

**Theme:** Looking Forward To The Ultimate Homecoming

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4

Memory Verse: God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. -Revelation 21:4

### The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, I have a super special story to share with you. It's about a little boy named Colton who had something amazing happen to him. You see, God gave Colton's family a very special gift. God let Colton come back to his family after he was very sick, but that's not the only gift God gave. God also let Colton see what Heaven is like for a few minutes. Imagine that! Seeing Heaven and then being able to tell others about it.

In Heaven, Colton saw so many beautiful things. He saw colors we don't have here on Earth, animals that were super friendly, and people who were happy and smiling all the time. He even met his great-grandfather, who had passed away long before Colton was born. And guess what? He met a sister he never knew he had because she went to Heaven before being born. But the most amazing part of Colton's Heavenly Homecoming was that he got to meet Jesus Himself. Can you imagine meeting Jesus? How wonderful that must have been!

Colton's story is so special that it was even put into a book. It's a story that can remind us all of something very important. Sometimes, we might feel scared about the idea of dying or really sad when someone we love goes to Heaven. But Colton's Heavenly Homecoming can help us remember that Heaven is a place where we don't have to be

scared or sad. It's a place where we can look forward to going one day if we believe in Jesus.

Now, let's think about Heaven for a bit. Heaven is like the most beautiful home you could ever imagine. It's a place where there's no more pain, no more tears, and no more goodbyes. In Heaven, every day is the best day ever. And the best part? We get to be with Jesus forever. Colton said, "You will like it!" And I truly believe him.

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that He's preparing a place for us in Heaven. It's like He's getting our rooms ready for the biggest, most wonderful family reunion ever. We call it a Heavenly Homecoming because it's when we finally get to go home to be with our Heavenly Father and all our family and friends who believe in Jesus.

Now, let's pray together. Dear Lord, thank you so much for letting Colton see a little bit of Heaven and for letting him share his story with us. It helps us not to be afraid of dying because we know that as long as we trust in You, we have a beautiful home waiting for us in Heaven. Help us to remember the joy of the Heavenly Homecoming that awaits us and to live our lives loving You and others. Amen.

So, kids, whenever you feel sad or scared, remember Colton's story and the promise of our Heavenly Homecoming. It's going to be the most amazing adventure, and it lasts forever. We'll get to see beautiful things, meet people we've missed, and most importantly, be with Jesus.

And you know what's really cool? We can start getting ready for our Heavenly Homecoming right now. How? By being kind, loving others, and following Jesus every day. It's like packing a suitcase full of good deeds for our trip to Heaven.

Let's also remember to share the story of Jesus with others. Just like Colton shared his story, we can tell our friends and family about Jesus so they can look forward to a Heavenly Homecoming too.

Before we finish, I want you to close your eyes for a moment and picture Heaven. Imagine the colors, the animals, and all the happy people. And remember, Jesus is there, waiting with open arms for us. It's going to be so great, and everyone is invited.

Thank you for listening to Colton's story and thinking about our Heavenly Homecoming with me today. Let's keep this story in our hearts and help each other remember that the best is yet to come.

# Bible Memory Verse

### God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. -Revelation 21:4

You Will Need:

- -Construction paper
- -Markers or crayons
- -Stickers of stars, rainbows, or other happy symbols
- -Tissues

### Get Ready:

- -Cut the construction paper into large cloud shapes, one for each child.
- -Write the memory verse on each cloud with a marker.

Do This:

- 1. Give each child a cloud with the memory verse and a set of markers or crayons.
- 2. Explain that our ultimate home with God will be a place where we are happy and no longer sad. God will take care of all the things that make us cry.
- 3. Ask the children to decorate their cloud with the markers, crayons, and stickers to show what a happy place with God might look like to them.
- 4. After they finish decorating, gather the children in a circle and talk about what they drew. Use a tissue to pretend to wipe away tears from their eyes, reinforcing that God will wipe away every tear in our ultimate home.
- 5. Display the clouds in the classroom as a reminder of the hope we have in God.

### Bible Interactive Experience

#### You'll Need:

- Construction paper (blue, green, yellow, and white)
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Stickers of stars, animals, and flowers
- A simple, child-friendly Bible verse printout from Revelation 21:1-4

### Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large, simple shapes beforehand: blue circles (for the new earth), green squares (for the land), and yellow suns.
- Print out the Bible verse in large, easy-to-read font on white paper.

#### Do this:

1. Read the simplified Bible verse from Revelation 21:1-4 aloud, emphasizing the joy and beauty of the new heaven and new earth, where there will be no more tears or sadness.

