

LESSON 13: FOREVER IN HEAVEN

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Revelation 21

11/15/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Revelation 21
- In This Passage: The Bible describes what heaven is like. It's a beautiful, golden city full of light from God himself! There isn't any pain, sadness, or dying. And best of all, we'll live forever with Jesus!
- Bible Point: Jesus is forever...
- Application: ...so we can live forever.
- Summary Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is forever. Forever is a hard concept for kids (and adults!) to understand. And for some kids, the idea of heaven might seem boring, and thinking about being there forever could be a little intimidating. Help kids focus on the fact that heaven is where we can be face to face with Jesus—and that'll be better than anything we can imagine.*
- Think About: What excites you most about heaven?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give your kids a genuine excitement for the hope of heaven.

Quick Tip

- Your attitude is contagious. If you have a genuine excitement about how awesome heaven will be, most kids will feel the same way! If you're scared or uncertain about heaven, that will show through to kids and give them pause. Ask God to help *you* convey a true excitement for forever life with him.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids draw amazing places and create advertisements for heaven.

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- crayons or markers
- tape



OBJECT LESSON

Kids experiment with pendulums.

Supplies

- small bottles of brightly colored dish soap (8, 12.6 or 14-ounce bottles work well) (1 for every 3 kids) (check your local dollar discount store)
- 3-foot pieces of yarn (1 for every 3 kids)
- masking tape
- 3 or 4-foot piece of bulletin-board paper (1 for every 3 kids)



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids wonder what heaven will really be like.

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Amazing Universe” handout (download [here](#))
- paper
- markers
- gold (or gold-colored) item

Easy Prep

- Cut the “Amazing Universe” handout into 4 sections.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids run a relay that could go forever.

Supplies

- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a never-ending board game.

Supplies

- “Circle Game Board” handout (1 color printout for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))
- coins (1 for every 4 kids)
- scissors (1 for every 4 kids, optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make bejeweled sun catchers that symbolize forever.

Supplies

- Bible
- white chenille wires (at least 1 per child)
- fishing line
- translucent beads in a variety of colors
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids talk to Jesus as if he’s in the room.

Supplies

- extra chair

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” with their lips tucked over their teeth.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever. *Forever* is a very long time!**

Share

- Tell kids about a place *you’d* like to stay forever.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about a place *they’d* like to stay forever.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Revelation 21, and say: **Those places sound like fun places to be forever. But when we live forever with Jesus, we’ll be in an even *better* place: heaven! Let’s see how the Bible describes heaven. The Bible is a really special book, unlike any other book. In it, God tells us all about life with him—both here on earth *and* in heaven. God is here right now, ready to talk with you! Let’s praise him.**

Pray, praising Jesus for making a way for us to live forever with him.



Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- crayons or markers
- tape

Draw Awesome Places

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever in heaven. To help us think about how awesome heaven will be, let's think about awesome places on earth.**

Distribute paper and set out crayons or markers to share. Have kids each draw a picture of what they consider to be the greatest place on earth. It might be an amusement park, a beautiful place in nature, a sports arena, or some other exciting place.

As kids draw, get them talking about what they're drawing and why they think it's so great. Try to spend only about two or three minutes on the drawings.

When everyone has finished drawing, have kids hang their drawings on the wall together like a collage.

Ask: • **What do you think when you see all these awesome places together?**

• **How would you feel if I told you you'd just won a free trip to that place for a whole week?**

Say: **When something exciting is going to happen, we look forward to it with anticipation. Heaven is going to be so much better than all these awesome places combined! The main reason isn't because of what it looks like or what we'll do there; it's because Jesus is there! Jesus is forever, so we can live forever.**

Ask: • **If you could spend all day with one person doing whatever you wanted, who would you pick and what would you do? Share your own answer first.**

Say: **Heaven is a place, but it's so much more than that. It's days like the ones you just described...with Jesus...forever! So let's find out more about heaven.**

Make Brochures and Commercials

Say: **In our Bible story today, we'll hear about how an angel showed a guy named John a glimpse of what heaven would be like. It was hard for John to describe what he saw because he had to try to compare it with things he'd seen or experienced on earth...even though heaven's so much better.**

Now you're going to take on John's job. Imagine you work at an ad agency, and your job is to come up with a commercial or another advertisement that describes heaven. You'll work in groups, and your group can either make a travel brochure or act out a commercial based on John's description of heaven. Try to include our Bible point: Jesus is forever.

