

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Heaven will be amazing.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to describe Heaven.

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23; the New Heaven and New Earth

MEMORY VERSE:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Our minds can't even imagine all the wonders that Heaven will contain. But when we read the word-pictures of Heaven in Revelation, we can get an idea of how wonderful it will be.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the promise of Heaven!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV)

"You have been raised up with Christ. So think about things that are in Heaven. That is where Christ is. He is sitting at God's right hand." Colossians 3:1 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Pick out some kids at random from the crowd and see who can recite the memory verse. Then repeat it all together.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SKIT

HEAVEN IS REAL

ITEMS NEEDED:

A desk, chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Kevin - A real estate agent

Megan - A woman who wants to go to Heaven

Kevin is sitting at the desk. Megan enters.

KEVIN: Hello! Welcome to Heaven Bound Realty. What can I do for you?

MEGAN: I'm here to see Leslie.

KEVIN: Leslie?

MEGAN: Yes, I've been talking to her about a place in Heaven one day, and I had a few more questions for her.

KEVIN: You must be Megan. Leslie always talked about you. She said you reminded her of herself when she was a new believer.

MEGAN: She did?

KEVIN: She was very fond of you.

MEGAN: She was? What do you mean she was?

KEVIN: I'm sorry to be the one to tell you this. Leslie has gone home.

MEGAN: So early? It's only nine in the morning.

KEVIN: I don't mean her earthly home. I mean... Heaven.

SKIT

Pause.

MEGAN: Oh... Oh my... I didn't know.

KEVIN: I'm so sorry, Megan. We've been trying to let everyone know. It was very sudden, and we're all missing her terribly.

MEGAN: I'm sure you are. Leslie was so kind to me, and she taught me so much about Heaven.

KEVIN: I imagine she could teach us quite a lot right now.

MEGAN: I wish we could reach her, to find out what it's really like.

KEVIN: You know, God did give us a pretty good idea what it's like.

MEGAN: He did? What did he say?

KEVIN: He said Heaven is surrounded by walls, and each wall has three gates of pearl. He said the streets are lined with gold. Not painted gold, mind you, but real gold.

MEGAN: It sounds beautiful.

KEVIN: He also said there will be no sickness, and no dying. And the whole place is lit by the glory of the Lord.

MEGAN: I can only imagine how Leslie must feel being there right now. It must be amazing.

KEVIN: As sad as I am to lose her, I can't tell you how excited I am for her. She's already there, and one day, we will join her.

MEGAN: I'm so glad I'll see her one day. But more than that, I'm glad I'll finally see Jesus.

KEVIN: Megan, that makes two of us!

Megan turns and leaves the office.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Paint swatches

How many of you have ever tagged along with Mom and Dad to the paint store? If you have, you know that paint stores have all these amazing color swatches free for the taking. They're not toys, of course. They're samples of all the colors each paint manufacturer can provide. People like your Mom and Dad can take these home, hold them up to the wall, and imagine what the room will look like in its new color.

John gives us a word picture of Heaven in Revelation. He says Heaven is a beautiful place with streets of gold and never ending light. It's a place free of sickness and death. It's a place where all of God's children will live with him forever.

It's pretty clear from John's words that there truly are no words to capture what Heaven is really like. Until the day we leave this Earth, we will have to rely on our imaginations to give us a picture of our forever home.

Heaven is a beautiful place, prepared by God for all who believe. Place your trust in Jesus, and one day, you will see Heaven with your own eyes.

LARGE GROUP GAME

DRAW SOMETHING

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pads of paper

Pencils

A picture or Power Point of a famous cartoon character

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three kids to play this game. Have the kids sit on the edge of the stage facing the audience.

Choose one adult leader. The adult leader will get a peek at the cartoon character's photo on the big screen (so all the kids can see) and then be given a piece of paper with the same image. The adult's job is to describe the character to the kids **WITHOUT** saying anything that would give away who or what the character is while the kids try to sketch the character being described. After a minute or so, have the kids unveil their sketches, then show them the real picture. Let the audience pick a winner by applause for best or funniest drawing.

VARIATION:

You can also pick two pairs of kids, and have one kid describe the cartoon character to their partner.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Heaven is more wonderful than words can ever describe.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Heaven will be amazing.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to describe Heaven.

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23; the New Heaven and New Earth

INTRO:

When Star Wars: Episode 7 was just a few months from release, kids and adults started to get excited as the trailers for the movie hit the theaters and the Internet. Each trailer revealed a little bit more of what we would see in the movie: new characters, new ships, new Stormtroopers, and a handful of familiar faces.

