm so glad to see you all here. We have been doing some dreaming. In your small group you were asked to dream of the perfect world. Is there a group that would like to share? What things would you add to this world? What things would you take out? (Have only 2-3 groups share due to time.)

Wow! There are some really neat things in your perfect worlds. *(Talk about the items you liked that the kids presented. **THEN RETURN POSTERS TO LEADERS FOR SMALL GROUP.**)*

### QUICK REVIEW: CREATION AND FALL

**(Show picture of paradise.)** See, in the very beginning, God made a perfect world. The first two people, Adam and Eve, got to live there, in a place called the Garden of Eden. Does anyone remember hearing about what it was like? (perfect garden; beautiful trees, plant and animals; we could play with animals; no sin; no death; best part—*they lived with God!* etc.)

That's right. There was nothing bad in the world. But THEN...God's enemy convinced Adam and Eve to disobey God. When they made that one wrong choice, every other wrong thing began, like sadness and meanness and everything bad—the things you guys said you would take OUT of the world (refer to Connect Time posters).

As we all know, since that time, the world has *not* been perfect. But God had a plan to send Jesus—his own son—to rescue us by taking the punishment for all the wrong things that have ever happened. Now we are free to be part of God's family and part of his story. The best part is, God will one day re-create a brand new, perfect home for us to live in with him!

### A PROMISE OF A PERFECT WORLD

God wants us to be SO excited about this world! In the middle of the Bible, hundreds of years before Jesus even came, a prophet named Isaiah received a vision from God. Does anyone know what a prophet is? (A person who hears from God and shares it.) This vision was a



### script continued

promise of a perfect world for all of God's family. Let's take a look at what God says to Isaiah in the Bible:

**SLIDE: Isaiah 65:17-19** Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth—so wonderful that no one will think about the old ones anymore. Be glad. Rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more.

*(God talked about Jerusalem because that's where his family was back then. But now anyone in the WORLD can be part of God's special family.)* Can you imagine what that would be like? A world where we rejoice, a place of happiness where there will be no weeping and crying?! This sure sounds like the perfect world and a perfect place to call home!

### A VISION OF RE-CREATION

Well, later, after Jesus rescued us, and at the end of the Bible in a book called Revelation, God gave another picture of the future world. Does anyone know what a revelation means? (A surprising fact, something that used to be hidden.)

**(Click to show map of Turkey.)** God made a picture known to a man named John, who was one of Jesus's disciples. John was sent to an island called Patmos near the country of Turkey. Living on the island was actually punishment, because he wouldn't stop telling people about Jesus! Let's watch a video of the picture John saw of this new and perfect world. As you watch, try to decide which part is *your* favorite!

### Video: God's Story / Re-Creation

Wow! What a great and perfect world. What are some of your favorite things that God promised would be in this new and perfect world? *(Allow the kids to respond: Jesus on a throne, no hunger, crime, angels, city from heaven with jewels, pearl gates, angels, crystal river with water that allows us to live forever, no death, everyone is a part of God's family, lots of love, live with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit; etc.)*

### THE PERFECT WORLD AND THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

I can't wait for those things! And truth is, it'll be even BETTER than our wildest imaginations. Think about the times God's Story gives us a picture of a perfect world:

1. In the beginning of God's Story, in the Garden of Eden, *before* Adam and Eve disobeyed. (pause)
2. Thousands of years later when God told Isaiah, the prophet, about a perfect world with no tears. (pause)
3. At the end of the Bible, when an angel appeared to John and described how Jesus will return and a new world and perfect home will be created for God's whole family. (pause)

And that's just what we've had time to talk about today! The best part is, everyone is welcome to be part of God's family by following Jesus—and eventually be part of this perfect world. In the promised world, everything will be made new again...even us! To picture how we might live,



### script continued

let's remember how God's Holy Spirit can cause us to act when he lives inside of us:

**SLIDE: Galatians 5: 22 – 23: But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.**

Wow, that's amazing! Even imagining people acting like THAT makes the world seem pretty great, doesn't it? I mean, think about it: what if everybody acted like the Holy Spirit ALL the time? Even when we're following Jesus, we mess up sometimes. But let's consider what it could look like in the world where everybody lived by the fruit of the Spirit.

### **GAME – A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT OR AN ACTION OF THE WORLD**

To do that, we're going to play a quick game. If I say something that's living by the fruit of the Spirit, say "Fruit" and place your arms in a circle over your head like you're a round piece of fruit. If I say something that's a choice you'd make in a broken world, say "World" and give me two thumbs down. Ready?

- A classmate teases you because you answered a question incorrectly during math class. Instead of getting angry, you say, "I tried my best." (fruit!)
- Your brother punches you; you punch him back. (world)
  - ASK: How would you have acted if you were showing the fruit of the Spirit?
- Your sister accidentally breaks your phone, and you respond, "Accidents happen. I still love you." (fruit!)
- You have committed to going to your cousin's house on Saturday, but a friend asks you to the movies. You go to the movies and break your commitment to your cousin. (world)
  - How would you have acted if you were showing the fruit of the Spirit?
- You and your friend try out for the same sports team. He/she makes the team and you don't. You celebrate with them even though you are sad on the inside. (fruit)
- You clean your room without being asked, instead of playing video games. (fruit)

Remember, not only would YOU be doing these things but other people would be acting like that to you. Others would be kind to you, patient with you, full of love toward you. Who thinks that would be pretty amazing? (Let kids respond.) Me too!

### **WORSHIP**

You know, thinking about God's amazing original plan in the Garden of Eden, the things God tells us about the promised perfect world, and imagining a world where everyone is full of the Holy Spirit and loving one another is pretty exciting! Let's take a minute to praise Jesus, our Rescuer, for this perfect world that will be created for us and for the Holy Spirit that lives in us.

**Song: Wake**

**Song: Better Than the Best!**

### **PRAY**

Ask someone and pray, thanking God for the perfect world that he will someday re-create for us.



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

- Markers
- 1 large tear-off sheet of paper per small group

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## small group supplies

- Per kid
- 1 globe keychain (OT: IN-19/28)

- Per group
- beanbag
- 3 Sharpies
- 1 Bible
- 1 trash bag
- 1 treasure box
- 2 paper bags with slips of paper (template in curriculum folder)

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## large group supplies

- Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Image: paradise
2. SLIDE: Isaiah 65:17-19 Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth—so wonderful that no one will think about the old ones anymore. Be glad. Rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more.
3. Image: map of Turkey
4. Video: God's Story / Re-Creation
5. SLIDE: Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.
6. Music Video: Wake
7. Music Video: Better than the Best (with Dance Moves)

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## connect questions

- Tell me about the future home God promised his family. What are you most excited about?

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## parent page

God sent an angel to show John a picture of the world he's promised to re-create for his family—a perfect world, where Jesus sits on the throne. We can only imagine what this world will be like, but it's really fun to think about! Ask your kid to tell you about it. If you want, read it together in Revelation 21 in the Bible, or watch "God's Story: Re-Creation" at [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net).