



A Letter About Heaven

Lesson Aim: To know what heaven will be like.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23

What He Has Done: Jesus gave John a vision of what heaven looks like.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

| Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Bible Story | What He Has Done | Lesson Aim |
| 28 | A Letter About Weakness, 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5 | God revealed to Paul that He shows His power through our weakness. | To know we are weak, but God is strong. |
| 29 | A Letter About Strength, Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18 | God showed Paul how He strengthens us. | To learn about the armor of God that helps us to be strong in the Lord. |
| 30 | A Letter About Jesus' Return, Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12 | God revealed to John that Jesus is coming back. | To know Jesus is coming back. |
| 31 | A Letter About Heaven, Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23 | Jesus showed John a vision of what heaven looks like. | To know what heaven will be like. |

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 11. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for revealing a glimpse of heaven to us. Impress this picture of heaven on the hearts of the children and develop in them a special longing for their true home with You. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Heaven. This week continues our discussion of heaven. Talking about going to heaven when we die or being 'taken' to heaven can be frightening for a two or three-year old so choose your words carefully. Focus on heaven being God's home and on the wonders we will see there.

Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature various letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the letter in a mailbox known as the "Special Delivery Mailbox." See THE WORD for more details.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

| Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies |
|-------------|----------|---|---|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | Welcome | Mailbox, stamp or sticker of a jewel |
| | | Coloring Center: A Picture of Heaven | Coloring pages of heaven, jewel stickers, crayons, "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" |
| | | Play-Dough Center: Pearly Gates | Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, costume pearl necklace or costume pearls in a resealable bag |
| | | Bubble Center: Jewels of Heaven | Bubbles, bubble wand |
| | | Letter Games | See GOT TIME? |
| | Up to 5 | Prepare for Worship | None |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "My God Is So Big" "Jesus Loves Me" | Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Remember" "Not by Might" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "The Lord Is Faithful" "With God All Things Are Possible" |
| | | Offering | Baskets |
| | | Worship Illustration | <i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 31 |
| THE WORD | Up to 10 | Watch the Word: Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23 | Visuals: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, picture or photo of a home |
| THE WAY | Up to 25 | Craft: Heaven's Gates | Standard-size sheet of sturdy paper, shiny white paper, craft decorations (glitter, jewel stickers), tape or glue, crayons or markers |
| | | Game: I Spy | None |
| | | Game: No Tears, Just Joy! | Facial tissues or handkerchiefs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" |
| | | Snack: Sweet Jewels from Heaven | Any jewel-colored candy (jellybeans, Skittles, etc.) |
| | Final 5 | Final Five | Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 31 |
| GOT TIME? | Up to 10 | Game: Letter Games | Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Down From Heaven | Sturdy box or step (no more than one foot tall) |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Through the Clouds | White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" |
| | Up to 10 | Story Time | Any story about heaven |

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who shows us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child opens the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a jewel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a beautiful jewel help you remember what heaven will look like.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: A PICTURE OF HEAVEN

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of heaven, jewel stickers, crayons, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

DO

Children color and add a jewel sticker to their page as they talk about heaven. Optional: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" while the children color.

TALK ABOUT

What do you see in this picture? (Children respond.) **Does it look beautiful?** (Yes.) **The Bible tells us heaven will be decorated with jewels.** Give each child a jewel sticker to put on their coloring page. **Do you think heaven will look exactly like this?** (Children respond.) **This picture is one person's idea of what heaven might look like, but we won't know exactly what heaven looks like until we get there. We do know it will be beautiful!**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: PEARLY GATES

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, costume pearl necklace or costume pearls in a resealable bag

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson aim. Encourage children to make pearls with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we are going to be talking about heaven. Who lives in heaven? (God.) **The Bible tells us the gates of heaven are each made of a single pearl. I brought some pearls with me today to show you what a pearl looks like.** Show children the pearls you brought. **The pearls in heaven will have to be giant to be big enough for a gate. Let's make some pearls from our play-dough. You can make small ones like the pearl I brought or you can make a large one that reminds you of the pearl gates. The Bible tells us there are twelve gates. Can you count to twelve with me?** Count to 12 with the children.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BUBBLE CENTER: JEWELS OF HEAVEN

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, bubble wand

DO

Children will talk about heaven while playing with bubbles.

TALK ABOUT

The Bible tells us heaven will be beautiful. The streets will be made of gold. The walls will be made of beautiful stone and covered in jewels of all colors. What is your favorite color? (Children respond.)
As I blow the bubbles, see what beautiful colors you can see in them. Encourage children to name the colors they see in the bubbles.

Optional: Extend this activity by calling out a color. Children find and touch something in the play area that is that color.

LETTER GAMES

SUPPLIES

Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

DO

Play one of the Letter Games listed in GOT TIME?

