

Making it Mine

A Bible study for kids ready to
grow a faith of their own.

Month 8 Week 4

What is heaven?

READ:

Revelation 18-22

Heart graffiti:

**"I am the
Alpha and
the Omega,
says the
Lord God
who is, and
who was,
and who is
to come,
the
Almighty."
Revelation
1:8**

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Sometimes Christians are accused of being so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good. What do you think is meant by that? _____

C. S. Lewis (author of Chronicles of Narnia) thinks differently. He says:

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next." (Lewis 118)

What affect do you think having a focus on heaven has on how we live now? _____

I think the zeal and perseverance of the early disciples was largely due to their ever-present awareness of something better to come. They had seen the suffering of Jesus, and suffered many trials of their own because of their faith, but their hearts were set on things above and not on earthly things. They looked for a reward in heaven and not approval and rewards from men. How do you think that changed their choices in this present world? _____

What was Paul's attitude toward this present life in light of heaven?

2 Corinthians 5:5-10 _____

Philippians 1:20-25 _____

How is the life that you live today affected by your anticipation of heaven? _____

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

Probably one of our most immediate concerns is: what happens to us immediately after we die?

What do these passages indicate?

Daniel 12:2-3 _____

2 Cor. 5:8 _____

Eccl. 12:7 _____

Luke 16:22-31 _____

Luke 23:43 _____

Rev. 6:9-11 _____

What determines whether we go to heaven or hell?

Eph. 2:8-9 _____

Titus 3:5 _____

What determines our rewards?

Rom. 14:10-12 _____

2 Cor. 5:10 _____

1 Cor. 3:13-14 _____

2 Tim. 2:12 _____

Rev. 2:26-28 _____

Rev. 3:21 _____

Do unbelievers also face a judgment of works? (Rev. 20:11-13) _____

NEW EARTH?

What is meant by the new earth in Rev. 21? _____

What restoration is Acts 3:21 talking about? _____

What renewal did Jesus refer to in Matt. 19:27-28? _____

What is going to happen to the earth?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do people turn into angels when they die? (Luke 35,36)

Will it ever be dark in heaven? (Rev. 22:5)

Will we have bodies in heaven? (Rev. 6:9-11 and Rev. 10:9-10)

What and when is paradise? (Luke 23:43 and Rev. 2:7)





PUZZLE PAGE

Heaven



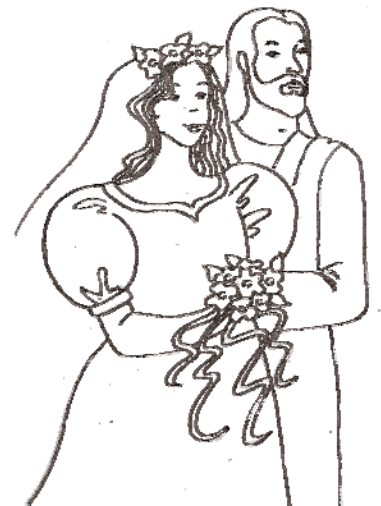
Can you find the animal hidden in this picture?

Here's a hint: it's the same animal that's talked about in Psalm 42:1

Why does heaven remain such a mystery to us?

How much do you look forward to being in God's presence?

What will it be like according to Revelation 19:6-7?



TIPS for parents and teachers

Heaven seems to be one thing that kids have a lot of questions about. They have been told so many things will be good, but turned out a little less than wonderful: trying peas, starting a new school, or maybe rappelling down a mountain cliff. There are so many things that they are **supposed** to feel positive about, but they honestly don't, that they have good reason to be a bit skeptical about heaven too! Learning isn't always fun, and church services can be a bit boring. All we really hear about heaven is that it will be good. Some of your kids might be feeling like, "yea, right – sitting in church forever!" What can heaven possibly be like that really will be fun to do for eternity? Since students might not feel like these thoughts are welcome, be sure and bring up the idea yourself and then be open to discussion. Also be prepared for: "Will my pets go to heaven?" "How can heaven be good if Grandpa isn't going to be there?" "Will there be chores?"

**"As the deer pants for
streams of water, so my soul
pants for you, O God. My
soul thirst for God, for the
living God. When can I go
and meet with God?"**
Psalm 42:1



If you look very closely, there is a deer hidden in the bushes.

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

p. 1

Lewis, C.S.. Mere Christianity. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1952.

Also:

Alcorn, Randy. Heaven. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004. (There is a version of this book for kids as well)

Anderson, Lynn. Longing for a Homeland. West Monroe, Louisiana: Howard Publishing Co., Inc., 2004.

Lotz, Anne Graham. Heaven. W Publishing Group, 2001.

Check out the children's book Just Like Heaven by Patrick McDonnell and read to the class. Then talk about how our view of heaven affects how we live today. What are some things we need to know about heaven to help us in our choices today?



Would you like to receive this study guide by email, or make comments? Contact me at kayannausherman@hotmail.com