

## God's Story: New Heaven New Earth Script

Gold Bag - rainbow ribbon, gems, gold pen to write names on the Book of Life

Resource Bag - green underlay, throne room backdrop, street of gold with the river of life

Items needed from previous stories: chain (November), Book of Life cutout (November), peg dolls for Jesus and John, map of Paul's journey, scroll (November), two angels (March), lamb (December), house backdrop and peg family (August), banquet table, food and drink (February), extra peg people for the banquet.

To begin:

- Have a Bible open to Revelation 21
- Have a family member light the battery-operated candle and explain that this light represents God's presence as you tell His story.
- Pass all 9 blocks around the table and place them in order.
- Have a family member begin with prayer before you tell the story.

You may use this script or tell the story in your own words.

### **The Beginning: (place family peg dolls and house over to the side).**

"This month we come to the end of God's story. We find it in the last book of the Bible called Revelation. We have been telling the story each month, and finally get to discover the ending. After Adam and Eve sinned and people were separated from God, he waited a long time to send Jesus to rescue them. Jesus completed His rescue plan on the cross and returned to Heaven to be at the side of God, his Father. Jesus is waiting to return, so more people can accept his invitation to live with him forever."

### **Jesus' disciples are God's Storytellers ( John, chain, map )**

"Last month, we told the story of the disciples traveling to many places to share the good news of God's Kingdom. One disciple named John traveled from Jerusalem to another important city, Ephesus" (*move John on map*). "Many people who lived there worshipped other gods. John loved Jesus very much and loved telling other people about him. He talked about Jesus so much that he was arrested" (*wrap chain around John*) "and sent to the small island of Patmos to live" (*place John on a small island near Ephesus*). "They sent him there so they wouldn't have to listen anymore!" (*unchain John and place chain around the island*)

### **John's Vision (Jesus)**

"But God had a big plan for John. One Sunday, while John was praying, something amazing happened. Jesus came to visit him in a vision—like in a dream, but he was awake."

### **The Messages (scroll)**

"Jesus asked John to write letters to seven churches" (*put down scroll*). "They needed a special message to help them do what was right and to remember how much God loved them. They were being persecuted just because they were Christians and Jesus had important things to tell them."

### **The Throne Room (green circle underlay, backdrop, jewels, and angels)**

(*Lay down the green circle underlay, and move Jesus and John close to the circle*) "Jesus showed John many things in his vision, but toward the end of his visit he showed him a beautiful throne room." (*put down backdrop*) "He saw a rainbow around God's throne" (*put the rainbow*

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*ribbon around the green circle*). “Angels were singing: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God!’”  
(*place two angels on the green circle near the throne*)

### **The Lamb (the lamb, angels)**

“In this throne room, John saw someone very special - a Lamb. He knew the Lamb was Jesus”  
(*Place the Lamb in front of the throne*). “Remember, John the baptizer said Jesus was the Lamb of God. Everyone around the throne bowed down to worship the Holy One.” (*angels bow to the Lamb*)

### **The Great Banquet (banquet table, food discs, bread, cup, peg people)**

“John heard many voices shouting praises to Jesus and saw they were having a feast.” (*place the table on the green circle along with food, cup, bread, and people around the table*) “An angel told John to write this down, ‘Blessed are all who are invited to the big wedding party for Jesus and his bride who are God’s people!’”

### **The New Creation (gold street-river of life, book of life, jewels)**

“At the end of the story, John saw a New Heaven and a new Earth completely restored. Everything was perfect and full of light. A new Jerusalem came down from Heaven with beautiful gates and glistening jewels.” (*place jewels on the backdrop*) “There was no need for a temple because God’s presence filled everything. No curtain would ever separate the people from their King again. A voice shouted from the throne saying, ‘Now God will live among his people. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.’ Jesus reminded John to write all this down because his words are true and can be trusted.”

“The streets were made of gold and a river of life flowed out from the throne.” (*lay down the street of gold and river*) “There was a special tree that helped make everyone well, and also many other trees with different fruit for the nations. God’s glory was the only light that was needed. Every part of creation was made new. This is where God would live here forever with his people.

Who are God’s people that can enter this beautiful place? Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (*lay down the Book of Life*).

### **The Ending**

“Jesus said, ‘It is finished. I am coming soon!’” (*remove Jesus from the scene, and put John back on the island*) John wrote everything down to share with his friends because John was one of God’s people. He was an important storykeeper. He shared God’s story with faithful followers who continued to share the story so that someday the whole world would know and we would too. Will you share God’s Story until the whole world knows that Jesus is our King and will return someday? God has invited everyone to live with him forever and that means you too.

I wonder which part of the story you like best.

I wonder how John felt as Jesus showed him this vision.

I wonder how the people in the seven churches felt when they received their letters from John.

I wonder if there is even more to see in the New Heaven and New Earth.

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I wonder what questions you may have about this story.  
I wonder where you see yourself in this story.  
I wonder who else needs to hear God's Story.

Now that you have finished watching this video, you have several ways for your family to interact with the story. One fun way would be to look at your story pieces from other months and decide if those people or things will be in a new heaven and new earth.

Since your home backdrop and your family are sitting nearby, you can discuss whether your family will be there and why you believe that is true. After you discuss this, each person in your family may want to place their peg doll in the scene. Take a look at your script to see some of the options for discussion and play.

### **Thoughts for parents:**

Some children and youth may want to ask more questions about this topic, while others may want to wait before discussing it further. Sometimes, these concepts appear to go over a child's head. Jesus told the disciples many things that they didn't understand, but they grasped the meaning later.

Discipleship or catechesis with children is a long process. Every conversation builds on the previous one. This is why we introduce the Christian faith early and often. They will have difficult questions about the Christian faith or even have doubts. Remember that your relationship with them is more important than convincing them you have the right answers. You can share that you wonder about some of the same things and suggest that together you can look at scripture for the answers. Children and youth enjoy being part of the discovery process. Spend time praying and listening for God to guide you both.

Charles Hodge, a 19th-century theologian, is quoted as saying, "The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches."