Lesson One:
Heaven is a Wonderful Place

For ages 2-4
Heaven Is For Real – Lesson One
Preschool – 2, 3, and 4-year olds

Lesson One: Heaven Is A Wonderful Place

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:9–22:2
THEME: Promise

PRAISE & WORSHIP: “When The Saints Go Marching In” and “In The Sweet By and By”
5–10 minutes
CRAFT: Heaven Collages
15 minutes
LESSON & SNACK: Heaven is a Wonderful Place / Mini-Marshmallows (white and colored)
10 minutes
GAME: Wall of Jewels
10 minutes

Lesson Supplies:
Praise & Worship: music CDs and CD player (optional)
Note: All of the songs are public domain and easy to find on children’s CDs.
Craft: sound machine or CD with ocean sounds or waterfall sounds (optional), “Heaven is a wonderful place” handout, printed on cardstock (one sheet per child), yarn, scissors, markers, crayons, cotton balls, gold glitter, glue, hole punch
Lesson & Snack: Bible, mini-marshmallows (white and colored – about 10 per child)
Game: Paper jewels (enough for 1–2 jewels per child), tape, blindfold(s)

Teacher Note:
As adults we have a hard time imagining what heaven might look and be like, so it’s understandable why children have a difficult time imagining a place so extraordinary as heaven. One way we can help them to imagine heaven is to look for the beauty in our world. A waterfall, mountain range, field of flowers, or ocean view all help us see and believe that what Jesus is preparing for us in heaven must be magnificent. Show beautiful pictures you find in magazines or books and explain that heaven is far more beautiful than even the most beautiful place on earth.
Hello, boys and girls! I’m so happy that you are here today. Today we are learning about heaven. What do you know about heaven? (Wait for responses.) That’s right! Heaven is where Jesus and God live. Let’s start by singing some songs about heaven. Are you ready? All right, let’s worship!

Everyone stand up and get ready to march. We’re going to sing “When The Saints Go Marching In.”

**When The Saints Go Marching In**

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Lord, how I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

And when the sun begins to shine,
And when the sun begins to shine,
Lord, how I want to be in that number,
When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
Lord, how I want to be in that number,
When the trumpet sounds its call.

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Lord, how I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

Great job, kids! Now let’s sing one more song called “In The Sweet By and By”

**In The Sweet By and By**

There’s a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain:
In the sweet (in the sweet)
By and by (by and by),
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet (in the sweet)
By and by (by and by)
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Great singing, boys and girls! God loves to hear you sing and praise Him.
CRAFT – Heaven Collages

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Now, I want everyone to find a spot on the floor. We are going to imagine what heaven might look like. (Turn on a sound machine or CD with ocean sounds.) Everyone close your eyes and pretend we’re at the beach. Do you hear the waves from the ocean? Imagine the warm sun on your skin and the wind blowing your hair. The sand is warm beneath your feet. You can hear laughter from kids playing nearby. Don’t you want to be there right now? (Give children time to imagine.)

Now, we are going to a new place in the mountains. The sun is so bright and warm, but there is a nice breeze blowing on your skin. In the distance you see mountain peaks with snow on them. And right above you is a beautiful rainbow with so many colors. In a field below you see millions of flowers. They smell so sweet. And you hear water trickling down from the mountains above. It is so beautiful. You are certain you’ve never been to a place more beautiful than this. (Give children time to imagine.)

All right, now let’s all open our eyes. Did you feel like you were really at the beach or the mountains? It’s fun to imagine like that isn’t it? (Allow children time to respond.)

Did you know that heaven is even more beautiful than anything we’ve ever seen here on earth? It is. 10,000 times more beautiful! Now, let’s all stand up and find a seat at the table. We’re going to use what we imagined to draw pictures of what we think heaven might look like.

(Lead children to tables and give each of them a “Heaven is a Wonderful Place” Handout, printed on cardstock. Place plenty of markers and crayons on the table. Give each child 6–7 cotton balls for clouds.)

Remember the beautiful places we imagined? Now, think about what heaven might look like and draw a picture of it. Maybe you want to draw a colorful rainbow or a waterfall. Think about the colors you might see in heaven. You may want to draw animals or children. You can even glue some cotton-ball clouds to your picture or use some glitter to make gold streets.

(Allow children to work and ask each of them to describe their drawing. When children are finished, punch holes in the top right corners of their picture and thread yarn through the holes, knotting each end. Children can hang their pictures when they get home. Finally, write their names on their pictures.)

What great pictures you all created! Excellent work. Now, let’s find a seat back on the floor while we listen to our lesson.
Heaven is a wonderful place!

