

ALLEY SG July 29-31, 2023

Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group.

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Twelve prepared large plastic cups, ping pong ball, masking tape

What You Do:

- On one side of your group space, place the prepared cups, face up, in a straight line, ensuring that they correctly spell the word H-E-A-V-E-N.
- Use masking tape to mark a line on the floor a few feet away from the cups to show where kids will stand when tossing the ping pong ball into the cups.
- Divide the group into two teams and invite teams to sit together.
- Explain that you will be playing a game of trivia in which teams will take turns answering questions.
- Decide on a team to go first and ask them the first question from the list below. Teammates can quietly discuss as a group before giving their final answer.
- If that team does not answer their question correctly, the question goes to the opposing team to try to answer.
- If they're correct, they get to try to answer the next question, too.
- Each time a team answers a question correctly, someone from their team must stand at the taped line and toss the ping pong ball into one of the cups.
- If the ball lands in a cup, keep track of which letter it was.
- The goal is to land a ball into each of the cups that spell *HEAVEN*.
- The team that completes this first is the winning team.
- Tell kids they did a great job remembering all the details from today's passage in Revelation.
 - Remind them that we have passages like these because God wants us to feel hopeful about eternity.
- Questions:
 1. Who had visions of Jesus and heaven, and chose to write them down? (*John*)
 2. Where was John sent at the end of his life? (*Exiled to the Island of Patmos*)
 3. When Jesus appeared to John, what did it sound like? (*A voice like a trumpet.*)
 4. Why was John sent to exile on an island? (*He got in trouble for telling others about Jesus.*)
 5. When Jesus told John to write down what he saw, what was John's initial reaction? (*John fell down at Jesus' feet.*)
 6. Where does John say that God will be in the end? (*with God's people.*)
 7. What was the name of the book that our story comes from today? (*Revelation*)
 8. (Use this question at least twice) List 2 things there will be no more of during the time John writes about. (*Answers could include: tears, sadness, pain, struggles, sickness, hunger, wars, night, etc.*)
 9. Jesus promises John that everything will be made _____. (Fill in the blank.) (*New*)
 10. In heaven, there is no need for lamps or sun because light will come from _____. (Fill in the blank.) (*God*)
 11. True or False: We will no longer need the gifts and talents we've been given once we are in heaven. (*False*)
 12. True or False: Some of the things Jesus told John were difficult to understand. (*True*)
 13. True or False: We won't have much to do in heaven. We'll probably just sit around and be bored. (*False*)
 14. What is the verse we've been studying all month long? (*God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8*)
 15. What is the virtue we've been learning about? (*Faith*)
 16. What does "Faith" mean? (*Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.*)
 17. What is one way God helps us grow our faith? (*through community/relationships, churches, prayer, feeling God's presence*)

2 . Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, large piece of paper, markers

What You Do:

- Put kids into pairs and invite them to sit with their partner.
- Hand each pair a Bible.
- Instruct them to work together with their partner to use their Bibles and look up these verses about heaven:
 - Revelation 4:1
 - Revelation 21: 23
 - Revelation 21:4
 - John 14:1-3
 - I Corinthians 2:9-10
- Encourage them to read the verses together and come up with ideas on what they think heaven will be like, based on what they have read.
- Once they have discussed ideas, they can use the markers and paper
- to illustrate what they discussed.
- Give each pair an opportunity to explain to the group what they drew.
- Ask this: What verses did you find particularly exciting or encouraging when it comes to heaven?
- Allow time for discussion.

3. Discussion Questions

- What do you think heaven will be like?
- How does it make you feel that God has a place prepared for us to spend forever together?
- Do you believe heaven is a real thing? Why or why not?
- How can believing in heaven make our faith stronger?

4. Pray

“Dear God, thank You so much for heaven. You will wipe away every tear from our eyes. *(Pause.)*
There will be no more death. *(Pause.)* No more sadness. *(Pause.)* No more crying or pain. *(Pause.)*
You are making everything new. *(Pause.)* Thank You, Lord, that in heaven we will SEE YOUR FACE!
(Pause.) We will live with you FOREVER! *(Pause.)* We love You SO MUCH, Lord. Amen.”

EXTRA TIME COLORING SHEETS