Have kids form groups of three to five. Ask groups to read the following verses together and use them to make their brochures or commercials.

- Revelation 21:3-4
- Revelation 21:10-14
- Revelation 21:18-26

Allow plenty of time for groups to read and work on their marketing campaigns. Then allow time for groups to present what they came up with.

Say: **Jesus is forever, so we can live forever with him in heaven. That's awesome! There's a lot about heaven that we don't know or understand; the Bible only tells us so much. But we know we'll never be sad, we'll never feel pain, it will be a perfect place, and we'll be with Jesus!**

Invite Kids to Heaven

Say: **Jesus is forever, so we can live forever in heaven. It'll be amazing there! Everyone is invited to heaven, but you have to do one thing to accept the invitation: Believe in Jesus and love him.**

Following your denominational traditions, invite kids into a friendship with Jesus.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Back and Forth to Forever

Supplies

- small bottles of brightly colored dish soap (8, 12.6 or 14-ounce bottles work well) (1 for every 3 kids) (check your local dollar discount store)
- 3-foot pieces of yarn (1 for every 3 kids)
- masking tape
- 3 or 4-foot piece of bulletin-board paper (1 for every 3 kids)

Prep Bottles and Paper

Ask: • **Imagine swinging on swings at a playground. Someone gives you a push to begin with, but what usually happens if you don't pump your legs?**

Say: **Even if someone gave you a really big push, if you don't pump your legs, eventually you'll stop swinging. Swinging doesn't last forever. But a swinging pendulum, which is a hanging object, can leave a forever mark. Let's find out how!**

- Form groups of three, and give each group a bottle of dish soap and a 3-foot piece of yarn.
- Have kids use masking tape to secure one end of the yarn to the bottom of the bottle so the bottle hangs upside down.
- Lastly, give each group a large piece of bulletin-board paper. Have groups spread out around the room and put their paper on the floor.
- With the dish-soap bottles still closed, have one child in each group hold the end of the yarn so the bottle hangs above the paper while another group member gives it a gentle push so it swings back and forth. Have the third group member count the number of swings before it stops.

Open Bottles

Ask: • **What did you observe? Are any of your bottles still swinging on their own?**

Say: **Without our help, the bottles don't swing forever. But they can leave a forever mark. Let's see what it is!**

- Have group members draw with their fingers to show what they think the mark will look like.
- Have group members change roles so someone else is holding the string.
- Have another group member carefully open the lid so the dish soap can come out of the bottle. He or she should hold a finger over the open top as the bottle is pulled to the side and gently released so it swings over the paper, leaving a trail of dish soap on the butcher paper.
- Have kids observe the shape the dish-soap trail makes. You'll see the soap make ovals or circles on the paper.
- Have kids switch places so everyone has a turn to hold the yarn and gently swing the bottle of dish soap.
- After several minutes, have groups close their bottles of soap and sit down beside their soap art while you debrief.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What shapes do you observe on your butcher paper? How do they compare to what you expected?**

Say: **The soap pendulum may not swing forever, but it created circles on our papers. A circle or oval never ends! We could trace the line forever.**

Ask: • **How is the swinging pendulum like our life on earth?**

Say: **Our lives on earth will end someday, but when we're friends with Jesus, that friendship keeps going! Since Jesus is forever, our friendship with him lasts forever, too. When our lives on earth end, we'll go to heaven to be with Jesus forever.**



Supplies

- Bibles
- “Amazing Universe” handout (download [here](#))
- paper
- markers
- gold (or gold-colored) item

Easy Prep

- Cut the “Amazing Universe” handout into 4 sections.

