



HEAVEN

Preschool-K • #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"> • <i>Picture/word cards of people and things</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Travel brochure</i> <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"> • <i>Paper heart with a black and a white side</i> • <i>WWJD bracelet</i> • <i>Travel-size box of tissues</i> • <i>Band-Aid, 1/class</i> • <i>Small jar full of plastic beads/jewels</i> • <i>Flashlight</i> • <i>Dust cloth</i> • <i>"Winner" award medal</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed cardstock circle, pictures & verses, 1/child • Printed cardstock circle with wedge, 1/child • Brass paper fasteners, 1/child • Crayons • Markers

*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.

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.” Discuss with children the placement of each picture. 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 and some of the people pictures have symbolic significance as well. You will be able to tell the people pictures that represent emotions and physical condition, e.g., sick, angry, sad, cold, hurt. Be sure that you distinguish that those are pictures of emotions. A policeman will not be there because everyone will be perfect and we won’t need protection. The sun, moon and stars will not be in heaven because God will be our light. 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 most likely be many of God’s same creations in heaven as there are on earth. But only people will go from earth to heaven. Discuss how we can know whether we’re going to heaven.

(Carefully study and be preoccupied with the travel brochure as children come to sit down.) Who knows what a vacation is? (Allow 1 or 2 children to respond.) That’s right, a vacation is a fun time when you go someplace to visit. I’m trying to plan a vacation to a place I’ve never been. This brochure shows me a little bit about what it will be like. But it doesn’t tell me a whole lot. So I have to imagine what my vacation will be like. You imagine when you have never seen or been to a place and you try to picture it in your head.

The Bible tells us about a place that is better than any vacation. It’s a place that none of us have ever gone. It is a wonderful place that is very hard to imagine. The Bible promises that it is better than any place we could ever imagine. Does anyone know what that place is called? (It is called heaven.)

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

We are going to learn some things that the Bible tells us about heaven. The Bible says that heaven is an amazing place. Amazing means wonderful, incredible, surprising, better than anything we can imagine. To help us imagine just a little what it will be like I brought my imagination box. This box has things in it that tell us some of the things the Bible says about heaven.

Lesson Continued

(Pull out the black and white heart.) First, heaven is an amazing place and I want to tell you who will get to go to heaven. The Bible says that all people, including you and me, make bad choices. God says we make bad choices because our hearts are black with sin (show black side of heart). God wants to make our hearts clean, like this white heart (turn heart around). Because all people make bad choices, we cannot make our own hearts clean. That is why God sent His son, Jesus, to earth to help us. Jesus took God's punishment for our bad choices so that our hearts can be clean of sin (hold up white heart). If you tell God you want your heart to be made clean of sin, He will forgive you and make your heart clean and God promises that you will go to heaven when you die.

(Pull out the WWJD bracelet.) WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" This bracelet reminds me to think about Jesus and ask Him to change me to be more and more like Him. In heaven I won't have to wear a bracelet to remind me because I will be with Him! I'll be able to see Him 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 a Band-Aid on and pretend to cry, dabbing your eyes. Then, smile.) These won't be needed in heaven! "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'll never be sick.

If we have Jesus in our hearts, we will live forever with Him in heaven after our bodies die here on earth. Forever is not just a long time, or even a REALLY long time. 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.

(Pull out the jar full of jewels.) And imagine this – heaven is not made of bricks and wood. Jesus' special city is made of gold. Stones of colored jewels much prettier than these will be used. Each gate will be made of a huge pearl! It's the most beautiful place ever! Isn't heaven an amazing place?

(Pull out the flashlight.) Heaven is such an amazing place that we won't need any lights. Heaven won't have a sun or moon to light it up. And there won't be any night there! How do you think it will stay light if there is no sun or moon or stars or flashlights or lamps or night-lights? God Himself will light heaven even brighter than the sun!

(Pull out a dust cloth.) You know there are lots of jobs I do not like to do, like cleaning the house.

Lesson Continued

But in heaven, the jobs and work that God has for us will always be very enjoyable. The Bible says that heaven is such an amazing place that we will always love doing our work. God has a great job waiting for each of us—and we'll love doing it and we'll love God even more for giving us such wonderful work to do!

(Pull out the “winner” medal.) This is the last thing in my box. It reminds me that as long as I am here on earth it is always best to do what Jesus wants me to do. The Bible promises that those who love Jesus and obey Jesus on earth will get prizes in heaven. We don't know exactly what that will be like, but I like prizes. I know that because heaven is an amazing place these prizes will be better than anything that I can imagine.

I just keep thinking... “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 that.

Transition

Let's get into our small groups to pray.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

We've learned that heaven is an amazing place:

- It's not made of bricks and wood, but of gold and other beautiful things – the most beautiful place ever.
- There will be no sickness, pain or sadness in heaven.
- We won't need light and there won't be any night.
- The jobs and work that God has for us will always be very enjoyable.
- Have you ever spent any time thinking about what heaven will be like? Try to imagine!

Let's pray. If you already have a friendship with Jesus through his payment for our sins on the cross, you can thank Jesus that heaven is an amazing place and He is preparing a special place there just for you.

Transition

Let's make a heaven wheel to remind us what will be in heaven.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Craft – Heaven Wheel

Instructions: Give each child a cardstock sheet with the printed wheel with pictures. As the children color the pictures, talk about what will be in heaven and what won't. Put the pre-cut wheel with the V on top of the printed circle and push the paper fastener through the black dot in the center the wheel, then push through the other wheel and spread it open in the back. Turn the wheel to the different pictures and have children decide whether or not the picture is something they will see in heaven.

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

Transition

**Learning
Activity#3
Lg. Group**

**Optional
Activity**

Treasure Hunt

Instructions: Take items from the "?" shoebox 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. Older children might enjoy being timed as they search. Discuss how God offers us all these things without having to do any work. 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. Choose a child to spin the wheel on his/her craft. Have that child tell if they will or won't find that thing in heaven. Go around the circle so all children have a turn.