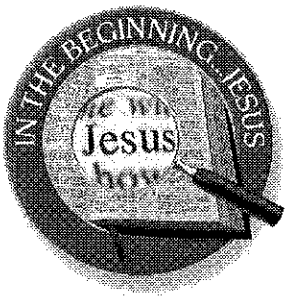
In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 39
Jesus: Returning King

Themes:

- Jesus' resurrection is proof that the new covenant has been enacted and accomplishes what it promises.
- Jesus fulfills the Old Testament clues concerning the throne of David.
- Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the throne in heaven.
- Jesus will someday return to this earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

Scripture:

John 11:25; 12:12-15; Luke 1:32-33; Hebrews 8:1; Matthew 25:31

Memory Verse:

Review John 1:1-18

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
  - CARD #1-3.
  - THE NEW COVENANT—Cut out the pieces from pages A-E of this visual and glue them onto a piece of poster paper or tape them onto the wall so that the poster resembles the visual shown on page 306.
  - CLUE SCRAMBLE.
  - JESUS' FAMILY TREE (from Lesson 32).
  - JESUS: RETURNING KING.
  - THE FIRST TIME A-D; THE SECOND TIME A-D—Stack these so that you can show the visuals in order (THE FIRST TIME A and THE SECOND TIME A, THE FIRST TIME B and THE SECOND TIME B, etc.) during the lesson.
  - SPELLING TEST—Add to bag mentioned below.
  - 2 CHECK MARKS.
- First Place Ribbon—These are available in most party stores and discount stores.
- Three small paper bags—Label the bags #1, #2, and #3. Then, in the corresponding bag, place the following item: #1) the First Place Ribbon; #2) SPELLING TEST (mentioned above); #3) a $10 bill. [**Note:** Before the

lesson time, fill in the information on the SPELLING TEST and on the paper portion of the First Place Ribbon. To do this you must choose children for this illustration ahead of time so you can fill in their proper names. This will be used during the opening illustration of the lesson.]

- Pot with soil—About a week before the lesson, plant several bean seeds in the soil and water. If the sprouts begin to emerge through the soil by the day of the lesson, cover them with a little more soil.
- Plate.

Lesson

Choose three children to come to the front. Tell the class you are going to pretend that these three children are each going to *claim* something. Hand each child a bag with its corresponding card (**Bag #1** and **CARD #1** to one child, **Bag #2** and **CARD #2** to another child, and so on). Then, one by one, have them read their cards to the class:

Card # 1: I got an "A+" on my spelling test.
Card # 2: I won first place in the 50-yard dash.
Card # 3: My parents gave me $10.

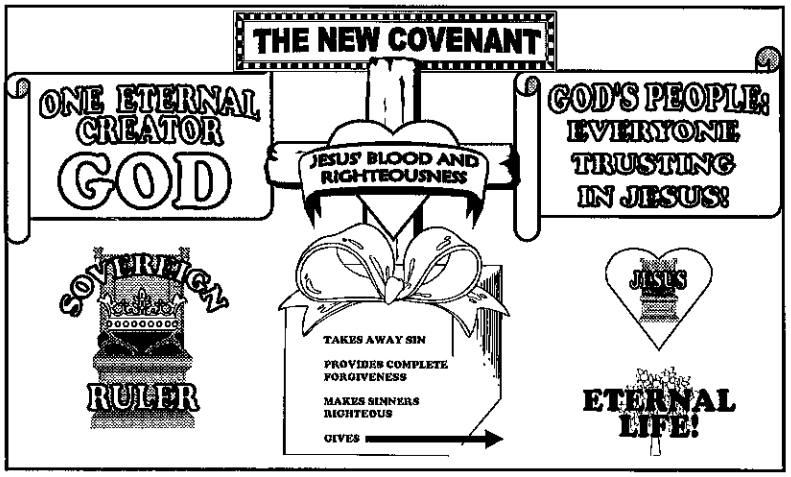
Suppose you weren't sure their claims were true. Suppose you doubted that [child's name] *really got an A+ and* [child's name] *really won first place and* [child's name] *really received $10. Is there any way they could prove their claims were true? How?*

Instruct the three children to open their bags and show what they have inside: #1) spelling test; #2) first place ribbon; #3) $10.

How would each child have proved his or her claim? [With evidence: something showing that what they claimed was, in fact, true.]

