

Heaven Is Real

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Looking Forward To The Ultimate Homecoming

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4

Memory Verse: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. - 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

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. - Revelation 21:4

You Will Need:

- Colored tissue paper
- Clear contact paper
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers

Get Ready:

- Cut out a large square of clear contact paper for each child.
- Cut the colored tissue paper into small, tear-shaped pieces.
- Cut frames from the construction paper to fit around the edges of the contact paper squares.

Do This:

1. Have each child place a piece of clear contact paper, sticky side up, on the table in front of them. Explain that the clear paper represents the new heaven and new earth, where everything is clear, pure, and beautiful.
2. Invite the children to think about things that make them sad or hurtful situations as they place the tear-shaped tissue pieces onto the sticky paper. Share that in God's new world, He will wipe away all these tears and there will be no more sadness.
3. Once they are done, seal their artwork with another piece of clear contact paper on top. Then, help them frame their creation with the construction paper. Encourage them to use markers to write the memory verse on the frame. This will remind them of God's promise to make all things new and to wipe away every tear.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of blue cloth or paper to represent the new heaven
- A large piece of green cloth or paper to represent the new earth
- Cotton balls or fluffy white fabric to represent the clouds
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

- Scissors (for teacher use or under teacher supervision)
- Bible

Get Ready:

- Lay the blue and green cloths/papers side by side on the floor to represent the new heaven and the new earth.
- Place the cotton balls or fluffy fabric at the edge where the blue and green meet, to represent the clouds in between.
- Cut out several simple house shapes from the construction paper before the class.

Do this:

1. **Introduction**: Start by reading Revelation 21:1-4 aloud to the children. Explain in simple terms that this passage talks about God making everything new again—a new heaven, a new earth, and a beautiful homecoming where there are no more tears or sadness.
2. **Craft Activity**: Give each child a house shape cut from construction paper. Ask them to decorate their house using markers or crayons, imagining it as their dream home in the new earth where everything is perfect and happy. Once they're done, they can use glue sticks to attach their houses around the edge of the green cloth/paper.
3. **Discussion and Closing**: Gather the children around the scene you've all created together. Ask them to share what they love most about their dream homes and why. Explain that the new heaven and new earth will be even better than we can imagine, where we will live with God forever. Close with a short prayer, asking God to help us look forward to the ultimate homecoming with joy and hope.

Snack Activity: Heavenly City S'mores

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Marshmallows
- Chocolate bars
- Blue icing (to represent the river of life)
- Gold sprinkles (to represent the streets of gold)
- Microwave or campfire (adult supervision required)

Get Ready: Gather all your ingredients and make sure you have a clean, flat surface to work on. If using a microwave, place a paper towel underneath to catch any mess.

Do this:

1. Break a graham cracker in half to form two squares. These squares represent the foundation of the heavenly city. Place one square on your working surface.
2. Add a piece of chocolate on top of the graham cracker. The chocolate represents the walls of the city that are strong and protective.
3. Place a marshmallow on top of the chocolate. The marshmallow represents the purity and goodness of the heavenly city. If using a microwave, heat your s'more for about 10-15 seconds, or until the marshmallow expands. If using a campfire, roast your marshmallow first before assembling your s'more.
4. Once your marshmallow is warm and slightly melted, place the second graham cracker on top to complete your s'more. This top cracker represents the roof of the heavenly home, sheltering all who are inside.
5. Decorate the top with blue icing to symbolize the river of life flowing through the city. Sprinkle some gold sprinkles over the icing to represent the streets of gold as described in Revelation 21:1-4.

6. Share your Heavenly City S'more with a friend or family member while you talk about what you imagine the ultimate homecoming in heaven will be like, focusing on the joy and beauty of being with God forever.

Game Activity: Heavenly Homecoming Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A large, open concrete area (like a driveway or playground)
- A small stone or beanbag for each child

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete area. Instead of numbers, label each square with words or simple pictures that represent the themes from Revelation 21:1-4, such as 'No More Tears,' 'New Earth,' 'God's Home,' and 'No More Death.'

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start of the hopscotch grid. Explain that this is not just any hopscotch—it's a journey towards our ultimate homecoming with God, where everything is new and perfect.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the grid, aiming for the squares in sequence. Before they hop through, ask them to say one thing they think will be wonderful about God's ultimate homecoming (based on the square their stone landed on).
3. As the children hop through the squares, encourage them to imagine the joy and peace of reaching our heavenly home, where there is no more sadness or pain. If they step out of a square or miss one, it's okay! Remind them that God's path to the ultimate homecoming is perfect and He guides us all the way.

4. After everyone has had a turn, gather the children and briefly discuss how the new heaven and new earth will be a place where we live with God forever, just like the beautiful picture described in Revelation 21:1-4.

Craft Activity: Heavenly City Diorama

You'll Need:

- A shoebox
- Construction paper (blue, green, gold, and other colors)
- Cotton balls
- Glue and scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter (optional)

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and cover your work area with newspaper to keep it clean.

Do this:

1. Use the blue construction paper to line the inside of the shoebox as the sky. Cut a piece of green paper to fit the bottom as grass or land.
2. Read Revelation 21:1-4 together. Talk about how John describes the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. Discuss what it means to look forward to our ultimate homecoming with God.
3. Using the construction paper, cut out shapes to represent the New Jerusalem. You can make golden gates, walls, and even a river. Use your imagination to add trees, houses, or anything that you think could be in heaven. Remember, the Bible describes it as a place where there is no more sadness or pain.

4. Glue your city pieces inside the shoebox on the 'land' and 'sky'. Use cotton balls to make clouds in the sky.
5. Decorate your diorama with markers, stickers, or glitter to make it sparkle like the description of the heavenly city.
6. Once finished, share your diorama with the class. Talk about what you included in your heavenly city and why. This is a great way to imagine the beauty and peace of our future home with God.

Prayer Activity: Heavenly Homecoming Prayer

Journey

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or pictures of homes, clouds, and rainbows

Get Ready: Draw a simple path on the poster board leading to a large, welcoming house. Along the path, draw several stations - a cloud, a rainbow, a sun, and finally, the house. Each station represents a part of Revelation 21:1-4.

Do this:

1. Start at the cloud station. Explain that just like clouds come and go, our lives on earth are temporary. But God promises us a new home. Ask the children to draw or write a prayer about looking forward to the ultimate homecoming with God.
2. Move to the rainbow station. Share that the rainbow symbolizes God's promises. Have the children decorate this area with stickers or drawings, expressing their joy and hope for God's promise of a new heaven and new earth where there is no sadness.

3. Finally, arrive at the house. Here, invite the children to place their handprints around the house as a sign of their anticipation of being together with God in their heavenly home. Encourage them to say a short prayer, asking God to help them remember the beautiful home that awaits them.