LITTLE PAWS, BIG FAITH

FREE TEACHER GUIDE

Jesus Loves Us Forever

LEVEL 4 • Christ’s Love, His Return, His Kingdom, and Forever

10 lessons • 40 student pictures • Ages 4–8

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Lesson Map

Lesson	Main truth	Read
1. Jesus Welcomes Us	Jesus welcomed the children.	Mark 10:13–16; John 10:11–18
2. Jesus Serves	Jesus showed us how to love.	John 13:1–17; Mark 10:45
3. The Cross and Grace	Jesus gave His life for us.	Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:8–10; Luke 23:33–49
4. Jesus Is Alive	Jesus is alive.	Luke 24:1–12, 36–43; John 20:19–29
5. Jesus Ascends	Jesus will come again.	Acts 1:6–11
6. John Receives the Revelation	Jesus showed John what to write.	Revelation 1:1–3, 9–20; 4:1–11
7. Jesus Gathers His Church	Jesus will gather His Church to Himself.	1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 5:1–11; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; Titus 2:13
8. Christ Rewards and God Judges	Jesus is faithful and just.	2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11–15; Revelation 5:1; 6; 7:1–8; 11:3–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:6–7
9. The King Returns and Reigns	Jesus will return and reign.	Revelation 19:11–16; Matthew 25:31–46; Revelation 20:1–6
10. Victory and New Creation	God will dwell with His people forever.	Revelation 20:7–15; 21:1–5; 22:1–5

LESSON 1

Jesus Welcomes Us

READ Mark 10:13–16; John 10:11–18

AIM Children will recognize the warmth of Jesus' welcome and His faithful care as the Good Shepherd.

SAY Jesus did not push children away. He welcomed them, blessed them, and showed that they matter in His kingdom.

ASK
1. How did Jesus respond when children came to Him?
2. What does the Good Shepherd do for His sheep?

DO Make a paper sheep and write one true statement about Jesus' care on it.

PRAY Lord Jesus, thank You for welcoming children and caring for Your sheep. Help us come to You with trust. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

1. Children came to Jesus.	Mark 10:13
2. Jesus welcomed and blessed the children.	Mark 10:14–16
3. Jesus taught families about God's kingdom.	Mark 10:14–15
4. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.	John 10:11

TEACHER NOTE Do not suggest that every child is automatically saved because Jesus welcomed children. Emphasize His compassion and the call to receive the kingdom with trusting faith.

LESSON 2

Jesus Serves

READ John 13:1–17; Mark 10:45

AIM Children will connect Christlike love with humble, practical service.

SAY Jesus is our Lord, yet He chose the work of a servant. We follow His example when we help others with love.

ASK
1. What humble task did Jesus do?
2. How can you serve someone this week?

DO Choose one quiet act of service to complete at home without asking for praise.

PRAY Servant King, thank You for loving us humbly. Give us willing hearts that notice and help others. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

5. Jesus prepared to serve His disciples.	John 13:4–5
6. Jesus washed His disciples' feet.	John 13:5
7. Jesus taught His disciples to follow His example.	John 13:12–15
8. We can serve one another with love.	Mark 10:45

TEACHER NOTE Service is the fruit of grace, not a way to earn salvation or approval from God. Keep the foot-washing scene modest and culturally clear.

LESSON 3

The Cross and Grace

READ Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:8–10; Luke 23:33–49

AIM Children will hear the gospel clearly and distinguish God’s gift of salvation from good works.

SAY Jesus died for us while we were sinners. Salvation is God’s gift received by faith, and our good works follow as a thankful response.

ASK
1. What did Jesus give for us?
2. Can good works earn salvation?

DO Wrap an empty box as a gift and place the word “grace” inside. Explain that a gift is received, not earned.

PRAY Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for sinners. Help us trust Your grace and live with thankful hearts. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

9. Jesus willingly went to give His life for us.	Romans 5:8
10. Jesus gave His life for sinners.	Luke 23:33; Romans 5:8
11. Salvation is God’s gift of grace.	Ephesians 2:8–9
12. Families can hear and believe the good news.	Romans 10:17

TEACHER NOTE Keep the crucifixion non-graphic. Never imply that an activity, repeated prayer, baptism, church attendance, or good behavior earns salvation.

LESSON 4

Jesus Is Alive

READ Luke 24:1–12, 36–43; John 20:19–29

AIM Children will affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus as historical good news.

SAY Jesus did not remain in the grave. He rose with a real body, appeared to His followers, and is alive today.

