



Lesson 1: A New Heaven and a New Earth! 6-8 In-Person Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	Jesus is preparing a new future for God’s children.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“And the one sitting on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new!’ And then he said to me, ‘Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.’” (Revelation 21:5, NLT).
<u>Scripture Passage</u>	“A new future for God’s children.” (Revelation 21, NLT)
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • A deck of index cards* • A red marker and a blue marker • Four dice* • One copy of Handouts 1-15, printed in color

*Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- God sightings: Ask students to describe how they’ve seen God at work in their school or at their home in the past week.
- Let students take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the Feelings Wheel (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with a question, “What do you think heaven will be like?”

Play a game.

Before the club session, prepare two sets of twelve cards. Using the numbered list below, write the first word on the front in a red marker and the second word on the back of the index card in a blue marker. Red will indicate what will be no more in the new heaven and the new earth and blue will indicate what will replace that which will be no more.

Write the number on the front and back of each index card as it corresponds to the numbers below.

1. death/life
2. pain/healing
3. darkness/light
4. hate/love
5. crying/joy
6. lack/plenty
7. lying/truth
8. mean words/kind words
9. guilt/freedom
10. fear/peace
11. broken/whole
12. tears/smiles

If you didn't open with the icebreaker discussion question, do so before introducing the game: **What do you think heaven will be like?**

In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about the new heaven and the new earth, a future that God has promised for the children of God. We're going to play a game together to explore what it will be like in this new heaven and new earth.

Split the group into two teams. Give each team a set of the twelve cards and two dice. To begin, ask each team to flip all their cards so that the word in red is face up. A player from each team will roll the two dice.

The player will observe the numbers on the two dice and will either:

- Add up the two numbers and flip over the card that corresponds to the sum of what was rolled. (For example, if a 6 and a 2 are rolled then the student could flip over the card with the number 8.)
- Flip over the two cards that correspond to the two numbers that were rolled. (For example, if a 5 and a 1 are rolled then the student could flip over card number 5 and card number 1.)
- Pass the dice to another player on their team if the cards have already been turned over.

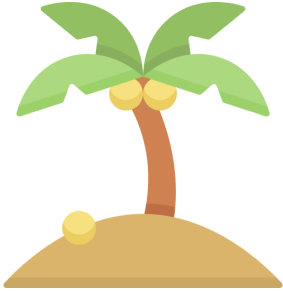

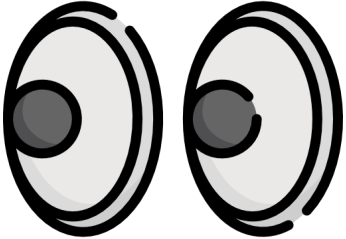
The players of each team will take turns rolling the dice and flipping over cards whenever possible. The first team that turns over all their cards to the words written in blue marker wins the game. Before you enter into the Bible story, review the cards one more time as a large group emphasizing that God is working to make all things new in his timing.




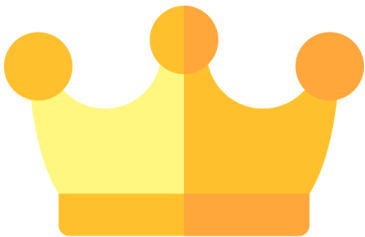



Receive (20 minutes)


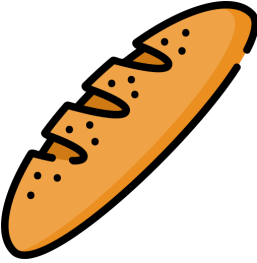


Read God's Word.

Spread out Handouts 1-15 so that all students can see them. As you tell the Bible story using the guide below, ask students to put the pictures in order based on what they hear as you share the story. After you go through the story the first time, ask students to use the pictures they've put in order to retell the story in their own words.

	<p>There once was a man named John who loved Jesus. He talked about him so much that a bunch of leaders put him in a prison cell on an island in the middle of the ocean!</p>
	<p>One morning, Jesus appeared to John. He said to John: "I'm going to show you what will happen when I come back to the earth. Write down what you see so that God's children can read it and wait in hopeful excitement for their future with me."</p>
	<p>And this is what John saw...</p>

	<p>He saw a new heaven and a new earth. The heaven and earth that John was familiar with had disappeared. Heaven and earth looked different.</p>
	<p>John saw a bright city coming down from God in heaven and it was shining like the sun. Heaven was coming down to the earth!</p>
	<p>The city and its walls were made of precious stones and there was a street down the middle, pure as gold!</p>
	<p>John saw a king on his throne. The king was Jesus. This is what Jesus announced from his throne: “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people...”</p>

	<p>He will wipe every tear from their eyes! There will be no more crying and no more sorrow.</p>
	<p>There will be no more sickness and no more death!</p>
	<p>There will be no more hiding or running away.</p>
	<p>There will be no more loneliness and no more fear.</p>

	<p>There will be no more darkness, no more night.</p>
	<p>There will be no more hunger and no more thirst.</p>
	<p>There will be no more pain! All of these things will be gone forever. Look, I am making everything new!”</p>
	<p>After showing John these things, Jesus said to John, “I am the beginning and I am the ending. This is the wonderful future I give to the children of God, those who put their faith and hope in me: life forever with me!”</p>



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God’s truth.