One of the most exciting videos came out less than a month before the movie's release. Disney released a very exciting trailer for the movie around Thanksgiving, and shortly after its release, someone posted a video of John Boyega, the actor playing Finn, watching that trailer. Boyega and all the other cast members had worked hard on the movie, but they only knew so much of what would be in the film. They had to imagine the rest. When John finally sees what the movie will actually look like for the first time he falls off the back of his couch in excitement.

That sounds like someone who is pretty excited doesn't it? This was the first time he saw what he had only imagined the movie would be like. I think he was pretty pleased, don't you?

As we wrap up our series on Heaven, we want to turn our imaginations to what Heaven is like. The Bible gives us many words and descriptions for Heaven, and some of the most vivid word pictures are found in Revelation. Let's take a look at a few of the things John had to say about his vision of our future home.

READ REVELATION 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Before that, he had been a simple fisherman. Now, many years after Jesus returned to Heaven, John is given a vision of the new home Jesus is preparing for every one of us. John describes a city fortified by a giant wall and decked with every kind of precious stone imaginable. He sees a place filled with light not from the sun, but God himself. He sees a place where there is no more suffering and no more death.

John did his best to capture the view with words, but I am sure when he finished writing, he knew he couldn't possibly have captured Heaven's full glory. This is the promise Jesus gave us, the promise of a world free of sin where we would live forever with Him. This is where Jesus wants us all to go and live with him.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Revelation is the end of the Bible and the end of history's greatest love story. The story began in Genesis, with God creating our beautiful world and giving it to Adam and Eve. The story took a dark turn when Adam and Eve sinned. We were cast out of God's presence; hopeless and helpless to save ourselves from the sin we inherited.

God loved us so much, he sent his son Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave, and if we believe in him, we will not die an eternal death. We, like Jesus, will be raised up and taken to Heaven for all eternity.

Heaven is where many of us will see relatives from the past, people we knew and people we never met who also believed in Jesus. It's a place where we will see heroes of the faith like Moses, Abraham, David, and Revelation's author himself. More importantly, we will meet Jesus himself. He will welcome us home, and we will never, ever be apart.

Can you imagine what it will be like to meet Jesus? Can you imagine a place with no sin, no pain, no sickness? No death?

John did the best he could to capture the glory of Heaven, but I think when we all walk through those gates, we will find ourselves speechless. No one on Earth has seen the glory that awaits us there, and if you thought John Boyega's reaction to the Star Wars trailer was surprising - you haven't seen anything yet.

Heaven is a real place of unimaginable beauty. It is the future home for all who believe in Jesus. Put your trust in Jesus today, and when it's your time to leave this world, you won't have to imagine Heaven any longer.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the promise of Heaven!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What do you think Heaven will look like?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 3:1

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play some Charades with the kids, and try to guess who each person is trying to imitate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23

What does Heaven look like?

Where does the light in Heaven come from?

What else does John tell us about Heaven?

How can we get to Heaven?

Who will we see when we get there?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and your amazing love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What do you think Heaven will look like?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 3:1

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play some Charades with the kids, and try to guess who each person is trying to imitate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23

How does John describe Heaven?

Where does the light in Heaven come from?

Who will we see in Heaven?

What do you think it will be like living in a place with no sickness or death?

How can we know that we will one day go to Heaven?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and your amazing love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

There is no sickness or death in Heaven.

TRUE

The sun that lights our world will light up Heaven.

FALSE

The streets are made of gold in Heaven.

TRUE

We will live in Heaven, but God will still be elsewhere.

FALSE

Anyone who believes in Jesus can go to Heaven.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: IMAGINING HEAVEN



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Our minds can't even imagine all the wonders that heaven will contain. But when we read the word-pictures of heaven in Revelation, we can get an idea of how wonderful it will be. Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23; the New Heaven and New Earth



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Choose a new restaurant or store you've never been to, and make a trip with the kids. Before you go, ask them to imagine what it'll be like inside. Once inside, ask how their expectations met up with the real place. Then, ask them how they imagine Heaven will be.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What does John tell us about Heaven?
- Who will be living in Heaven with us?
- How can we get to Heaven?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

