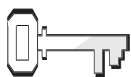


A Great Family Reunion



References

Revelation 21:1-6;
Isaiah 11:1-9; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 674, 675; *Early Writings*, pp. 13-20



Memory Verse

" '[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that heaven is a beautiful, happy place where we will enjoy living with Jesus.
Feel excited about going to heaven to live with Jesus.
Respond by thanking Jesus for His promise of a home in heaven.



The Message

Jesus wants us to live with Him forever in a happy, safe place.

Monthly Theme

We will spend eternity with Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Bible describes heaven as a perfect place with no more suffering or death. We will spend eternity with God, and with friends and family. We will talk with Jesus face to face. We will play with all the animals without fear and walk on streets of such pure gold it will look like glass. Although we try, we cannot now imagine all the wonderful things we will see and do.

This a lesson about grace.

To spend eternity with Jesus, to be reunited with loved ones, to live forever—these are not dreams, they are promises from God. His gift of love extends to all who will receive Christ as their Saviour and friend. A glorious future awaits us.

Teacher Enrichment

"Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own 'new name' (Revelation 2:17), and the inscription, 'Holiness to the Lord.' In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awakening sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and each voice is raised in grateful praise. . . .

"Before the ransomed throng is the holy city. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: 'Your conflict is ended.' 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world' " (*The Great Controversy*, p. 646).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 10.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	ticket seller, tickets (see p. 148), play money, ticket booth
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Rejects</i> <i>B. Eternity</i>	adhesive bandages, coat, glasses, keys, medicine bottle, box large bucket, sand, small flat container
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> decorated jewel box from Lesson 10 none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	artificial leaf or paper palm branch, white robes paper clouds (see p. 149) Bibles, 14 soft toys or pictures of animals (see p. 150), large sheet of paper, marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>My Mansion in Heaven</i>	paper, markers, crayons
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Tickets to Heaven</i>	ticket seller, free tickets (see p. 148), crayons, markers, play money

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

You Need:

- play money
- tickets (see p. 148)
- ticket booth
- ticket seller

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Have a ticket booth by the door. Give each child some pretend money and direct them to go to the booth to buy a ticket to New Jerusalem. Have the “ticket seller” say to the children: “I’m sorry you cannot buy a ticket. But I have a friend who has free tickets—Jesus. Would you like a free ticket?” Give each child a ticket that says “Admit one. Free gift from Jesus.”

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- adhesive bandages
- coat
- glasses
- keys
- medicine bottle
- box

A. Rejects

Put all the items into the box. Invite the children to come forward and pull out an item. Ask: **Will you need this when you get to heaven? Why?** Discuss their responses and draw the conclusion that heaven will be a safe, happy place.

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you think of anything else you will not need in heaven? When we get to heaven, there will be no crying, sickness, or death. We will be happy and safe, and Jesus will be with us. Right now Jesus is preparing our homes in heaven, but soon He will come to take us there. Our message is:**



JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER IN A HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- large bucket of sand
- small flat container

B. Eternity

Invite the children to come one at a time and take just one grain of sand from the bucket (emphasize that it can only be one grain), and put it in the flat container.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it hard to move just one grain of sand? How long do you think it would take us to move this bucket of sand if we were to move one grain a day? A week? A year? It would take a very long time. That amount of time is just like one single grain of sand in eternity. Jesus has planned a wonderful home for us. Think about that. Do you want to live with Jesus forever throughout eternity? Our message for today is:**



JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER IN A HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)
- "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 12)
- "Wonderful, Wonderful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 39)
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)
- "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 89)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **God is preparing wonderful things for us in heaven. Giving our offerings is just one way to show Him how much we love Him.**

You Need:

- decorated jewel box from Lesson 10



Prayer

Stand in a circle. Ask each of the children to name something they are glad will not be in heaven, such as glasses, sickness, sadness. Go around the circle again, and ask the children to tell about something they will enjoy in heaven. In your prayer praise God for the good things we will experience in heaven and ask Him to help us be ready for His coming.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- victory palm (artificial leaf or paper palm branch)
- as many white robes as possible

Experiencing the Story

When you say **Jesus, palm**, or **heaven** have the children wave their palm branches and shout Alleluia! Have someone lead these actions and others as noted. **Note: Save the crowns for use in Lesson 13.**

Read or tell the story.

When the chariot-cloud with **Jesus**, the angels, and the redeemed from earth arrives in **heaven**. One of the angels leads everyone in a praise song. *[Sing "Alleluia," Sing for Joy, no. 16.]*

Then **Jesus** says, "The battle is over. You are blessed by My Father. I've prepared this place for you from the beginning. Enjoy it, it's yours."

Everyone streams in through the gates. They see people they haven't seen in years. They see people they have only heard or read about. They shout happily to each other: "I'm glad you're here!" "Look who's here!" "See who I brought with me!" "I knew you would be here!" *[Encourage the children to stand up and hug or shake hands and say "I'm glad you're here!"]* **Jesus** sits on His throne, smiling at all the happy people.

