



HEAVEN

Young Preschool • #NT25 • May 26, 2024

Concept

Heaven is an amazing place.

Goal

Children will learn about heaven, the future home for those who have a relationship with God.

Passage

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 21

Key Verse: "There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain... Jesus is making all things new." Revelation 21:4b & 5b

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture/word cards of people and things <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoebox – lid covered with "?" marks <p>Contents for shoebox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper heart with a black and a white side • WWJD bracelet • Travel-size box of tissues • Band-Aid, 1/class 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed pictures with concept & verse, 1/child • Clouds, 3/child • Crayons • Markers • Glue sticks

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The primary focus of this lesson is the reality of heaven. For this reason, it is important to understand the nature of heaven and hell. The most extensive description of heaven is found in Revelation 21-22. Among other things, full knowledge of and unhindered fellowship with God, and a life of perfection will characterize the eternal state of all believers.

Have you ever spent much time considering heaven? "For a moment please put yourself in the place of a person who has lived in the slums of the most polluted city in the world. Put yourself in the place of a person sitting on ragged scraps as their only 'house' with no cover to protect them from flies or heat or cold. Put yourself in the place of a person who has never seen a clean, light, beautiful home in his or her whole existence, who has never eaten pleasant food, nor felt soft, clean beauty, not been presented with a gift of any sort, and has never known kindness. Then imagine trying to understand a description of an opposite kind of situation. Imagine trying to understand a description of the Swiss Alps, at sunrise or sunset, with the most delicious of food set on delicately perfect china, spread on a marvelously crisp, beautiful tablecloth-with an orchestra playing the most beautiful music that you could not imagine because you had never seen or heard an orchestra. Try to imagine sitting in your filth and squalor and feeling a reality about a description of the most wonderful combination of things in this world's nature and possible gifts of things to see, smell, taste, feel and hear. Could it easily be made real?

"This is where we are as we listen and consider what God is telling us through John (see Revelation 21). It is only a partial description He is giving us of a small fraction of all that is ahead, but it is a glimpse of something real. God, who attends to details throughout history, is not describing more than exists, but is promising that it will be the other way around. 'No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' (1 Corinthians 2:9).

"What is ahead is beyond description, and beyond our imagination because we have nothing with which to compare it; we have not experienced anything that has not been spoiled by sin. Everything we have known—the most 'perfect' moments—carry some element of disappointment because no person is perfect, no circumstance is without a flaw. There is no perfect control of conditions, government decisions, snipers, hijackers, strikes, fires, earthquakes, hail, stormy floods and high seas, illness, and accident. Crushed hopes and promises men know very much about, but perfection is beyond them..." [1]

[1] Edith Schaeffer, *Christianity is Jewish*, 1975, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, pp. 219-222.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class:

- Craft – Cut out clouds for Learning Activity #1.

Activity Station

- **Sorting Game – Who/What goes to heaven from this earth**
 - **Instructions:** Lay out the provided pictures on the table. Have a “heaven-pile” and a “not-in-heaven pile.” Determine the placement of each picture with the children. People are the only things that we are sure will go to heaven from earth. Therefore, the heaven pile should include only people. For further discussion the pictured objects have symbolic significance as well. A clock will not be in heaven because we won’t have to worry about time. A fire engine won’t be in heaven because everything will be perfect and we won’t have fires. There will be no Band-Aids, medicine, shots or wheelchairs because no one will be sick. There will be no telephones because we will be able to talk to anyone, anywhere, at any time. There will be no lights because God will light all of heaven. Discuss how we can know if we’re going to heaven.

Have you ever gone on a vacation with your family? Who went to the beach? Who went to a cabin? Who went to visit grandparents or cousins? Did you wonder what it would be like when you got there?

Do you know that the Bible tells us about a place better than any place we can go on vacation? It’s a place that no one has been to before. It is a wonderful place. The Bible promises that it is better than any place we could ever dream of. That place is called heaven. Have any of you ever heard of heaven?

Instructions: Have the closed “?” box in front of you. Build up their curiosity about its contents.

We are going to learn about heaven today. The Bible says that heaven is an amazing place. Amazing means wonderful, surprising, better than anything you can imagine. Have you ever been to a place you thought was amazing? To help us understand what heaven will be like, I brought my imagination box. This box has things in it that remind us about heaven.

(Pull out the black and white heart.) Heaven is an amazing place – I want to tell you who gets to go to heaven. People go to heaven. But not all people will go to heaven. The Bible says that everyone makes bad choices. We have dark hearts like this heart (show black side of heart).

God wants to make our heart clean, like this white heart (turn heart around). But we can’t make our own hearts clean. That is why Jesus came to earth.

Lesson Continued

Jesus took the punishment for our bad choices so that our hearts could be cleaned of sin (hold up white heart). God will forgive you and make your hearts clean if you ask Him to. And if you do that, God promises that you will be His friend forever and you will go to heaven when you die.

(Pull out the WWJD bracelet.) WWJD stands for “What would Jesus do?” This bracelet reminds me about Jesus. In heaven, I won’t have to wear a bracelet to remind me about Jesus because I will be with Him all the time! I’ll be able to see Jesus and talk to Him! That is the best part of heaven. Heaven is an amazing place.

(Pull out the box of tissues and the Band-Aid. Put the Band-Aid on and pretend to cry, dabbing your eyes. Then, smile.) You know what? I won’t need these in heaven! The Bible says, “There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain... Jesus is making all things new.” Do you know what that means? In heaven, God will make our bodies better than they are now. We will never hurt. We will never be sad. We will never be sick.

If we have a relationship with Jesus, we will live forever with Him in heaven after we die here on earth. Forever means our life with Jesus in heaven will never end. WOW, Heaven is an amazing place and Jesus loves us so much that He wants us to spend FOREVER with Him.

Just think, “There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain... Jesus is making all things new.” Heaven is an amazing place. I’m sure looking forward to heaven.

Let’s pray! If you already have a relationship with Jesus through having accepted his gift of forgiveness, you can thank Jesus that heaven is an amazing place and He is preparing a special place there just for you.

Let’s make a craft to remind us what will be in heaven.

Craft – What will be in Heaven?

Instructions: Give each child a page with the printed pictures. As the children color the pictures, talk about what will be in heaven and what won’t. Glue clouds on the pictures of things that will not be in heaven.

Let’s go on a treasure hunt to find all the things that remind us about heaven.

Transition

Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group

Transition

**Learning
Activity# 2
Lg. Group**

**Optional
Activity**

Treasure Hunt

Instructions: Take items from the "?" shoe box and hide them around the room. Let the children search for them and bring them back to the box. Have children tell what each thing stands for as they put it back in the box. Talk about forever—there is no time limit on our fun in heaven!

Game – "What's in Heaven?"

Instructions: Have the children sit in a circle. Have a child choose a picture from the plastic envelope with the "Who/What Goes to Heaven" Activity Station pictures. Have the child tell if they will or won't find that thing in heaven. Go around the circle so all children have a turn.