

CITY SG July 27- 28, 2024

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

1. Heaven

What You Need: Piece of butcher paper (one per group) and markers

What You Do:

- How was Heaven described in the book of revelation...the letter from John?
 - God will live with us. We will see his face.
 - There will be no more death or sadness.
 - There will be no more crying or pain.
 - There will be no more night.
 - He will make everything new.
 - God will have the perfect place for us to use our gifts.
- Have kids sit around the outside of the paper.
- Set out the markers.
- Direct kids to take time to draw what they imagine Heaven will look like
- Let kids share what they drew with the group.

2. Messy Middle

What You Need: None

What You Do:

- One at a time, read the story descriptions below.
- After each one, have the kids stand up if they know the story.
 - I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a grandmother gives a girl a red cloak. One day, the girl travels through the woods to visit her grandmother. In the middle of the story, the girl arrives at her grandmother's house and finds a wolf in bed disguised in her grandmother's clothes. **(Little Red Riding Hood)**
 - I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, three bears take a walk while they wait for their porridge to cool. While they're away, a curious young girl enters their home. In the middle of the story, the girl tastes the bears' porridge, sits in their chairs, lays in their beds, and falls asleep in the smallest one. **(Goldilocks and the Three Bears)**
 - I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a boy sells a cow in exchange for magic beans that grow into a giant beanstalk. In the middle of the story, the boy steals a magic goose from a giant, who chases after the boy. **(Jack and the Beanstalk)**
 - I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a mother duck's eggs hatch. One duckling looks different, and the other birds and animals on the farm are mean to him. In the middle of the story, the duckling wanders from place to place, trying to find a home and a family. **(The Ugly Duckling)**
 - I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a young girl who says she is a princess needs a place to stay. In the middle of the story, she is put to the test when a tiny pea is placed underneath a stack of mattresses. **(The Princess and the Pea)**
 - I'm thinking of a TRUE, REAL story. One that's happening RIGHT NOW! In the beginning of this story, God created a beautiful, perfect world, but people turned away from God. But God had a plan to fix our relationship. God sent Jesus to live and die in our place and return to life! **(God's Story)**
- Say, "Many stories have what we might call a messy middle. It's the part of the story where things could be exciting, scary, and confusing—the part of the story before we know the ending.
- Say, "Right now, we're in the messy middle of GOD'S big story. Bad things happen in the world, and we all experience difficult things. But when we follow Jesus, we know that what's happening NOW is not the END of the story. We can focus on what God is doing now and what God will do when we get to live forever with Jesus. Those are the very best reasons to celebrate."

3. Be Kind Rewind

What You Need: “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page (one per kid), markers, and craft supplies

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Remind kids of our memory verse: *“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”* Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)
- Say the verse together a few times
- Give each kid a “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and various craft supplies.
- Direct the kids to copy the Memory Verse onto the blank section of the “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page, near the verse reference.
***Younger groups may need help writing the verse.**
- Once completed, set out the craft supplies.
- Instruct the kids to decorate the boombox on the “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page.
- See if anyone would like to try to recite the Memory Verse from memory.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
*“God, we are so grateful that we can **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God will do.** As we move forward through our week and may experience a time when we don’t know how to find joy, we will **celebrate what God will do.** When we see our friends or family who need some encouragement, we ask that You guide us to help them **celebrate what God will do.** Fill us with Your joy so we are a walking celebration of joy to the world! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*
- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: invite kids to show off the picture they drew of Heaven.