

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

SPRING 2021

Unit 1: Letters to the Seven Churches, Part I

<p>LESSON 1</p>	<p>Alpha and Omega <i>Jesus Speaks to John</i> Bible Lesson: Revelation 1:4-18 Bible Point: From Heaven, Jesus speaks to His church.</p>	<p>Study: Revelation 1:9 Examine: Discuss ways God speaks to His church today. From an age-appropriate Bible, read Revelation 1:4-18. Discuss how Jesus planned on using John to speak to His churches.</p>	<p>Apply: Family art time! Read through Revelation 1:4-18 again as family members draw, color, or paint a representation of John's vision. Afterward, let everyone share their artwork and describe what it would be like to be in John's shoes. Play together and tell Jesus that you long to hear His voice and will obey with awe and wonder. Life Application: I will obey God's Word with awe and wonder.</p>
<p>LESSON 2</p>	<p>Letter to Ephesus <i>Your First Love</i> Bible Lesson: Revelation 2:1-7 Bible Point: Jesus rewards those who make Him the focus of their love.</p>	<p>Study: Revelation 2:4 Examine: Discuss how Jesus spoke to His churches using letters written by John. From an age-appropriate Bible, read the letter to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7). Discuss how Jesus warned them to return to their first love or their candle would be snuffed out.</p>	<p>Apply: Have everyone name an old favorite toy, and if they no longer have it, look it up online. What made it a favorite? Why don't you think about it or play with it any longer? We grow. Interests change. God never changes, however, and neither should our love for Him. Discuss ways to keep God as our first love and at the center of our lives no matter how we change and grow. Life Application: I will stay focused on my first love, Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>LESSON 3</p>	<p>Letter to Smyrna <i>Faithful in Persecution</i> Bible Lesson: Revelation 2:8-11 Bible Point: Jesus rewards those who stay faithful in persecution.</p>	<p>Study: Revelation 2:10 Examine: Look up examples of Christian persecution today to discuss the meaning of <i>persecution</i>. From an age-appropriate Bible, read the letter to the church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11). Discuss how Jesus promised to reward those who stayed faithful during persecution.</p>	<p>Apply: List things that are important to do as Christians, such as encourage, forgive, fellowship, pray, witness, read your Bible, and so on. For each thing on the list, name some things that might distract you from doing those things. Where are some areas where persecution might keep you from being faithful to these things? Discuss God's rewards awaiting those who willingly do these things despite opposition. Life Application: I will remain faithful, no matter what I face.</p>
<p>LESSON 4</p>	<p>Letter to Pergamos <i>Cling to God's Righteousness</i> Bible Lesson: Revelation 2:12-17 Bible Point: Jesus rewards those who hold on to His righteousness.</p>	<p>Study: Revelation 2:13 Examine: Using current events, discuss the evidence showing how we live in a sinful world. From an age-appropriate Bible, read the letter to the church in Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17). Discuss how, in this sinful world, Jesus promised to reward those who held on to His righteousness.</p>	<p>Apply: Play tug-o-war to discuss what it means to "cling" to something. Like we held onto that rope, God wants us to cling to His righteousness. Worldly influences will come along and try to pull God's righteousness out of our hands, but we need to hold on to Jesus, trusting God to help us through. Identify any worldly influences that are trying to pull away God's righteousness. Play against these influences with power, calling on the name of Jesus. Life Application: I will cling to God's righteousness, no matter what happens around me.</p>
<p>LESSON 5</p>	<p>When Fear and Joy Collide <i>Easter</i> Bible Lesson: Matthew 28:1-9 Bible Point: Jesus wants us to tell others about His resurrection.</p>	<p>Study: Matthew 28:8 Examine: Discuss how spring is a time when things come back to life. Distribute paper and crayons. As you read Matthew 28:1-9 from an age-appropriate Bible, draw emojis to represent Mary's emotional rollercoaster as she learned Jesus was alive.</p>	<p>Apply: Ask everyone to draw a happy face on one side of paper and a sad face on the other. Then everyone shares something that made them sad (show sad face) and something that made them glad (show happy face). Recount the Resurrection story. During the part where Jesus died on the cross and was in the tomb, show sad faces. During the part where the stone rolled away, Jesus arose, and the angel said He is alive, show happy faces. Rejoice! Life Application: I will tell others about the resurrection of Jesus.</p>