TALK ABOUT

Use the letter games to help children understand the letters we are learning are found in the Bible and are God's letters to us.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

| | |
|---|--|
| "Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12 | Make "V" shapes with both hands. Move them forward from the eyes outward. (I) Point to self. Point both index fingers outward and then move them toward the chest. Touch tip of pointer finger to tip of thumb and tap the chin. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |
|---|--|

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who shows us **THE WORSHIP**

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



One day we will be with God in heaven. Even though we can't see God with our eyes right now, we can always talk to Him. Let's do that right now. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for always being with us. Help us to remember we can always talk to You. Amen.**



Last time, we learned Jesus will come back one day to take us to heaven to be with Him forever. Today, we are learning what heaven looks like. In heaven, we will see God and we will feel His love. Let's sing as we show God our love by singing and giving our offering to help His church. Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" or "The Lord Is Faithful" while collecting the offering.

Heaven is a place filled with God's goodness. Imagine what heaven will be like as we sing about it now. Sing: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon."



The Bible tells us heaven is more beautiful than we could ever imagine. No one is ever scared, no one ever gets hurt, and no one ever cries. It will be a wonderful day when Jesus returns. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse with the motions. Practice a few times.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| "Behold, | Make "V" shapes with both hands. Move them forward from the eyes outward. |
| I am | (I) Point to self. |
| coming | Point both index fingers outward and then move them toward the chest. |
| soon." | Touch tip of pointer finger to tip of thumb and tap the chin. |
| Revelation 22:12 | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |



Let's see if Posty has any letters for us today. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 31.



The best part of heaven will be seeing God and being with Him. He is with us now in our hearts, but in heaven, we will be with Him face to face! Let's celebrate! Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."

Teacher Tip: Keeping the attention of young children during quieter or slower songs can sometimes be challenging. Prepare the children by talking to them quietly. Find motions that fit the song, such as having the

children walk in a circle while holding hands. Change directions when you get to the chorus or add other movements such as stretching your arms high or clapping.



John sees heaven

THE WORD

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, picture or photo of a home

Prepare: Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible in the mailbox used for THE WELCOME.

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| With my eyes on my teacher; | Point to eyes. |
| My mouth quiet as can be, | Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign. |
| I will listen to hear, | Cup hand around ear. |
| How God loves you and me. | Hug self, point to others, and then self. |

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Today, I brought a picture with me. It's a picture of a home. Point out something you like about the home in the picture. **Tell me something you like about your home.** (Children respond.)

Where is God's home? (Heaven.) **What do you think you will like about heaven?** (Children respond.)

God showed a man named John what heaven will be like. That's what is in our letter today. Who would like to open the Special Delivery Mailbox for this week's letter? Choose a child to open the mailbox, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. **We can find it in the last book of the Bible, Revelation.** Read the letter.



Dear family of God,

I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Now God makes His home with His people. He will live with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain."

The city was made out of pure gold. The city walls were decorated with every kind of jewel. The 12 gates were made from 12 pearls. The main street of the city was made out of pure gold. The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it. God's glory is its light.

Love,
John

Will anyone be sad in heaven? (No.) **Who will we see in heaven?** (God.)



Heaven is perfect

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: HEAVEN'S GATES

Purpose: To help children remember how John described heaven in Revelation.

Supplies: Standard-size sheet of sturdy paper, shiny white paper, craft decorations (glitter, jewel stickers), tape or glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: On a sheet of sturdy paper, print or draw a picture of heaven. At the top of the page, print:

John tells us about heaven.

Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23

From sturdy paper, draw and cut out two gate pieces (left and right) which are large enough to cover most of the picture of heaven.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft was developed for ages 4-5. When considering craft decorations for younger children, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, felt, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Directions:

1. Decorate the gates with shiny white paper and craft decorations.
2. Tape the outside edges of the gates to the picture of heaven so the gates can be opened in the middle to show the picture.
3. Open the gates and color the picture of heaven.
4. Attach jewel stickers to the walls of heaven.

Craft Discussion:

- **God showed John what heaven looks like.**
- **Look at your picture of heaven. What does the Bible say heaven looks like?** (It is made of pearl gates, gold streets, and jeweled walls.)
- **Open the gates on your craft. The Bible says the gates of heaven are made with shiny, white pearls.**
- **We can read what John wrote about heaven in the Bible, but we don't know everything about heaven. We won't know everything until we get there. What do you think your favorite thing about heaven will be?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: I SPY

Purpose: Children play "I Spy" to remember we will all see Jesus when He returns.

Supplies: None

One day, Jesus will come back with the clouds to take us to heaven to be with Him forever. Every person in the world will see Him no matter where they are or what they are doing. We will see many amazing things in heaven. Let's play "I Spy" and see what amazing things we can find here on earth.

Directions:

1. Choose an object in the room without revealing it to the children.
2. Say, "**I spy with my little eye, something that is** name the color of the object."
3. Have children take turns guessing which object you chose.
4. Play again, this time allowing one of the children to choose an object for the other children to guess.
5. Play as many times as you like.

GAME: NO TEARS, JUST JOY!

Purpose: Children will celebrate the joy of heaven.