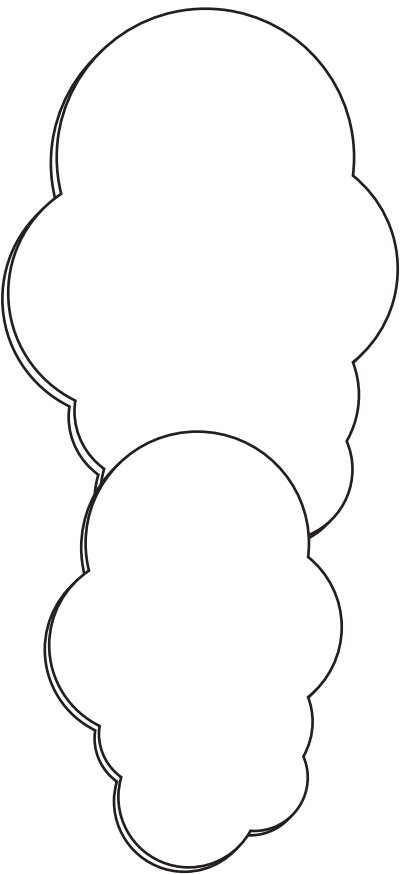
"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV)



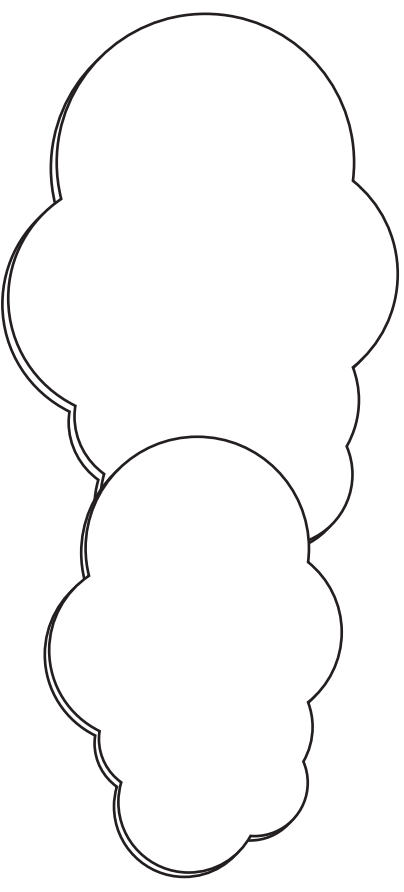
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

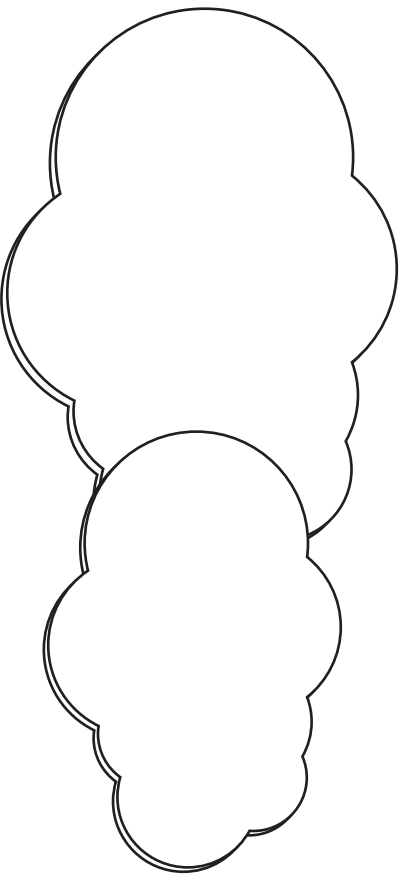
Heaven isn't just a nice sentiment we use to console ourselves when loved ones die. It is a real place God is preparing for all who believe in Jesus. Ask Jesus to write his name on your children's hearts so one day, they will enter the gates of Heaven!



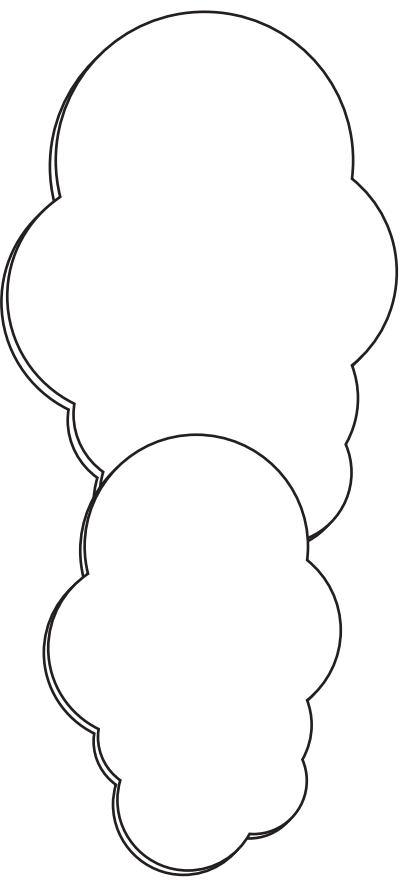
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of what Heaven looks like! Draw some of the beautiful images that John described, and don't forget to include some of the people who will be there.