Suddenly another happy shout rings out. Adam enters the city. **Jesus** stands and stretches out His arms to him. Adam sees the scars on **Jesus'** hands. Instead of returning **Jesus'** hug, he falls down at **Jesus'** feet. He cries, "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was killed for my sins!"

Jesus lifts him up and says, "Look around you, Adam."

Adam recognizes the place right away. He sees his old home, the Garden of Eden. But it is even more beautiful than when he lived there. Adam walks with **Jesus** among the trees where he used to gather fruit. He smells the flowers he used to pick. He touches the vines he used to train. He looks up at the beautiful **palm** trees. **Heaven** is a wonderful place!

Animals come up to Adam. He sees wolves and lambs playing together. All are so gentle even children play with them. Goats and leopards, calves and colts, and lion and bear cubs nap together. They all eat the same kind of food. No more eating each other!

Jesus leads Adam to the Tree of Life. He picks a piece of fruit and says, "This is for you to eat, Adam." Adam looks at all the people in the crowd standing in the new Eden. They are his children, grandchildren, and great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren. They all belong to his family. He is so happy that **Jesus** has saved all these people! He places his crown at **Jesus'** feet. Finally, he embraces **Jesus**.

Then Adam leads his family in singing, "Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that died for my sins, and lives again!" All the people take off their crowns and put them at **Jesus'** feet. They also bow deeply to Him. When they rise, they wave their **palm** branches in praise. The angels join in their praise.

Everyone is happy to be at home in **heaven** with **Jesus**.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about this picture of heaven? What are you looking forward to when you get to heaven?**

Why did Adam kneel at Jesus' feet? How do you think Adam will feel when he sees the Garden of Eden again?

What is so wonderful about all the animals? Which animal would you like to pet?

Do you want to live in heaven with Jesus? Let's say today's message:



JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER IN A HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.

Memory Verse

Beforehand, for each group of five or six children, write two or three words from the memory verse on each paper cloud. “**[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away**” (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Divide the children into small groups and give each group a set of mixed-up clouds. Have them sort out the clouds to form the memory verse. Say the verse together and then remove one cloud from each group. Repeat several times, removing one cloud each time.

Remind the children that Jesus will come in the clouds and will gather us up to meet Him. Then discuss the memory verse to be sure each child understands it.

You Need:

- paper “clouds” (see p. 149)

Bible Study

In advance, tape the following texts onto each of the toy animals. Before Sabbath School starts place the animals around the room. Divide the children into pairs, making sure that nonreaders have a reader or an adult to help them. Say: **Today we are going on safari to look for animals we might see in heaven. Bible texts are attached to 14 animals. When you find an animal, look up the text and see what you can learn about heaven:**

Revelation 21:3

Revelation 21:4 (Have six papers with this since the text lists six things.)

Revelation 21:5

Revelation 21:6

Revelation 21:7

Isaiah 11:6

Isaiah 11:7

Isaiah 11:8

On a large sheet of paper list all the things that the children find out about heaven.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did we learn about heaven?**

What do you think is the most wonderful thing about heaven?

What do you think about going to heaven? Do you want to live there? Why?

Say: **The most wonderful thing to me is that we will be with Jesus forever. Remember our message . . .**



JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER IN A HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.

Let's say that together.

You Need:

- Bibles
- 14 soft toy animals or pictures of animals (see p. 150)
- large sheet of paper
- marker

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper
- crayons/
markers

My Mansion in Heaven

Say: **Today we are going to design our mansion in heaven. You can either draw a plan that shows the rooms in your mansion, or you can draw a picture of what you think it might look like.** When the children are finished, admire their handiwork.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Tell us what is special about your house. Whom would you like to live next door to you?**

Ask: **Will there be any thieves who**

will break into your house? Why?

Say: **You have drawn some lovely houses. Who will build your house in heaven? When? Do you think it will look like the house you have drawn? Why?**

We can't even imagine the homes that Jesus is making, but we know we will be happy to live in them. They will be more beautiful than any palace on this earth. Heaven is a safe and beautiful place. Let's say today's message together:



**JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER IN A
HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.**

Sharing the Lesson

Tickets to Heaven

Use the same tickets distributed in the Welcome activity or make additional tickets before Sabbath School begins.

Give the children some play money and instruct them to go and buy a ticket to heaven. The ticket seller says: **Sorry, you cannot buy a ticket to heaven, but King Jesus says that you may have one for free.**

When all the children have a free ticket ask: **Think about someone you want to join you in heaven. Let's make a free ticket for them.** Allow the children time to decorate their tickets.

Debriefing

Ask: **To whom will you give your free ticket? What are you going to say to them? Accept answers.** Help the chil-

dren practice inviting someone to come to heaven with them.