God promises to take all the broken and sad things in this world and make them new again.

What broken or sad things do we face in our world today?

Take student responses. You may want to give a couple examples to get them started.

- Broken friendships
- Cancer
- Broken bones
- Earthquakes and floods

One by one, announce the following items, asking students to respond with the person, place or thing that can fix the item if it's broken. You may want to split students into two teams and points.

- A cell phone (the store)
- A mug (glue)
- A guitar (a music store)
- A tire (a car shop)

What about a broken heart, a heart that is far from God? What about broken relationships and broken friendships? What about death, pain and sickness? What about natural disasters or the accidents that happen in our lives? Who can fix these things?

Take student responses.

Only God can fix these broken things and make them new again. And guess what? God promises that he will make these broken things new, and God's promises are trustworthy and true...God always follows through on his promises. Let's review our Bible verse.

“And the one sitting on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new!’ And then he said to me, ‘Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.’”
(Revelation 21:5, NLT).

Jesus is making and will make everything new, all in his timing. What do we do, as we wait for Jesus to make everything new?

Take student responses.

No matter how tough life gets, we can wait in hope that God will fix the broken things and make them better, all in his timing. When we experience tough or sad things in our lives, we can always turn to God and trust that he will be true to his promise to make everything better one day and to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Optional discussion:

- **How will this promise change how you live this week?**
- **How will this promise change how you deal with the problems or pain you face in life?**
- **What does it look like to live with hope?**

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Close in prayer together.

Some of us may be facing tough or sad things in our lives right now.

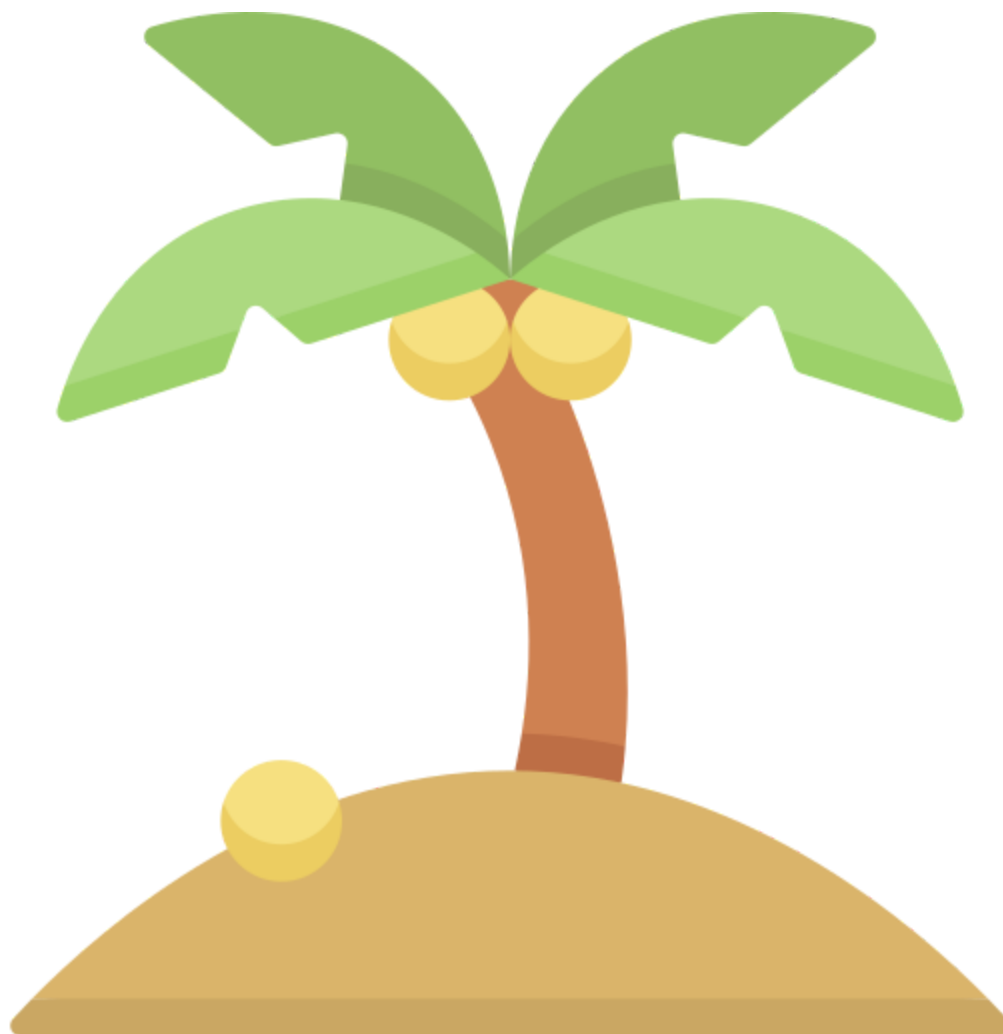
Take prayer requests if students are comfortable and spend some time praying over those requests. Emphasize that even when we face these tough or sad things, we can bring them to God in prayer because he will be faithful to his promise to make everything new, all in his timing. Then close praying the following prayer with your students:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your plan of salvation and for sending Jesus to be our king and to make all things new. Thank you that you have a new future planned for all who put their trust and faith in Jesus; the day is coming when you will make a new heaven and a new earth, where sin and death will be no more and you will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Thank you for giving me hope and a future of life forever with you!

