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How to make an

Main idea

The angels in heaven celebrate over every single person who turns to Jesus.

Questions answered

by this program

- Does everyone go to heaven?
- Will I go to heaven?
- Does God want me in heaven?

Bible Base

Luke 15:3-10

For the leader

We were created to celebrate with God forever. That's the reason Jesus' death and resurrection are so significant, because without them, we are cut off from God and our whole reason for existence is thwarted. No wonder heaven celebrates when we turn to God and are restored to God's intention for us for eternity. Although this life is by no means perfect for Christians, in one sense we have a taste of heaven now because our relationship with God is restored and we have the joy of living with him.

Open the pack

HEAVEN – WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Why? To expose held views.

Pose the question:
What do we know about heaven?

Discuss whether the ideas came from the Bible or otherwise.

TREASURE HUNT

Why? To introduce the theme of seeking and finding.

Needed: *Coins (real or chocolate)*

Hold a treasure hunt to find the coins you have hidden around the room in advance.

Dig in

LOST STORIES

Why? To discover that God wants more than anything for us to turn to him.

Needed: *Bibles*

Form two groups, each with a leader. Using Bibles one group will investigate Jesus' story of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10) and the other the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7). Groups should read the story then work out four 'photos' to present to the other group.

Instructions for 'photos'

Think about how the scene for each 'photo' might look. Decide who will be in it and how they should position their body. Those who are not going to be in the 'photo' can help by moving the limbs of those in the scene so they look just right.

Give a signal like 'Take your photo ...NOW!' On the signal those in the scene assume their position for the shot. After each 'photo' ask those in it 'How were you feeling?' 'How did you show those feelings?'

Photo Shots

1. Where the person realises they have lost the coin/sheep.
2. Part way through the search
3. The moment they find the thing they lost
4. The gathering of friends to celebrate

Angel Party

STORYTELLING

Tell one of the 'lost' stories from Luke 15 dramatically.

Chew on it

COMPARING THE STORIES

Why? To bring out the point that there's a party in heaven whenever anyone turns to God.

> ***Pose the questions:***
> *What was the reason for the celebration in each story?*
> *What does Jesus say is the reason for the celebration in heaven.*
> *What does it mean to turn to God?*
> (To give up doing our own thing and start pleasing God.)

LEADER TESTIMONY

Why? So the children will think about what their discoveries about heaven have to do with them.

Briefly tell about a time when you realised you were lost and away from God and turned back to him. Say what you're looking forward to about heaven.

Close the pack

THANK GOD

Why? To give a chance to review what has been learned about heaven and to respond to God's love for them.

Invite children to suggest things God's people can be thankful for when they think about heaven. Encourage those who wish to pray a thankyou sentence.

THE INVITATION

Why? So that children will know how to turn to God.

If you gave out the RSVP forms last week to take away and think about, focus on the second check box.

Comment: Jesus has prepared a place in heaven for all who turn to God. He takes us there when we die.

> ***Pose the question:***
> *How do we know if we've turned to God?*
> (We've given up doing our own thing and try to please God)

Show your teaspoon and remind them of the **Thank you –Sorry – Please prayer** from Session 15.