

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

BIBLE DISCOVERY

"Our Heavenly Home"

Recommended for: All

LESSON AIM: To teach what the Bible says and what we believe about heaven, our eternal home. NOTE: This lesson may require more time than you have in your GNBC meeting. It may be divided into two parts.

MEMORY VERSE: *"In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" John 14:2*

SUPPLIES: Flannel board and flannel backed pictures: clouds, airplanes, hot air balloons, birds, stars, the sun, the moon, planets, heaven, mansions, streets of gold, etc.; Three strips of blue flannel, magazines, glue, scissors, 4x6 butcher or shelf paper, crayons or markers, graham crackers, frosting, and assorted candies for gingerbread mansions.



OPENING: Graham cracker house. As the children arrive, tell them that today they are going to learn about heaven and the home that Jesus is preparing for them. Have the children begin creating gingerbread mansions. Use graham crackers as walls and frosting to hold them together. Decorate the mansions with leftover frosting and the assorted candies. As the older children complete their mansion, have them help the younger children complete their mansions. As the kids create their gingerbread mansions read the memory verse and tell the children how God is preparing a place for those who believe in Him.



BIBLE DISCOVERY: The children will discover that heaven is a real place where God's people will someday live forever and ever. Use your Bible to read and describe heaven. Suggested Bible references are: John 14:2 refers to "mansions;" Revelation 22:5 refers to "no night in heaven;" Revelation 21:21 refers to the streets of the heavenly city, pure gold, as transparent glass; Isaiah 11:6 is symbolic of the tranquility of heaven. He refers to the world and the lamb being together; the leopard will lie down with the young goat and the calf and young lion will lie down together. This verse ends with "and a little child shall lead them."

Begin by asking some of the children what kind of place they live in; mobile home, apartment, house, etc. Some of them will live in large houses or mansions. Talk about how much room is in a large house. Then discuss how God has created enough rooms for us in heaven. This will lead you into the introduction of the lesson.

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." Have you ever toured through a mansion? A mansion has many rooms, it is usually very beautiful. Very few people here on earth live in a mansion. Jesus promised that He would take us to heaven if we become one of His children while we live here on earth.

When we say "heaven" we sometimes think of what we see above our heads but there are actually three heavens (Have the three strips of blue flannel placed on the flannel board with the pictures defining each heaven above them.)

Let's talk about the three heavens. (Refer once again to the three strips of blue flannel).

The First Heaven (point to the bottom piece of blue sky) is the place where the birds fly; airplanes fly and where the clouds hang and float around. We can see this first heaven when we look up.

The Second Heaven (point to the second piece of flannel) is called the starry heaven. For a long time, only the stars and planets existed there. But now men have sent satellites, and space ships to explore the second heaven. Astronauts have been sent to the moon and have orbited around the earth in the second heaven.

The Third Heaven (refer to last piece of flannel) is the highest heaven where the mansions are. Jesus has told us in the Bible that there are many mansions. Mansions means "dwelling place." A better translation is "rooms" conveying the idea that there is ample space in heaven. This is the heaven we as Christians are most interested in. For we are going to live in heaven someday. Some of our relatives and friends are already with Jesus. Someday we will join them.

The Direction of Heaven

Which way is heaven? (Allow children to respond.) Heaven is always described as being UP from the earth. When Jesus returned to heaven He went up (Acts 1:9). When wicked men stoned Stephen to death he looked up into heaven (Acts 7:55). When Paul saw the Lord on the road to Damascus he was blinded by a light from above (Acts 9:3). So we believe heaven is up, way beyond what we see in the first and second heaven.

The People of Heaven

What makes where you live a nice home to live in? (Wait for several answers.) You and the people that live with you make the place you live either a happy or sad home; a quiet or a noisy home, a clean or messy home; a friendly or unfriendly home.

People really make our homes what they are. They also make the church what it is. Most people like to be at home with their family especially if they love one another. We will really enjoy heaven because Jesus, the angels, and the Christians who have already died will be alive and waiting for us.

We will all live with Jesus and enjoy everlasting life. It says in the bible there will be lots of food, fun, and games. This will be the best party ever. Our names must be written in the “Book of Life” otherwise we cannot be a part of heaven. For everyone to be a part of heaven, they must first accept Jesus as their personal Savior and friend. There is absolutely no other way for people to get to heaven.

The Pleasure of Heaven

It is going to be exciting in heaven. It will be a beautiful place. Revelation 21:23 says, *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”*

Our bodies will never feel pain. We will never get sick or die. We won’t have to diet or try to make ourselves better looking by using makeup or getting a haircut, etc. Heaven is a PERFECT place. Not one thing will be bad or wrong. Read Revelation 21:4 - 25. Make a list on a chalk or white board about some of the things that won’t be in heaven. (i.e. tears, suffering, murderers, liars, night, etc.).



ACTIVITY: Preparation- Decide which Bible Learning Activity you will use and gather the needed supplies.

Option #1: Have children create a collage of “heavenly” pictures (gluing and pasting pictures taken from magazines). You will need magazines, scissors, paste and a 4 x 6" piece of shelf or butcher paper which may be placed on a wall or a long table.

Option #2: Ask the children to draw people, things, clouds, mansions, that describe heaven on the shelf paper. You will need crayons and/or felt pens of various colors.

When Jesus comes back to earth to take us to heaven, we will be glad to leave our home here on earth. Are you ready to leave when the time

comes? If you are not ready or sure that you are, why not make sure right now as we pray. (Allow time for quiet and individual prayer.)

SNACK: Cotton candy, marshmallows, vanilla or banana pudding, sherbet or something that seems light to go along with the lesson.



CONCLUSION: Lead out in prayer for those who expressed a desire to accept Christ. Thank Jesus for His promises. Ask God to help us to live the daily Christian life and to be ready for His second coming.