19 The Ultimate Destination

Main idea

Heaven is a wonderful place designed by God for those who love him.

Questions answered

by this program

- What's heaven like?
- What happens there?
- Is it boring?

Bible Base

Revelation 20:11-22:5, Hebrews 12:22-24a

For the leader

Children are usually full of questions about heaven whenever the topic is raised. The fact is, many of their questions, and ours too, have no definite biblical answers. This program involves exploring what the Bible actually says about heaven. Some of the verses touch on complex concepts. Don't be side tracked. The main point is that heaven is a wonderful place designed by God for those who love him. All who have accepted Jesus' invitation already have a party going on for them there and one day they will join in the celebration.

Mark 16:29 The guest of honour at a party always sat at the host's right hand.

Open the pack

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Why? To start the group discussing heaven and to raise their questions.

Pose the questions:
What do you think is the most interesting things about heaven?
What would you like to find out about heaven?

Comment: The Bible is the only place we can get reliable information about heaven because God is the only one who knows everything about it.

INVITATIONS

Why? To think about being invited to certain events to later lead into the fact that not everyone goes to heaven. We're invited and need to RSVP.

Needed: *Invitations to various events*

Talk together about invitations to special events and parties and the information that is usually included on an invitation like time, place, type of celebration and RSVP.

Dig in

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Why? To allow God to speak through his Word about heaven.

Needed: *Bibles, 'HEAVEN' chart.*

Display a chart like the one shown and allow the children to explore the passages individually or in small groups to discover what is most interesting for them. Share findings.

HEAVEN
- A word picture (Revelation 21:1-8)
- Like an amazing city (Revelation 21:11-27)
- Where God and 'The Lamb' (Jesus) rule (Revelation 22:1-5)

HEAVEN BOX

Why? To find out what the Bible says about heaven.

Needed: *'Heaven Box'* (See below)

Show a decorated box which holds the following items with these Bible references on them. Choose children to one item at a time and guess what it might have to do with heaven, then choose a volunteer to read the reference.

The Heavenly Party

- Torch Revelation 21;11, 23; 22:5
- Death notices from a newspaper Revelation 21:4b, John 10:28
- Empty medicine or pill bottle Revelation 21:4
- Box of tissues or handkerchief Revelation 21:4
- Wanted poster or crime report Revelation 21:4b, 1John 3:15b
- Water bottle with your label 'PURE FRESH WATER' Revelation 22:1,2a
- A piece of fruit Revelation 22:2b, 3
- Cardboard crown Revelation 4:4, 10b, 11
- Pearl necklace or precious stone jewellery Revelation 21:19-21a
- Yellow cellophane Revelation 21:21b

Chew on it

INVITATIONS

Why? To help the group think of what they have learned about heaven from the Bible in terms of a party.

Needed: *Bibles, A4 paper sheets, felt pens*

Have the children work in pairs or small groups to design an invitation for God's celebration party in heaven based on what they've discovered from the Bible. You could put these questions and references on a chart to help them.

- Where will it be? Heaven
- What will the venue be like? Revelation 21:16-21
- When will it be? Matthew 24:36
- Who will be there? Matthew 8:11, Revelation 7;9
- Music? (Think up a name for the group and include it on the invitation) Revelation 5:11,12
- Who is the guest of honour? Mark 16:19
- Food? Revelation 22:14, 22:2
- Drinks? Revelation 21:6, 22:17b

A sample invitation is in Appendix 11

INVITATION

Why? So each child knows they are invited to God's party.

Needed: *A prepared invitation to the heavenly party for each child, felt pens*

Give each child an invitation to decorate and write their name on.

Close the pack

Needed: *RSVP forms (Appendix 12)*

Give each child a copy of the RSVP form. Talk about the different options.

Make sure that it's clear that heaven is for Jesus and all his friends and everyone needs to decide if they want to be there.

Suggest they take their RSVP away to think and show you when they have filled it in.

Appendix 11 for Session 19

JAFFA

Party!

Come to the Celebration

It's a surprise!

Come and meet people
from all over the world

Loud music & songs
GREAT BAND! ...

The Angels

Guest of Honour = JESUS
Your Host = GOD THE FATHER

* Fabulous food & drinks *

ALL WELCOME ... EVERYONE IS INVITED

Appendix 12 for Session 19

Thankyou for the invitation to the party in Heaven

- ◯ I decided to be part of the celebrations some time ago. I will be there.
- ◯ I would like to come but need more help to know how to get there.
- ◯ I need to think more about it before I decide.
- ◯ It sounds great but I would like to know more about following Jesus.

Thankyou for the invitation to the party in Heaven

- ◯ I decided to be part of the celebrations some time ago. I will be there.
- ◯ I would like to come but need more help to know how to get there.
- ◯ I need to think more about it before I decide.
- ◯ It sounds great but I would like to know more about following Jesus.