Say: **Because Jesus loves us, He paid the price on the cross so that everyone may choose to go to heaven. Tell your friend about that and share today's message with them. Let's say it together again:**



**JESUS WANTS US TO LIVE
WITH HIM FOREVER IN A
HAPPY, SAFE PLACE.**

Closing

Gather the children in a circle. Pray for help as they give someone their ticket to heaven. Ask that Jesus will be with each one and help all to walk close to Him so all will be ready when He comes again.

You Need:

- ticket seller
- free tickets (see p. 148)
- crayons/ markers
- play money

A Great Family Reunion

References

Revelation 21:1-6; Isaiah 11:1-9; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 674, 675; *Early Writings*, pp. 13-20

Memory Verse

"[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

The Message

Jesus wants us to live with Him forever in a happy, safe place.

Have you ever seen a lion in the zoo? Would you like to get in the same cage? When we get to heaven, lions will be as tame as kittens and will sleep with the sheep and lambs. What will it be like to be there?

When the chariot-cloud with Jesus, the angels, and the redeemed from earth arrives in heaven, Jesus says, "The battle is over. You are blessed by My Father. I've prepared this place for you from the beginning. Enjoy it; it's yours." Everyone streams in through the gates. They see people they haven't seen in years. They see people they have only heard or read about. They shout happily to each other: "I'm glad you're here!" "Look who's here!" "I knew you would be here!" People hug each other. Jesus sits on His throne smiling at all the happy people.



Suddenly another happy shout rings out. Adam enters the city. Jesus stands and stretches out His arms to him. Adam sees the scars on Jesus' hands. Instead of going into Jesus' arms, he falls down at Jesus' feet. He cries, "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was killed for my sins!"

Jesus lifts him up and says, "Look around you, Adam."

Adam recognizes the place right away. He sees his old home, the Garden of Eden. But it is even more beautiful than when he lived there. Adam walks among the trees where he used to gather fruit. He smells the flowers he used to pick. He touches the vines he used to train.

Animals come up to him. He sees wolves and lambs playing together. All the animals are so gentle even little children play with them. Goats and leopards, calves and colts, and lions and bear cubs nap together. They all eat the same kind of food. No more eating each other!

Jesus leads Adam to the Tree of Life. He picks a piece of fruit and says, "This is for you to eat, Adam." Adam looks at all the people in the crowd standing in the new Eden. They are his children, grandchildren, and great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren. They all belong to his family. He is so happy that Jesus has saved all these people. He places his crown at Jesus' feet. Finally, he enters Jesus' arms.

Then Adam leads his family in singing, "Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that died for my sins, and lives again!" All the people take off their crowns and lay them at Jesus' feet. They bow deeply before Him. When they rise, they wave their palm branches in praise and shout "Alleluia!" The angels join in their song of praise. "Alleluia, Alleluia!" rings throughout heaven. Everyone is happy to be with Jesus.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a walk with your family. List the animals and birds you see. What are their natural enemies here? Can you imagine what it will be like in heaven when they will no longer be enemies and will get along with each other?
- As you walk, ask your family what they would like to do when they get to heaven. Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.
- Thank Jesus that He died to make it possible for you all to live with Him.

Sunday

- During family worship, find out five facts about wolves and five about sheep. Why are they enemies? Look up Isaiah 11:6. What will happen in heaven?
- Pretend to be the animals mentioned in Isaiah 11:6, 7. See how many your family can guess.
- Thank Jesus that heaven is a safe place.
- Write the memory verse on paper clouds. Write a few words on each cloud. Mix up the clouds; then unscramble them. Do this several times.

Monday

- Read and discuss Revelation 21:1-6 during family worship.
- Using the letters in the word HEAVEN, list as many things that you can think about heaven that begin with each letter. For example: H is for Happy, Hippo, Health.
- Teach your memory verse to your family. Name some family or friends who are very sick or have died. Will they be sick in heaven?
- Thank Jesus that there will be no sadness in heaven.

Tuesday

- Give a drink of water to everyone during family

worship. Say that Jesus offers the water of life to everyone. Read and discuss Revelation 21:4. Imagine no more tears, no pain, no death. What jobs will not be needed in heaven?

- Thank Jesus for good water and for the "Water of Life."

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Revelation 21:2 during family worship. What does the Bible mean when it says "beautiful like a bride"?
- Write (or ask an adult to help you write) a letter to Jesus. Thank Him for His invitation to heaven. Tell Him what you are looking forward to. Ask any questions you might have. Share your letter during family worship.

Thursday

- For family worship read and discuss Revelation 21:5. What does Jesus say about everything He has told John? Make up some true or false questions about heaven. See if your family can tell which are true and which are false.
- Think of what you do when you have a friend visit you. Will your time in heaven be just a visit? What do you think Jesus is doing to prepare a place for you?
- Make a list of people you want to meet in heaven. Tell why you want to see them.

Friday

- Today we welcome the Sabbath. This is a special day to spend with Jesus. Help your family get ready for Sabbath.
- Read and discuss Revelation 21:3 during family worship. Who lives in the city?
- Sing songs of praise to God at family worship.
- Thank God for His special day, for His love, and for His promise of heaven.