Amazing Universe

Say: **We’re learning that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever in heaven. But it’s hard to imagine how wonderful heaven is. When you think about it, it’s hard to imagine how amazing our world and solar system are, and those are things we can see pictures of!**

Have kids form four groups, and give each group a picture from the “Amazing Universe” handout. Set out paper and markers to share. Make sure groups don’t show anyone from the other groups the picture. Then have kids try to describe their group’s picture to the other groups while the kids hearing the description draw what they think the animal looks like. When they’ve finished, have kids show their pictures to everyone.

Ask: • **How well did the picture you drew match what the weird animal really looked like?**

Say: **God made some weird-looking things in our world! Trying to describe them to someone who doesn’t know what they look like is hard. That’s kind of like what John had to do to describe what heaven looks like! And that makes heaven hard to imagine.**

So what will heaven *really* be like? Let’s dig in to that.

Wonder

Hold up the gold item, and then pass it around. Say: **Here’s one thing we know from today’s Bible story: We know that parts of heaven are gold. But somehow, they are a clear gold, which is different from gold we have.**

We also know that heaven won’t be sad or painful. Have a child read Revelation 21:4.

Say: **But there’s a lot we don’t know. Let’s wonder about heaven.**

Fill in the blank of this statement: I wonder if _____ will be in heaven. Start with your own example, such as pets or your favorite food, and then allow plenty of time for kids to wonder. Don’t try to answer any questions; this is simply a time for wonder.

Say: **Now let’s fill in the blank of another wondering statement. For this one, you can do Charades to show your answer, and we’ll try to guess what your answer is. Here’s the statement: I wonder if we’ll be able to _____ in heaven.** Allow time for kids to act out their answers while others guess. Kids could act out playing sports, riding roller coasters, playing video games, and so on.

Say: **We have a lot of things we wonder about heaven! Unfortunately, I can’t point you to a Bible verse that will tell you whether there will be pizza or roller coasters in heaven. We just don’t know everything about what heaven will be like. But we *do* know Jesus will be there, and we’ll have endless joy and no pain. Let’s see what the Bible says about going to heaven with Jesus.**

Dig Deeper

Have a child read 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Ask: • **How do you feel when you think about Jesus coming back to take everyone who loves him to heaven?**

Have a child read 1 Thessalonians 5:10.

Say: **Jesus wanted us to be in heaven with him so much that he was willing to die for us! That tells me that being in heaven with Jesus is going to be *super awesome*. In fact, if pizza and roller coasters**

aren't in heaven, I don't think we'll even care! We'll be amazed by being with Jesus and all the things that are even *better* than pizza and roller coasters. We'll be happy forever! Jesus is forever, so we can live forever with endless joy and no pain.

Let's imagine what it'll be like to be with Jesus. Close your eyes and imagine yourself hanging out with Jesus, doing your favorite activity in the whole world. Pause for about 30 seconds.

Say: What you just imagined would be fun. But heaven? Well, that will be even better! Jesus is forever, so we can live forever and have an amazing time with him in heaven.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

On and On It Goes

[10 min]

Supplies

- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Run a Continual Relay

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is forever. Jesus is different from what we're used to in our world full of beginnings and endings—nothing on earth truly lasts forever even if it *feels* like it sometimes. Let's see what that's like with a game.**

- Form teams of six, and give each team two 1-foot strips of painter's tape.
- Have the teams split in half, each taking a piece of tape, and stand about 15 feet directly across from each other. The people holding the tape can stick it to the floor where they're standing as place markers for a relay.
- Team halves will then line up single file behind their tape lines.
- Choose one side of the room to start the relay. The people at the beginning of each line on that side of the room will run to the lines of teammates across from them, give the first people in the lines high-fives, and then move to the back of the lines they just ran to.
- The people who were high-fived will then run across to the first people in the lines across from them, give them a high-five, and then move to the back of those lines.
- Play will continue this way for as long as time allows.
- You can challenge kids to relay as quickly as they can, continuing until there isn't anyone left to run and high-five—which won't ever happen as players continue to swap lines. Kids will catch on to this, but challenge them anyway.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did or didn't the game seem like it could go on forever?**