Display NEW COVENANT visual and quickly give a summary of the new covenant symbolized on it. (See the top of the next page for an image of the visual.)

In the new covenant, God has made a final and everlasting agreement with His new covenant people. This covenant is the fulfillment or completion of the covenant God made with Abraham long ago, to bless all the families of the world through one Man. This one Man is Jesus. Jesus kept all of God's holy and righteous laws, succeeding where Israel and everyone else had failed. In the new covenant, Jesus did an amazing thing—He made a "trade" with His sinful people. He took their sin and went to the cross to die in their place. Jesus was the perfect substitute for sinners. But Jesus also gave His people something—His own righteousness. Because of what Jesus has done, God's people are now



completely forgiven, delivered from death and hell, so they have eternal life in heaven.

Point out that the new covenant makes some very important claims. For example, it claims that because of what Jesus has done, everyone who trusts in Jesus will be delivered from death and hell, and go to heaven and enjoy eternal life with God. All who are part of the new covenant people of God by faith in Jesus are saved from their sins.

How can we know that this is true? Is there any proof this new covenant is really able to do this? If there is, what kind of proof would it be?

Display CLUE SCRAMBLE: The TONUERRICERS and explain that the proof is given in the scrambled word. After the children have given a few guesses, tell them they will find the unscrambled word in the following text:

Read **John 11:25**:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live."

What is the proof the new covenant really works? Can you unscramble the word? [Resurrection.]

Point out that the story of the Bible does not end at Jesus' death on the cross for sinners—there is more to the story! Jesus' resurrection followed His death. Jesus was raised from the dead. Jesus will never die again. He was resurrected to eternal life, proving the new covenant is true and really works. Jesus had done everything necessary for sin to be punished and for God's people to be completely forgiven. All the Old Testament clues had been explained and completed in Jesus.

But did Jesus "completely" finish everything when He came and died on the cross? Is something still missing? Look very carefully at our poster (In

the Beginning...Jesus). Something seems to be missing. Can anyone tell me what that might be? [There are still clues that have not been checked off.] *How many clues are missing check marks?* [Two.] *These two clues have something in common. What is it?* [A crown.] *Does it really matter if these clues are fulfilled? Why?*

Emphasize that if God's Word, the Bible, is faithful, true, and trustworthy, Jesus must fulfill EVERY clue from the Old Testament. Point to the picture clue: **KING ON A DONKEY**.

In Zechariah, God said that Israel's special King would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Did Jesus do this? When?

Quickly read **John 12:12-15**:

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Emphasize that it was not by accident that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey before His death. He did this to fulfill the clue from Zechariah. (Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the picture clue: **KING ON A DONKEY**.)

Point to the picture clue: **DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE** and ask: *What about this clue? Was Jesus the fulfillment of the promise God made to King David a long time ago? Was Jesus one of David's descendants?* (**Display** the **JESUS' FAMILY TREE** visual.) *Yes, He was. But is He the descendant of David that would sit on David's throne and rule forever?*

Have the children turn to **Luke 1:32-33**:

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The angel spoke these words about Jesus before His birth to Mary. According to these verses, is Jesus the everlasting King promised to David long ago?

Has Jesus fulfilled this clue? Did He sit on a throne while He lived on earth? What happened after He rose from the dead? Did He sit on a

throne in Jerusalem? No, the Bible says He was taken up into heaven as His disciples looked on. So, where is the throne? Where is King Jesus? Was this clue just a pretend kind of throne?

Display the pot of soil. Pass it around and have the children look at it very carefully. What do they see? [Dirt.]

What if I told you there is something growing in the pot, even though you cannot yet see it with your eyes? Is it possible that what I am saying about something growing in the pot might be true, even if you can't see it yet? Will there be a time in the future when what I have told you will be proven to be true or false?

Point out that the clue, **DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE**, is very important. If the Bible is to be proven trustworthy, Jesus must fulfill this clue, too. But just like the example of the pot and soil, something can be true even though we cannot yet fully see it.

Divide the class into two groups and assign each group one of the following for a **Sword Drill**: **Hebrews 8:1** and **Matthew 25:31**:

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.

This verse is speaking of Jesus. According to this verse, where is Jesus right now? [In heaven, seated at the right hand of the throne.] *Can you see this with your eyes? Why not? Just because you can't see it, doesn't make it untrue. The Bible is always true—even if you cannot see it with your eyes! So right now, we cannot see King Jesus or the throne. But will things always be this way?*

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."

