

News Story Summary

According to an August 15, 2015 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, Disneyland (California) and Walt Disney World (Florida) are each opening a 14 acre “Star Wars Land.” They will be the largest expansions to an existing park in the company’s history. Disney CEO Bob Iger told the 7,500 in attendance at the D23 Expo, “We knew it needed to be big. We knew it needed to be great. And we knew it needed to be every bit as thrilling as the films are going to be. So we’re going to transport guests to a whole new planet.” Iger described it as a “jaw dropping new world.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Disney Star Wars Land”)

Focus Attention

After the group is settled, share the news story about the new Star Wars Land. Determine the excitement level of the group about a Star Wars amusement park. Depending on your group’s demographic, consider discussing what people would expect to find in “Star Wars Land.” Emphasize that Disney CEO promises a “jaw-dropping new world.” Ask, “What does that promise do to your level of expectation?”

Explain that as we wrap up our study of the book of Revelation, we are going to look at God’s promise, made through the Apostle John, that there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Just as true fans of the *Star Wars* movies get excited about imagining what the theme park will look like, followers of Christ have so much to look forward to in the new heaven and new earth God will make for us. Encourage group members to listen for specific details in today’s Scripture passages of what this new world will be like.

Challenge

Remind group members of “jaw-dropping new world” quote from the Disney chairman. Comment that no matter how many billions of dollars Disney spends on its new attractions, it can’t begin to compare to what God is preparing for His people. Emphasize that the most “jaw dropping” feature of God’s new world won’t be any “thing” He creates, but it will be that God Himself will make His dwelling with man (Rev. 21:3). What is even more amazing is that we don’t have to wait to get to Heaven to experience God’s presence. Ask: What are you doing right now to enjoy God’s presence in your life?