



## A Letter From

# John



Dear churches:

Just wait until you hear what I saw!

I, John, your friend in the Lord, was living on the lonely island called Patmos. (You all know I was sent to prison there for preaching about Jesus.)

One Sunday, while I was praying to God, I heard a loud voice behind me. It blasted in my ear like a trumpet.

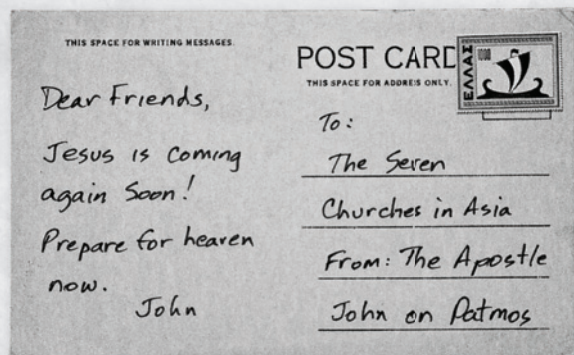
“Write down what you see and send it to the churches,” sounded the voice.

I turned around to see who was speaking. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet, like a dead man.

Whom did I see? Let me describe Him.

He had blizzard-white hair and eyes like flames. His face gleamed like a sky full of sunshine.





Jesus! I saw Jesus. But never before had I seen Him like this!

Jesus touched me with His hand. “Do not be frightened!” He said. “I am in charge of everything that happens, from beginning to end. I died on the cross, but now I am alive forever.”

Then I looked, and guess what? I saw an open door in heaven!

“Come up here,” called Jesus. “I’ll show you visions of what will happen someday.”

Suddenly, I could see God’s throne in heaven. Jesus stood there, but now He looked like a wounded lamb.

“Worthy is the Lamb who died!” cried millions of angel voices.

The angels and all creatures everywhere worshiped the Lamb, shouting, “Honor and glory and power to Him forever and ever!”

Then, later, I saw a white horse. And on that horse sat Jesus! Except this time He looked like a warrior and a king. He rode to earth and struck down His enemies with a sharp sword from His mouth.

Then, Satan, His greatest enemy of all, was hurled down to hell forever.

Hallelujah! Isn’t this amazing? Wait until you hear what’s next.

I watched, and a sparkling city dropped down from heaven. With walls of jewels, gates of pearls and a street of gold – no city ever looked more magnificent than this!

A voice thundered from above, “Now God lives with all those who have trusted Christ as Savior.



Sin and its terrible troubles will never enter here.

“In God’s holy city, no one will be hungry or thirsty or sick.

“There’s no fighting. No crying. No killing. No dying.

And not one person will feel sad ever again – because God will wipe all tears away.”

*But where is the sun? Where is the moon?* someone might wonder.

They aren’t needed anymore! God shines His light on each and every face. And God’s children from all countries will worship Him there forever.

“Oh Lord Jesus! When will this happen? Can I go there now?” I prayed.

Jesus smiled and said, “I am coming back to earth soon. I promise.”

Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Dear churches, be happy. Be very excited about these things. And never, ever forget Jesus’ words.

With love,

The Apostle John

**Learn from John’s biography:**

- Jesus will come to earth again soon.
- Jesus is our Savior and King. We will worship Him forever.
- Look forward to your perfect home with Jesus.

# Parent Ideas

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Scripture: Revelation 1; 4-5; 19-22

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Jesus will come to earth again soon.
- Jesus is our Savior and King. We will worship Him forever.
- Look forward to your perfect home with Jesus.

#### 1. Read-together activity

Give your child a few sheets of paper and crayons or markers. As you read the biography aloud, tell her to close her eyes and imagine the scenes you read. Stop periodically and ask her to draw on paper the pictures she sees in her mind. When you read about God's perfect city, ask your child to open her handbook to Red Jewel 4:4 and draw her picture there.

#### 2. Discussion activity

Ask your child questions like these:

- Why was John so surprised when he saw Jesus?
- When Jesus touched John, what did He say?
- Why are you glad that Jesus is in charge of everything that happens?
- Why did John see Jesus as a wounded lamb? Does this remind you of any other biographies? (*Help your child to remember Biography 7, when Philip tells the Ethiopian about Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died on the cross for our sins.*)
- Why are you glad that Jesus will return to earth soon?
- What are you looking forward to most about heaven?

The visions John saw may cause your child to wonder if Jesus changes His appearance. Explain that we don't really know what Jesus

will look like in heaven. God's Spirit gave John a vision in his mind. Jesus' attitude and behavior may have caused John to think of different things at different times.

You may want to give your child an example. Say something like this, "Pretend your friend just won a big soccer game. After the game, you talk to your friend and say, 'You look like a champion!'" Your friend has not changed his looks, but his victory on the field makes you think he looks like a champion.

#### 3. Application activity

Have a contest with your son or daughter to see who can make the most creative comparisons about heaven. Standing next to each other, each of you will complete this sentence, "In heaven, I will be happier than \_\_\_\_\_." One of you might complete the sentence by saying, "In heaven, I will be happier than when I had my 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party" or "In heaven, I will be happier than when I drove my first car." Each time someone completes the sentence, he takes a leap forward. Whoever can't complete the sentence within a set time must move back to the starting point. The person who reaches an end point first wins. Discuss the joys you will experience in heaven – no pain, no hunger, no sickness, no sin, etc.

Add variety by changing sentences. For example, "Forever is longer than \_\_\_\_\_." (e.g., "Forever is longer than it would take me to wash a world full of dishes.") Or, "Heaven

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will be better than \_\_\_\_\_.” (e.g., “Heaven will be better than a giant ice cream cone!”)

### 4. Review activity

Celebrate all the wonderful truths you have learned together by playing a biography concentration game. To prepare, cut out all of the SkyStormer I.D. cards on the following pages. Turn the cards face-down, mix them up, and play a matching game.

Here’s how to play: Ask your child to turn over one card and then try to pick the matching card. As cards are chosen in the game, she should try to memorize where they are to increase her chances of making a match. Each time your child picks two non-matching cards, ask her to describe how the events and (or) characters in the two biographies were similar or different. Each time a child picks a matching pair, discuss that biography and ask questions related to the key learning points for that biography.

### 5. Review activity

Cut out the rest of the biography cards on remaining pages (these are the biography cards for all biographies in all Sparks handbooks). Pull out the timeline you used in Biography 7 activities and make two more timelines on sheets of similar size. On one sheet, write these events (from *HangGlider®* handbook)

- God creates the world.
- Sin enters the world. (God promises to send a Savior – Genesis 3:15.)

- God tells Noah to build an ark.
- God saves the Israelites from slavery.
- The Israelites walk in the desert for 40 years.
- The Israelites live in Canaan, God’s Promised Land.

On the other sheet, write these events (from *WingRunner®* handbook)

- God sends judges to save Israel.
- God allows kings to rule Israel.
- God makes the Israelites leave the Promised Land (exile).
- God brings the Israelites back home (return from exile).
- God sends the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ask your child to place each of the 36 biography cards in the right place on the timeline. (For reference, see the timeline included with each biography in the handbooks.)

Use the timeline to help your child understand the big picture of the Bible: God’s plan to save the world through Christ!

### 6. Review Activity

See how many games you can play with the biography cards. For example, use them to play the card game “Go Fish.” (You may want to print extra cards so you have four of each set.) Laminate the cards for lots of play. Try to make your games educational as well as fun.