- 2. Give each child a blue circle, a green square, and a yellow sun. Help them glue these shapes onto a piece of white construction paper to create their own "new earth" scene.
- 3. Encourage the children to decorate their "new earth" with cotton ball clouds, star stickers for the sky, and animal and flower stickers to represent the beauty and peace of God's creation. As they work, talk to them about how wonderful it will be to live in a place where everyone is happy and loves each other.
- 4. Display their artwork around the room and remind them that God is preparing a beautiful home for us, where we will live with Him forever.

# Snack Activity: Heavenly Mansions Fruit Houses

#### You'll Need:

- Sliced bread (whole wheat or white)
- Assorted fruits (grapes, apple slices, banana slices, and blueberries)
- Cream cheese or peanut butter
- Small butter knife or spreader (for adult use or under adult supervision)
- Plate

Get Ready: Wash all fruits and cut them into small pieces appropriate for the children's age to prevent choking. Ensure there's a clean, child-friendly workspace.

#### Do this:

- 1. Spread a thin layer of cream cheese or peanut butter on a slice of bread using the butter knife or spreader. This represents the foundation of our heavenly home, strong and secure.
- 2. Let the children pick their favorite fruits and arrange them on their bread to create their own version of a heavenly mansion. Grapes can be used for bushes, apple slices

for walls, banana slices for windows, and blueberries for decorative elements. This step allows them to imagine the beauty and personalization of their eternal home.

- 3. Once their fruit house is complete, discuss Revelation 21:1-4, emphasizing the beauty, peace, and joy of our ultimate homecoming with God. Encourage them to share what they look forward to the most about heaven.
- 4. Enjoy eating the snack together, reminding them that just like the snack, heaven is a place where we can be filled with joy and where there's plenty for everyone.

### Game Activity: Heavenly Homecoming Hop

#### You'll Need:

- Large sheets of paper or cardboard
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Get Ready: Draw and decorate several 'stones' on the large sheets of paper or cardboard with images or words of hope, joy, peace, love, and home. Each stone represents a step closer to our ultimate homecoming in Heaven, as described in Revelation 21:1-4. Arrange these stones in a winding path on the floor, securing them with tape to prevent slipping.

#### Do this:

- 1. Explain to the children that each stone on the path represents a step closer to our heavenly home, where there is no more sadness, pain, or tears, and where we are with God forever.
- 2. Have the children start at the beginning of the path. As they hop from stone to stone, encourage them to say one thing they look forward to about Heaven or something good that God gives us (like love or happiness).

3. When they reach the end of the path, celebrate their journey to the ultimate homecoming with a small reward, such as a sticker or a hug, to remind them of God's ultimate gift of eternal life with Him.

### Craft Activity: Heavenly City Collage

#### You'll Need:

- Construction paper (blue and yellow)
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Stickers of stars, animals, and flowers
- Safety scissors

Get Ready: Pre-cut yellow construction paper into various geometric shapes to represent the beautiful buildings of the heavenly city.

#### Do this:

- 1. Give each child a piece of blue construction paper to represent the sky.
- 2. Encourage children to glue the yellow geometric shapes onto the blue paper to create their version of the heavenly city.
- 3. Let them decorate their city with cotton ball clouds, star stickers for the sky, and animal and flower stickers to represent the beauty of God's creation. Explain that this is a simple way to imagine our ultimate home with God, where everything is perfect and filled with love.

# Prayer Activity: Heaven's Promise Garden

#### You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Potting soil
- Flower seeds (choose easy-to-grow varieties like marigolds or sunflowers)
- Watering cans or cups
- Stickers of stars, rainbows, and animals

Get Ready: Before the activity, gather all materials. Place potting soil in a container that's easy for little hands to scoop from. Prepare a watering station with small watering cans or cups filled with water.

#### Do this:

- 1. Begin by explaining in simple terms that Heaven is a beautiful place where there's no sadness, and everything is perfect. It's like the most beautiful garden we can imagine, where we will be with God. Revelation 21:1-4 tells us about this wonderful place.
- 2. Give each child a small pot. Let them decorate their pots with the stickers, imagining the beautiful things found in Heaven's garden.
- 3. Help the children fill their pots with soil and plant some flower seeds. Explain that just like these seeds will grow into beautiful flowers, Heaven is a place where everything is perfect and full of life. Water the seeds together as a reminder that God takes care of us and everything in His creation.
- 4. Encourage the children to take their pots home and care for their plants. Remind them that taking care of their plant is like looking forward to the ultimate homecoming in Heaven, where everything is beautiful and filled with love.