

# Family Devotional

From May 29, 2016

**Preview:** Look up a trailer from one of your family's favorite movies. Choose something you have all seen and were really excited about. Before you watch it, encourage them to think back to the first time they saw the preview and what feelings they had. Watch the clip and then talk about it. Were you filled with happiness that a much beloved movie was coming soon? Were you curious as to what would really happen in a scene they only gave you a peek of? Were you so excited you couldn't wait, you wanted to see the whole movie right then?

Just like they show us movie trailers to get us excited about what is to come, Jesus gave us a little preview of what heaven would be like in the book of Revelation.

Read "A Dream of Heaven" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* page 342 or Revelation 1:1-12; 5; 21:1-7, 22-27; 22:8-9

**Reflect:** Why was John on an island? a) he was rich and owned it b) he was on vacation c) he was in prison

The authorities tried to keep John from telling others about Jesus, but instead he got to share some of the best news of all. Why did Jesus give John a vision of what would be and tell him to share it with everyone?

When life is tough or we are going through a hard time, we can remember this is not the end of the story. No matter who seems to be winning right now, Jesus wins in the end. With Jesus there is always hope!

What stood out to you most about the picture of heaven John described?

Just like a movie trailer doesn't show us the whole story or tell us exactly how everything happens in the movie, the book of Revelation gives us a peek of heaven, and something to look forward to. However, when we get to fully experience heaven with Jesus it will be better than anything we could ever imagine.

The other good news is that we don't have to wait till heaven to live life with Jesus. Just like Jesus was with John on the island, Jesus is with us wherever we are right now. We may not be able to see him like we will be able to in heaven, but he is always with us!

How did John finish his book? With "the end" or "to be continued?"

John talked about how Jesus was the source of light in heaven. When we have Jesus living in our hearts, he shines through us too, bringing hope to a dark world. We are part of the "to be continued"... What part of the story are you going to write with your life?

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on Matthew 5:16 this week.

In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

*Ideas:* Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you giving us a preview of what you have planned. Help us remember even in our hardest moments that when we are trusting you, you've written a beautiful ending to our story. Help us live in a way that draws others to you and the exciting adventure you have for each of us ..... Amen!"