



Bible Story: I Can Only Imagine (Heaven/All Things New) • **Revelation 21:3-5a**

Bottom Line: Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.

Memory Verse: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

1. Bible Story Paint a Picture

What You Need: Bibles, paper, markers, crayons, paints, or any other art supplies

What You Do:

Read: **Revelation 21:3-5a**

- **Explain** that John saw a vision from God and had the challenge of putting it into words.
 - **Ask** kids to imagine what it would've been like to try to find words to describe a vision from God!
- **Tell** them that they now have the job of hearing John's words and painting a picture of what they think John is describing.
- **Encourage** kids to draw/color/paint whatever comes to mind as you read the Scripture.
- **Read** the verses aloud slowly.
- **Repeat** the verses every two or three minutes as kids create.
 - I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.' And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be. He who was sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" **Revelation 21:3-5a**
- **Remind** kids that just like we don't know exactly what John is describing or what his vision looked like, we don't know exactly what heaven will be like.
 - But we do know that following Jesus will turn out greater than we can imagine!

2. In and Out

What You Need: Hula hoops or painters tape

What You Do:

- Set the hula hoops in an area large enough for kids to jump in and out of the hoops without bumping into one another.
- *Option—if you're using tape instead of hula hoops, place it down the center of the room then designate one side as IN and the other as OUT.*
- Direct kids to listen carefully as you say a word.
- If they think the word describes something we believe to be true about heaven, they should quickly jump Inside one of the hoops (or to the designated "IN" side of the tape line).

- However, if the word does not describe something true about heaven, they should jump or stay on the OUTside of one of the hoops.
- Read words one at a time from the list below.
- Pause as needed to clarify or help kids better understand what we believe the Bible tells us about heaven.
 - Death
 - Joy
 - Life forever
 - Crying
 - No sickness
 - Lies
 - Forgiveness
 - Truth
 - No pain
 - Bullies
 - Friends
 - Stealing
 - Love
 - Worship of God
 - Bad words
 - Singing
 - Hate
 - Selfishness
 - Jesus
 - People who believe in Jesus

What You Say:

“The Bible doesn’t tell us a lot about what heaven will look like, but one thing you can know for sure is that heaven will be the best place ever because we won’t be separated from God at all! Being with Him forever is better than anything we can imagine. That’s why God wants us to put our faith in Him and believe in Jesus. In today’s story, John didn’t know exactly when the things God showed him would happen, and neither do we. But what John shows us is that heaven is GOOD. God has a big plan and for those who believe in Jesus, He is preparing a place that is perfect for each of His kids. **[Bottom Line] Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.** Count on it.”

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What would it be like to not have any sadness, pain, or anything bad happening to you?
- What else do you think heaven will have or not have?
- What part of heaven do you hope for the most? What are you really hoping is true of heaven or what would you be most excited about?
- Is there anything about heaven that makes you nervous? What would that be?

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal:

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (*James 5:16b*). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- Instruct the kids to hold their pictures/paintings as they pray silently, thanking God for the promise that **[Bottom Line] following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.**
- After a few minutes, close out your time with a prayer.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus so that we can know You. We want to follow Jesus, always. Thank You for the promise that one day, You will make all things right and perfect. And help us to follow You, every day knowing that **[Bottom Line] following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.**”