Amen

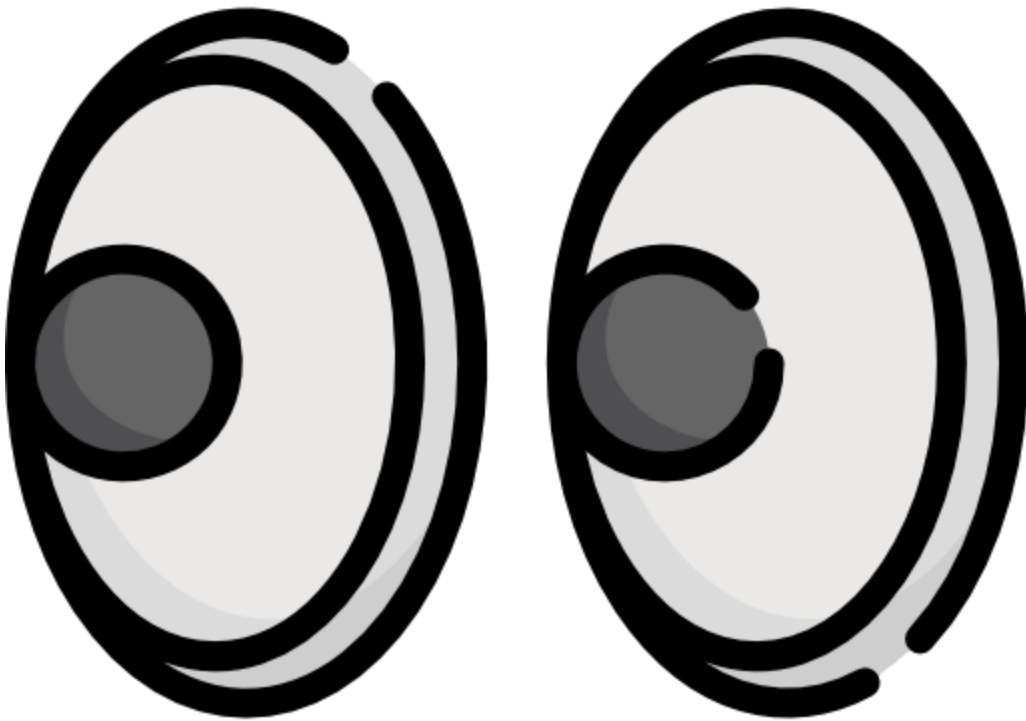
Handout 1



Handout 2



Handout 3



Handout 4



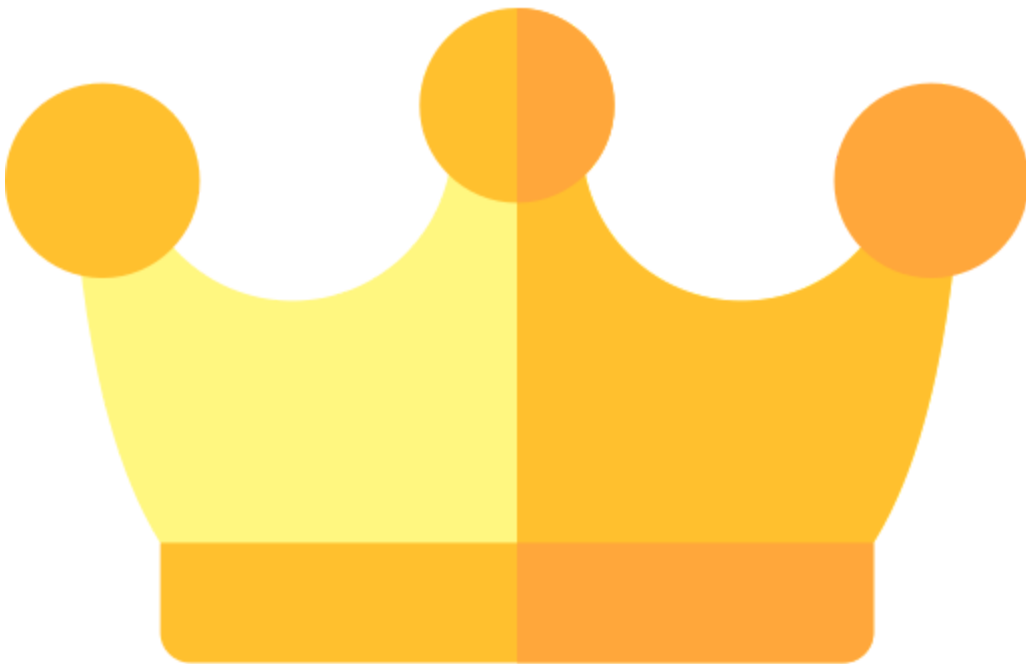
Handout 5



Handout 6



