



SESSION ELEVEN

HEAVEN

BIG IDEA

Jesus is preparing a special place for those who believe in Him. It's called heaven and we can hardly imagine how wonderful it will be.

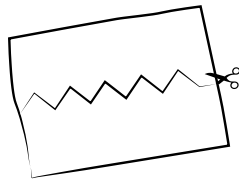
PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a treat such as mallow puffs

Get a phone book (printed or online)

Get an important certificate or form for each child that has their name on it

Get a crown for each child or make them by cutting a piece of A4 down the middle lengthwise



in a zig-zag pattern to make the points of a crown (see diagram) and taping/stapling the halves together.

Get some plastic jewels and tape or glue

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

We are often curious about heaven because we don't know much about it. But what we do know is that it is an amazing place because God is there, and Jesus is preparing to welcome us. There will be no crying or tears there, no hospitals or sick people and no sin. Everyone will feel welcome and treasured, and people from every country and race who have trusted in Jesus will be there.



HAND A MALLOW PUFF TO EACH PERSON.
Before they eat it, they must say something they know about heaven.

As you can see, heaven is going to be a fabulous place. We will be with God who made us and who loves us more than anyone else. He promises to take the best care of us and to reward us for being faithful to him and loving others.

GAME

'What Heaven Is Like' Game

EVERYONE STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM.

Choose one side of the room to represent "yes" and the other side is "no".

As you read out a phrase, everyone decides whether it is something that will happen in heaven and moves to the "yes" or "no" side.

Get everyone to return to the middle before you read the next phrase.

1. We will sit on a cloud and pluck a golden harp *No*
2. We will have things to do... activities that are rewarding *Yes*
3. Our bodies will not fail us *Yes*
4. We will have jobs to do that make us tired *No*
5. It will be really boring *No*
6. We will be with Jesus *Yes*
7. Peter will be guarding the pearly gates *No*
8. We won't fail anymore *Yes*
9. We will be angels *No*
10. There will be no pain and no crying *Yes*
11. It will be better than the best things of this life *Yes*

READ

“ Jesus told his disciples, “Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I am on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I am on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. ”

John 14:1-4, The Message

EXPLORE

But heaven is not only for when we die. We have a taste of heaven when we follow Jesus now. Because we know that heaven is our real home, our hearts are different and we are learning to make choices that please Jesus.

TAKE OUT YOUR AREA'S PHONE BOOK (or go online) and ask the children to find their surname listed in it.

QUESTIONS

Where is your name written?

How does it feel to see your name printed in a book (or listed online)?

Now take out the certificate or document with each child's name written clearly on it.

Let them see what it is and remember how important it is that their own name is written there.

QUESTIONS

What does it mean when your name is on something?

What does it mean when your name is written on a passport?

There is another place where your name is written when you love Jesus. It is in the **Book of Life**.

The Book of Life must be the most enormous book ever, because it holds the names of all the people through history who loved Jesus!

God knows all his children by name, and we all have a place in heaven prepared for us by God. When your name is written in the Book of Life it is your passport to heaven.

When we follow Jesus and ask him to be our Saviour, he opens the gates of heaven wide for us.

Going to live with Jesus will be like going through a door into a whole new world where there will be a big welcome for us by people we love who are already there! But we don't need to pack a suitcase! God says there is no point collecting a bunch of things because we can't take any of it with us. It might seem strange that we won't need any of our favourite things, or even a change of underwear! God will give us everything we need plus much more. We won't ever be bored in heaven because God knows what we need, and he's getting it all ready.

In the Bible we catch some glimpses about heaven and some hints about what it will be like. But it is so different from what we know here on earth that no one could ever really describe it.

The Bible uses images that make us go, "Wow!" rather than trying to describe heaven exactly. A lot is still a mystery until we get there. If you can think of a beautiful mountain, waterfall, or even the prettiest flower you've ever seen, heaven will be even better!

God can use anything – gold, diamonds and wonderful things we have never seen here on earth. Maybe that's why the Bible doesn't give us a complete description of heaven, because we wouldn't even be able to understand how extraordinary and beautiful it really is. But we do know there will be no need for a sun because God's glory will give all the light that we will ever need. (Revelation 21)

HAND OUT THE CROWNS AND LET THE CHILDREN PUT THEM ON. Then say that they would look even better with jewels on them.

Place the jewels in a bowl somewhere visible to use during the week.

In heaven we will each be given a crown and jewels as a reward for the loving things we do in our lives like caring for the poor and the sick and the hungry.

Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for us with many rooms or mansions. Every day we experience this incredible earth that God created, but we know that heaven is even better!

Everything will be different and new, and there will be no hurting, no arguing, no hitting, and no crying.

Heaven is a wonderful place!

PRAY

Thank you Jesus that you are preparing a place for us in heaven, and that it's going to be the best place ever! Amen.

LIVE

This week whenever someone is spotted doing something kind or generous or loving, they get a jewel from the bowl and put it on their crown (have tape or glue available).

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

Heaven Anagrams

See if you can unscramble these letters to make some heavenly words!

cnorw
aagimnz
aimnoss
eeltvw
aeglms
ghilt
aderrw
hioprs
eersstt

Answers: crown, amazing, mansions, twelve, angels, light, reward, worship, streets

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Balloons
- 4 Straws
- 1 thumbtack & 4 pins
- Optional: bendy straws, paper cup, paper plate