In this verse, Jesus is speaking. What does He mean by "when He comes"? According to this verse, what will Jesus do when He comes? [Sit on His glorious throne.] When He comes where?

Explain that the first verse explains what we are not yet able to see with our eyes, just as we cannot yet see something growing in this dirt. (**Display** the pot again.)

The second verse explains something that has not happened yet. What is that? Jesus is coming again! The story of the Bible isn't over yet. Something very important is going to happen in the future. Something that will be seen. Jesus is returning to this earth! He is coming a second time!

Display the pile of **FIRST** and **SECOND TIME A-D**, one by one removing the top picture from your stack as you reveal the picture underneath:

> *The first time people saw Jesus come as a little, weak baby* (show **FIRST TIME A**). *The second time we will SEE Him* (show **SECOND TIME A**) *come as a triumphant, almighty King.*
>
> *The first time people saw Jesus come riding on a donkey* (show **FIRST TIME B**). *The second time we will SEE Him* (show **SECOND TIME B**) *come riding on a white horse with the armies of heaven.*
>
> *The first time people saw Jesus wearing a crown of thorns* (show **FIRST TIME C**). *The second time we will SEE Him* (show **SECOND TIME C**) *wearing diadems—precious crowns of beauty.*
>
> *The first time people saw Jesus hung on a cross* (show **FIRST TIME D**). *The second time we will SEE Jesus* (show **SECOND TIME D**) *seated on His majestic throne.*
>
> *The first time people saw Jesus die. The second time we will SEE Jesus reigning as King forever!*

Display JESUS: RETURNING KING! and tape it over **JESUS: LAMB OF GOD** on the poster.

Display the pot of soil again. Empty the contents of the pot onto a plate and carefully remove one of the sprouts. Point out that, even though the children had to wait a short time, you have now proven to them that what you said was true. They can now see something growing in the dirt.

> Hold up your Bible. Emphasize that the Bible is always true by saying: *It is God's Word—you can depend on it! Every single clue about Jesus has been proven to be true. God made sure it all happened exactly as He planned from the very beginning.* (Open your Bible to **Genesis 1:1**.) *And God will make sure that everything in the future will also happen just as He has planned.* (Open your Bible to **Revelation 22**.)
>
> *Even though we can't see Him with our eyes, Jesus is reigning as King right now. And the day is coming when Jesus will return. Everyone will see Jesus when He returns. He will not come to die again, but to sit and reign on His everlasting throne!* (Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the picture clue: **DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE**.)

Application

- Ask the children why it might be difficult for people to actually believe Jesus is now in heaven reigning as King. What circumstances do they see in the world and in their own lives that make this hard to understand and/or believe? Read and discuss **Romans 8:18-25**. *What kinds of "groaning" do we see now? Should we be surprised by this? Does God know about it? Is it all a part of His plan? What has yet to be revealed? How would you define hope? Compare this definition to* **Hebrews 11:1**. *Do you have this? If not, have you called on Jesus and asked Him to give you faith to believe what you haven't seen yet with your eyes?*

- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 39 in their workbooks. In the notebook section, have them write the Old Testament clues Jesus fulfilled. Have the children use the decoder box to fill in the missing words on their notebook page.

- Read **Revelation 19:11-16**. *Who is the Rider in these verses? How is this description of Jesus different from what He was like at His first coming? Compare these verses to* **Philippians 2:7-11**. *What will each person acknowledge when Jesus returns to earth? Will all people be glad to see Jesus return to earth? Why not? What kind of people will be happy? What kind of people will be terrified? Compare the two reactions with the help of the following texts:* **1 Peter 1:8-9** *and* **Revelation 16:15-17**. *Are you looking forward to Jesus' return?*

- Point out that one of the important things that Jesus will do when He returns is judge all people. Read **Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46**. *What are the two judgments Jesus will give? What will decide whether He sends someone to heaven or hell?* (Read **John 3:16-17**.) *Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation? Are you confident you will be welcomed into His kingdom?*

- Point out that even though we cannot yet SEE Jesus reigning on His throne, for everyone who is trusting in Jesus He is reigning in their hearts. *If you are a Christian you EXPERIENCE the reign of Jesus because you understand that He is ruling over your life and over your family, church, and all the peoples of the world. What does Jesus' rule look like in a person's life?* (Give some concrete examples of this.) *Would someone talking to you know that Jesus is reigning in your life?*

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