ASK
1. What did the women find at the tomb?
2. How did Jesus help His disciples know He was alive?

DO Open a folded paper “tomb” and retell the words: died, buried, risen, alive.

PRAY Risen Lord, thank You that the tomb is empty and You are alive. Strengthen our faith in Your Word. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

13. The women came to the tomb at dawn.	Luke 24:1
14. The stone was rolled away—the tomb was empty.	Luke 24:2–6
15. The risen Jesus appeared to His disciples.	Luke 24:36–43
16. Thomas listened to the risen Jesus.	John 20:26–29

TEACHER NOTE Teach a bodily resurrection, not merely a spiritual memory or symbol. The picture with Thomas avoids sensationalizing the wounds.

LESSON 5

Jesus Ascends

READ Acts 1:6–11

AIM Children will connect Christ's ascension with the promise of His future return.

SAY Jesus ascended bodily to heaven. His followers received a sure promise that He will return.

ASK
1. What happened as the disciples watched Jesus?
2. What promise did the men in white give?

DO Use a strip of white paper as a cloud and place it above a simple drawing of the disciples looking upward.

PRAY Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise that You will return. Help us serve faithfully while we wait. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

17. The risen Jesus taught His disciples.	Acts 1:3
18. Jesus ascended, and a cloud received Him.	Acts 1:9
19. Two men in white promised that Jesus would return.	Acts 1:10–11
20. The disciples returned to Jerusalem.	Acts 1:12

TEACHER NOTE Do not set a date or identify modern events as certain countdown signs. Acts 1 promises Christ's return without supplying a timetable.

LESSON 6

John Receives the Revelation

READ Revelation 1:1–3, 9–20; 4:1–2

AIM Children will understand Revelation as a message given by Jesus through symbolic visions.

SAY John wrote what Jesus showed him. Revelation uses powerful symbols, and the passage itself explains that the lampstands represent churches.

ASK
1. Where was John when he received the Revelation?
2. What did the seven lampstands represent?

DO Draw seven simple lampstands and count them while naming the seven churches in Revelation 1.

PRAY Glorious Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your Word. Help us read Revelation carefully and worship You. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

21. John was on the island of Patmos.	Revelation 1:9
22. John wrote what Jesus showed him.	Revelation 1:11, 19
23. John saw Christ among seven lampstands.	Revelation 1:12–16, 20
24. John saw a throne encircled by a rainbow.	Revelation 4:2–3

TEACHER NOTE Explain vision imagery without pretending to reproduce Christ's glory exactly. The throne remains empty in the illustration so no face or body is invented for God the Father.

LESSON 7

Jesus Gathers His Church

READ 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 5:1–11; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; Titus 2:13

AIM Children will receive the gathering of the Church as comfort and hope, without fear or date-setting.

SAY Jesus will gather His Church to Himself. This curriculum understands that event to occur before the Great Tribulation, based on harmonizing several passages.

ASK
1. Why did Paul teach about being gathered to the Lord?
2. How should believers encourage one another?

DO Create a hope card with a cloud and trumpet symbol and write: “We will be with the Lord.”

PRAY Lord Jesus, thank You for our blessed hope. Help Your Church stay awake, faithful, and encouraging. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

25. Paul wrote to comfort believers.	1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18
26. The Lord will descend with a trumpet call.	1 Thessalonians 4:16
27. The Church will be gathered to be with the Lord.	1 Thessalonians 4:17
28. Believers can encourage one another with this hope.	1 Thessalonians 4:18

TEACHER NOTE First teach the comfort of 1 Thessalonians 4. “Pretribulational” is a theological conclusion from harmonization, not a word in that passage. Scripture does not state that every child is taken or give an age line; never use parental absence to frighten children.

LESSON 8

Christ Rewards and God Judges

READ 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11–15; Revelation 5:1; 6; 7:1–8; 11:3–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:6–7

AIM Children will distinguish reward from condemnation and approach future judgment with biblical seriousness rather than fear.

SAY Jesus is fair and keeps every promise. Believers' works are evaluated for reward, while the judgments in Revelation belong to God's future plan.

ASK
1. Does the judgment seat of Christ decide whether believers are saved?
2. Whom did John see sealed from Israel?

DO Sort paper cards labeled "faithful service" and "salvation." Place salvation beside "gift" and service beside "reward."

