



Heaven

By Deborah Wassenberg

We've taught the children that the Kingdom of God (or the Kingdom of Heaven) is in their hearts when Jesus rules and reigns there. (Visit: <https://cooekidsministry.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Gods-New-Kingdom.pdf>) So what about Heaven? Is it still there? It sure is! This lesson will teach the children what an exciting place it is and how to get there.

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- Heaven Is Real (Brentwood Benson)
- Heaven in My Heart (Hillsong Kids)
- Heaven is Our Home (Hillsong Kids)

Bible Lesson:

Bible References:

Suggested Visual Aids for Flashcards or PowerPoint presentation:

1. Throne
2. Disciples looking into the sky
3. Mansion
4. Angels
5. Child crying
6. Family photo
7. 'X' through a cartoon of person on cloud
8. Olympians receiving reward

Words:

1. God is omnipotent (He is all powerful)
God is omniscient (He is all knowing)
God is omnipresent (He is present everywhere)
But God does have a dwelling place, too.
The Bible says 'The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.'
(Psalm 103:19)

2. Heaven is where Jesus went after He was raised from the dead.
 Dr Luke wrote about it in the book of Acts (1:9-11)
 ...He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.
 They (*the disciples*) were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white (*angels*) stood beside them.
 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky?
 This same Jesus, who had been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven.'
 King Jesus sits on a throne on the right hand side of the God's throne.

3. Heaven has been called a country! (*Hebrews 11:16*)
 It will have everything a country has.
 People will be put in charge.
 It will have land, animals, trees and flowers.
 The Bible also tell us that God has prepared a city for people who have believed and trusted in Him.
 It will be a beautiful city filled with art and music.
 Jesus is building mansions for Christians who will join Him in Heaven one day.
 (*John 14:2-3*)
 I wonder what your mansion will look like.
 (*Discuss*)

4. Heaven will be full of angels. There's too many to count! (*Hebrews 12:22*)
 And I'm not talking about people who have died.
 Some kids think that when you die you become an angel.
 That's not true. You will be yourself but in a supernatural body.
 Angels worship God.
 They escort Christians into Heaven when they die. (*Luke 16:19-31*)
 Angels please and serve God in any way they can.
 And they don't want us to focus on them, they want us to focus on Jesus.

5. Here's some things that **WON'T** be in Heaven. (*Revelation 21:1-27 & 22*)
 - Crying
 - Death or dying
 - Tears (*God will wipe them away*)
 - Sadness or sorrow
 - Pain (*Physical, mental or emotional*)
 - Sun or Moon (*The glory of God, and Jesus light of the world, will be our light*)
 - Time (*2 Peter 3:8*)
 - Night
 - Sea (*storms of life, restlessness, wars*)
 - Sin
 - Curses

- Locked gates (*we will be safe and secure*)
 - No temple (*we will worship God face to face*)
6. You will have a physical body in heaven. (*Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58*)
 Your new bodies will never hurt or age.
 You'll remember who you are and how you served Jesus here on earth.
 You will recognise the people you love.
 You won't miss anything on earth. Heaven will be so interesting.
 You'll have fun and laugh.
 There will be banquets and singing. (*Luke 6:21*)
7. What will you do in Heaven?
 You won't be bored.
 You won't be floating on a cloud and playing a harp for eternity.
 That's not much fun unless you really, really, really like playing the harp!
 You will have work to do just like Adam had work in the Garden of Eden. (*Genesis 2:15*)
 God and Jesus are always working. (*John 5:17*)
 I don't know what your job will be but it will be exciting and you will love doing it.
8. What you do here on earth counts in Heaven.
 Every Christian will stand before Jesus at His judgement seat.
 We won't be judged on sin, because our sins are forgiven, but we will be judged on what we did or didn't do for Him. (*1 Corinthians 3:13-15*)
 The Bible talks about five crowns that are promised to Christians.
 They're not like the crown Jesus wears. He will be wearing a King's crown (*diadem*).
 We will be awarded crowns like those you see Olympians wear (*stephanos*).
1. A victor's crown (*1 Corinthians 9:25*)
 2. A soul winner's crown (*1 Thessalonians 2:19-20*)
 3. A crown of righteousness (*2 Timothy 4:8*)
 4. A crown for service (*1 Peter 5:4*)
 5. A crown of life (*James 1:12; Revelation 2:10*)
- Heaven is real.
 It's not a fairy tale.
 But you will live 'happily ever after'!

Ministry to the Children:

God keeps a very special book in Heaven. It is called the 'Book of Life' or the 'Lamb's Book of Life'. It contains a record, or register, of the names of people who have eternal salvation. (*Revelation 3:5; 21:27*) If you believe the gospel your name is in the Book of Life! The gospel is believing Jesus died for your sins, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day, and appeared to people. (*1 Corinthians 15:1-8*). Heaven is an amazing place and you can be assured of going there one day if you receive and follow Jesus! (*Altar call*)

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.

This verse is short so easy to learn using actions.

Set (freeze and pause for 3 seconds)

Your mind (fingers point to each side of the head)

On things (hands to heart and pump to show loving heavenly things)

Above (point up to Heaven)

Not (shake head from side to side)

On earthly (point one finger down to ground)

Things (point other finger down to ground)

Colossians 3 (hold up 3 fingers)

2 (hold up 2 fingers)

Game: 500

Pick one child to be the thrower and everyone else will be playing. Have the thrower stand on one side of the play area holding a ball and facing away from everyone else. Have the rest of the group stand all together on the opposite side of the play area facing the thrower.

The thrower yells out a number of points and the words "dead or alive." E.G. '200 alive'. Or '300 dead or alive'. If they say alive, the ball must be caught in the air for the points to be scored. If they say dead or alive, the ball can either be caught on the ground or picked up off the ground.

Once they've named the score of the toss, they throw the ball behind their head toward the other children. The children have to try to be the one to get the ball either in the air (alive only) or off the ground (if the points are scored for dead). Whoever catches or ends up with the ball scores those points.

Continue tossing the ball and scoring points until someone has 500 points. Whoever scores 500 points first gets to be the next person to toss the ball. This game can be played in teams, too.

Craft: Heavenly House (design your mansion)

Photocopy the house template onto white paper two per child. Children cut it out, colour and decorate the house then fold along the dotted lines and secure. You'll need to make a roof using a smaller piece of paper or some lightweight grass or twigs to make thatch. Pre-cut the house for younger children. Is their mansion a cottage, a castle or a homestead?