Handout 7



Handout 8



Handout 9



Handout 10



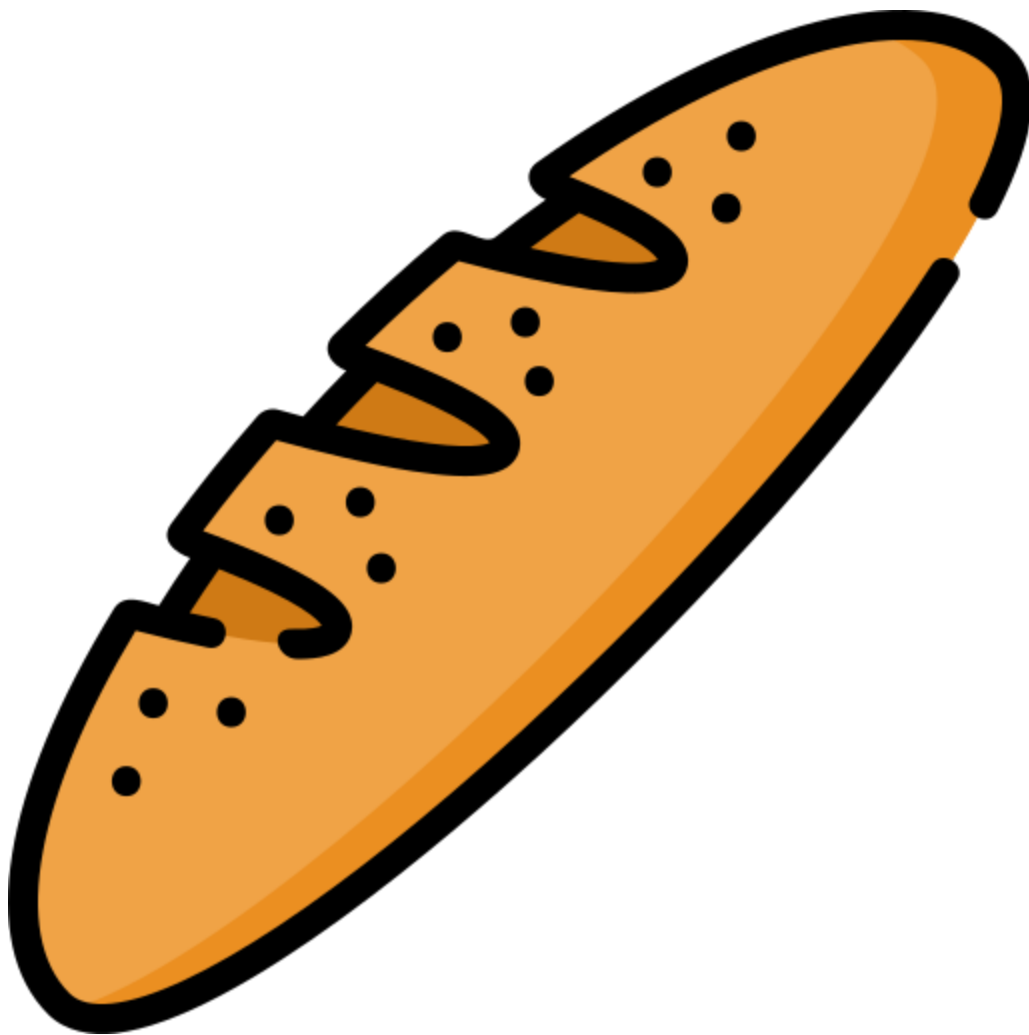
Handout 11



Handout 12



Handout 13



Handout 14



Handout 15