PRAY Faithful and just Lord, help us serve You with gratitude and trust every part of Your plan. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

29. Christ will evaluate believers' service for reward.	2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12–15
30. John saw a scroll sealed with seven seals.	Revelation 5:1
31. John saw 144,000 sealed servants from Israel.	Revelation 7:3–8
32. God appointed two unnamed witnesses.	Revelation 11:3

TEACHER NOTE The judgment seat of Christ concerns believers and reward, not condemnation. Its placement after the gathering is a harmonized conclusion. This framework identifies the Restrainer as the Church through whom the Spirit restrains; 2 Thessalonians 2 does not explicitly name the Restrainer, and the Spirit remains active during the Great Tribulation. The seals begin divine wrath; do not threaten students with judgment scenes.

LESSON 9

The King Returns and Reigns

READ Revelation 19:11–16; Matthew 25:31–46; Revelation 20:1–6

AIM Children will distinguish Christ's visible return, the judgment of living nations, and His earthly millennial kingdom.

SAY The King will return in glory before the thousand-year kingdom. His rule will be righteous, real, and earthly.

ASK
1. How does Revelation describe the returning King?
2. How long does Revelation say Christ will reign?

DO Place three cards in order: "King returns," "nations judged," and "1,000-year kingdom."

PRAY King Jesus, thank You that You will return and reign with perfect justice. Help us honor You today. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

33. Christ will return as the faithful King.	Revelation 19:11
34. The King will judge the living nations.	Matthew 25:31–32
35. Christ will reign for one thousand years.	Revelation 20:4–6
36. The King will rule the earth with righteousness.	Revelation 20:6

TEACHER NOTE Keep the second coming distinct from the prior gathering of the Church. The judgment of the nations concerns living nations before the kingdom, not resurrected dead at the Great White Throne.

LESSON 10

Victory and New Creation

READ Revelation 20:7–15; 21:1–5; 22:1–5

AIM Children will place final judgment and eternal restoration in their biblical order and rest in God's victory.

SAY Evil will not last forever. After the millennial kingdom and final judgment, God will dwell with His people in the new creation.

ASK
1. What judgment comes after the thousand years?
2. What beautiful things appear in the new creation?

DO Arrange four picture cards: "final defeat," "Great White Throne," "holy city," and "river and tree of life."

PRAY Victorious God, thank You that evil will end and You will make all things new. Keep our hope fixed on You. Amen and amen.

STUDENT PICTURES

37. God will finally defeat evil.	Revelation 20:7–10
38. The Great White Throne judgment follows the thousand years.	Revelation 20:11–15
39. John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem.	Revelation 21:2
40. John saw the river and the tree of life.	Revelation 22:1–2

TEACHER NOTE Revelation 20 places a final rebellion after the thousand years and the Great White Throne afterward. The text does not use the exact phrase "second resurrection"; if used, label it a theological term. Judgment according to works does not mean salvation is purchased by works.

Scripture and Doctrine Notes

Framework. This guide follows a dispensational, premillennial, pretribulational, futurist reading. Israel and the Church remain distinct. Revelation 6–19 is future, Christ returns before a literal earthly millennium, and the eternal state follows the events of Revelation 20.

Gathering of the Church. First Thessalonians 4 gives comfort and promises reunion with the Lord. Placing this before the Great Tribulation is a conclusion from harmonizing passages; the word “pretribulational” does not appear there. Scripture gives no age rule saying every child is taken. Never use fear or parental absence as pressure.

Restrainer and wrath. This framework identifies the Restrainer with the Church, in and through which the Spirit restrains. Second Thessalonians 2 does not explicitly name the Restrainer. The Spirit remains active during the Tribulation. Divine wrath begins with the seals, and the Church is not appointed to wrath.

Three judgments. The judgment seat of Christ evaluates believers’ service for reward, not condemnation; its placement after the gathering is harmonized. The judgment of the nations concerns living nations at Christ’s return before the kingdom. The Great White Throne concerns the dead after the thousand years.

Grace and sequence. Works never purchase salvation; salvation is by grace through faith, and works are its fruit. Revelation 20 places a final rebellion after the millennium. “Second resurrection” is a theological label, not the chapter’s exact phrase. Do not merge the millennium with the eternal state or set dates for Christ’s return.

Primary passages
Mark 10; John 10, 13, 20; Luke 23–24; Acts 1; Romans 5; Ephesians 2; 1 Corinthians 3, 15; 2 Corinthians 5; 1 and 2 Thessalonians; Titus 2; Matthew 25; Revelation 1, 4–7, 11, 19–22.

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