Supplies: Facial tissues or handkerchiefs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

Who will we see in heaven? (God.) Heaven will be filled with good things God has made.

Directions:

1. Give each child a tissue or handkerchief.
2. **There will be no crying in heaven because there will be no sadness! I am going to ask you some questions about what we will see in heaven. When you answer the question with a "No," I want you to stand still. When you answer the question with a "Yes," jump up and wave your tissues (handkerchiefs) in the air.**
 - a. **Will we be sad in heaven?** (No!)
 - b. **Will we see a city made of gold?** (Yes!)
 - c. **Will we cry in heaven?** (No!)
 - d. **Will we see walls decorated with jewels?** (Yes!)
 - e. **Will we feel hurts in heaven?** (No!)
 - f. **Will we see God?** (Yes!)
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as children march around the room and wave their tissues (or handkerchiefs).

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SWEET JEWELS FROM HEAVEN

Purpose: Children will eat candy “jewels” as they discuss the nature of heaven.

Snack Suggestion: Any jewel-colored candy (jellybeans, Skittles, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let’s sing the “Blessing Song.”** Sing to the tune of “Frere Jacques” or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Your snack reminds me of the beautiful jewels that cover the walls in heaven.**
 - **Who will you see in heaven?** (God.)
 - **What else do you think you will see in heaven?** (Children respond.)
 - **Will anyone be sad or feel hurt in heaven?** (No.)
 - **God fills heaven with only good things!**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

| | |
|---|--|
| “Behold, I am coming soon.” Revelation 22:12 | Make “V” shapes with both hands. Move them forward from the eyes outward. (I) Point to self. Point both index fingers outward and then move them toward the chest. Touch tip of pointer finger to tip of thumb and tap the chin. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |
|---|--|

PRAY

Let’s pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3’s.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

GAME: LETTER GAME #1

Purpose: Children play a variation of "Telephone" to represent sending a message, like the letters in the Bible are God's messages to us.

Supplies: None

God led Paul to write a letter to people saying it is not by our own power that we point people to Jesus, but God's power showing through us. That special message was delivered to us through the Bible. Let's practice sending messages by playing, "Pass the Message."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. The teacher whispers, **"God is strong,"** into the ear of the first child.
3. Each child whispers what they hear to the child next to them.
4. The last child says what they heard, to see if the message was delivered. Teacher's Note: It is likely the message will change as it passes from one child to another. Laugh together as the message gets mixed up.
5. Play the game as often as you like, using one or more of the phrases below:
 - Jesus loves me.
 - God is so big.
 - With God all things are possible.
 - God is mighty.
 - I am coming soon.

Optional: For younger children or for added fun, have children make faces instead of sharing messages. The first player makes a face at the second, who then tries to duplicate it for the third, etc.

GAME: LETTER GAME #2

Purpose: Children play a hiding game using today's New Testament letter.

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter laying on top. **God helped a man named John write a letter about love. We find it in the Bible. The letter guides us in how to love one another. Let's play a game of hiding the letter. When we find it, we will read the letter together.**

Directions:

1. Choose a child to hide the letter in the envelope.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding the letter.
3. On your signal, the other children open their eyes and search for the letter.
4. The child who finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to you.
5. Read today's letter to the children and put it back in the envelope.
6. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

GAME: DOWN FROM HEAVEN

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy box or step (no more than one foot tall)

Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming soon." He is coming back from heaven! Let's pretend to be like Jesus. Jump down from heaven while you say Jesus' words.

Directions:

1. Place the box on the floor.
2. Have children line up behind the box.
3. One at a time, children jump off the box and say the Bible Memory Verse.
4. Play multiple times, having the children say the Bible Memory Verse different ways as they jump. (For example: shout, sing, whisper, etc.)

GAME: THROUGH THE CLOUDS

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

Prepare: Inflate balloons with air.

Teacher Tip: For large groups of children, divide into smaller groups and give each group a balloon.

Where is Jesus? (In heaven.) One day, Jesus is coming back. He said, "Behold, I am coming soon." Let's pretend this balloon is a cloud. When you look up to the balloon, pretend you see Jesus coming back through the clouds.

Directions:

1. Play or sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song.
2. Children bat the balloon in the air as they sing the song.
3. If the children are able to keep one balloon in the air without it hitting the floor, add a second balloon.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about heaven.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 6, Lesson 31: A Letter About Heaven

PONDER! God told John what heaven would be like. (Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23). Will anyone be sad in heaven? (No.) Who will we see in heaven? (God.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for making heaven a beautiful place where we can be with You forever. We are excited to see You face to face just as the Bible says we will! Amen."

PLAY! Draw and decorate a picture of what you think heaven will look like. Share it with a friend or family member.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"Behold,
I am
coming
soon."**

Revelation 22:12

Make "V" shapes with both hands. Move them forward from the eyes outward.
(I) Point to self.
Point both index fingers outward and then move them toward the chest.
Touch tip of pointer finger to tip of thumb and tap the chin.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.