• **What are other things in your life that seem to take forever?**

Say: **Usually the things that feel like they take forever are boring or unpleasant. But when we truly experience forever in heaven, it'll be awesome! Heaven is the never-ending, perfect home God created, and Jesus made a way for us to live there with him. Jesus is forever, so we can live forever.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

This Is the Game That Doesn't End

Supplies

- "Circle Game Board" handout (1 color printout for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))
- coins (1 for every 4 kids)
- scissors (1 for every 4 kids, optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Board Game That Could Go on Forever

Say: **Today we discovered some of the sneak-peek details the Bible gives us about heaven. Heaven is so good and so amazing that it can't really be described in a way we can totally understand, but one thing we do know is heaven is forever. Let's play a game that'll give us a picture of what forever means.**

- Form teams of four. Have teams spread out to sit in circles, and give each team a copy of the "Circle Game Board" handout.
- Have teams tear out (or cut out if you're providing scissors) the game pieces from the handout. Each person on the team can take a game piece.
- Teammates can each place a game piece on any space on the game board.
- Give each team a coin.
- Teammates will take turns flipping the coin to see how many spaces to move on the game board. If the coin lands with the heads side facing up, they'll move two spaces. If the coin lands with the tails side facing up, they'll move one space.
- The person on each team with the closest birthday can go first, and players take turns moving clockwise around the circle.
- The goal of the game is to get to the end of the circle. (Note: That doesn't mean kids reach the place they started; there is no end!)
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you notice about this game?**

Say: **If you didn't need things like food, bathroom breaks, or sleep, you could play this game forever! Because the game board is a circle, the game could go on and on *and on*. A circle gives us a picture of what *forever* is like—there's no end.**

Ask: • **What are things you've wished wouldn't end?** Share an example of your own, such as a fun vacation or a book series you really enjoyed.

Say: **We're used to things ending, but Jesus is different. Jesus is forever, and he's prepared a home for us in heaven so we can live forever, too.**



CRAFT

Forever Sun Catchers

[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- white chenille wires (at least 1 per child)
- fishing line
- translucent beads in a variety of colors
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Forever Sun Catchers

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make sun catchers.

- Thread colored beads onto your chenille wire.
- When your wire is full of beads, twist it into a sideways 8.
- Twist the ends around the middle to hold the 8-shape, and tie a piece of fishing line around the middle.
- If time allows, make another one to share with a friend.

See the Light

Have kids hold their sun catchers up to a window. If you don't have windows, they can hold them up above their heads so the ceiling lights shine through them.

Say: **The shape you made is called an *infinity symbol*. *Infinity* is another word for forever. It means never-ending. And you know what? Our life with Jesus is never-ending. Plus, one day we'll live in heaven with Jesus. When the Bible describes heaven, it says this.**

Read Revelation 21:19-20.

Say: **The beads on your sun catcher can remind you of the precious jewels that make up the foundation of the city in heaven.**

Talk About It

Ask: • **Close your eyes and picture heaven. Describe what you see.**

• **How do you feel about living in heaven forever?**

Say: **Your sun catchers are beautiful, but heaven will be so *much* better! And the best part about**

heaven isn't what it looks like—it's that we'll be with Jesus! Jesus is forever, so we can live forever in heaven with him.

Have kids take their sun catchers home and show them to their friends and families as they share about forever in heaven with Jesus.



Supplies

- extra chair

Talk to Jesus

Say: **We've been learning that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever. We found out what it will be like when we live in heaven with Jesus.**

But you know what? Eternal life with Jesus doesn't start after we die and go to heaven; we're already living it! Heaven is just where we'll continue to live forever after we move on from the earth. In heaven we can see Jesus with us, but on earth Jesus is here with us, too! Let's talk to him.

- Set an empty chair in the front of the room.
- Have kids picture Jesus sitting in the chair.
- Have kids silently think about what they would say to Jesus if they saw him sitting in the chair.

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you for giving us a forever life with you. Help us enjoy that life here on earth and forever in heaven! In your name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.