No one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. –1 Corinthians 2:9
LESSON & SNACK: Heaven Is A Wonderful Place.

Read aloud the words in bold text. (Give each child 5 white and 5 colored mini-marshmallows on a napkin.)

Everyone, look at your marshmallows. What do they remind you of? Clouds? What about the colored ones? Do they look like colors in a rainbow? Do you remember the story of Noah? Why did God put a rainbow in the sky after the flood? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right! God used the rainbow as a promise to Noah that God would never flood the earth again.

God’s Word, the Bible, is full of promises. One of God’s greatest promises is heaven. The Bible says that no one has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Corinthians 2:9). That means none of us can truly imagine what heaven will look like. We can imagine it and read about it in God’s Word, but until we get there, we will not understand how wonderful it will be.

In the Bible, John describes a vision he had of heaven.

He says that heaven was shining with the glory of God. It had a high wall with 12 gates. There was an angel at each gate. The wall was made of jasper, a beautiful stone. The city was made of pure gold. The walls of heaven had every kind of jewel in them: jasper, sapphire, emerald, onyx, topaz, amethyst, and many more. And the gates were made of pearls. The streets of heaven were made of gold. There was no sun or moon to light heaven because the glory of God is the light. In the city was a beautiful river. The river shines like crystal and flows down the middle of the street. The tree of life is on each side of the river. It grows fruit 12 times a year and its leaves have healing power. (from Revelation 21:9–22:2)

Wow! Can you even imagine a city like this? How beautiful it must be with all of those jewels sparkling in the light of God’s glory. It must be the brightest, most colorful place ever. And guess what? God has made it for us! What a wonderful promise that we can live in a city like that with all the people we love if we choose to give our lives to Jesus.

Let’s bow our heads and pray to God.

Dear God, thank You for the promise of heaven. Thank you for creating such a beautiful place for us. Help us to live for you all our lives and teach us to help others know you. We love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.
GAME: Wall of Jewels

(Before class, place a tapeline on the floor several feet back from a blank wall. Print the Jewel Handout. Color and cut out the jewels.)

Say aloud the words in bold.

Great job listening, boys and girls! Heaven really is going to be a wonderful place. We can be excited about living in a place so beautiful with the people we love.

Now, who is ready to play a game? Have you ever heard of the game “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”? Today we are going to play a game where we pin the jewels on the wall.

Remember in our lesson where we learned about heaven’s walls being made of all kinds of jewels? I have a bunch of jewels here and we are going to build a wall of jewels. But, here’s the tricky part: we’re going to do it blindfolded!

I need everyone to line up behind this tapeline on the floor. We are going to take turns adding jewels to heaven’s wall.

(Blindfold the first child. Hand them a jewel with a piece of tape on the back. Then, spin them around once and point them toward the wall. Allow all children to place a jewel on the wall and repeat the game as long as time will allow.)

Awesome job, boys and girls! You made the wall so bright and beautiful.

Now, let’s all sing “When the Saints Go Marching In” one more time before it’s time to go home.

Everyone get ready to march! (Sing song as kids march around the room.)

Great job today, everyone! Next week we’ll learn even more about heaven.
Wall of Jewels Game
Lesson Two:
A Home in Heaven

For ages 2-4

Lessons taken from concepts in:

Heaven is for Real for kids
Heaven Is For Real – Lesson Two
Preschool – 2, 3, and 4-year olds

Lesson Two: A Home in Heaven

SCRIPTURE: John 14:2,3
THEME: Living With Jesus

PRAISE & WORSHIP: “When We All Get to Heaven” and “Oh, How I Love Jesus”
5–10 minutes
CRAFT: A Home in Heaven
15 minutes
LESSON & SNACK: A Home in Heaven / Animal Cracker snacks
10 minutes
GAME: The Road to Heaven Obstacle Course
10 minutes

Lesson Supplies:
Praise & Worship: music CDs and CD player (optional)
Note: All of the songs are public domain and easy to find on children’s church song CDs.
Craft: “A Home in Heaven” handout (one for each child), markers and crayons, stickers (trees, rainbows, people, animals, etc.)
Lesson & Snack: Bible, animal crackers (5–6 per child)
Game: mound of pillows, tapeline to balance on, 4–5 hula-hoops staggered, tunnel tube (optional)

Teacher Note:
The subject of heaven is often difficult to discuss with young children because it almost always involves talking about death. Children might not think of heaven as so wonderful if going there means they are far from their family and the people they love. They also may question who lives in heaven. Do animals live there? Do people from the Bible live there? And what about angels? Reassure them that God and Jesus want to live with us for forever. They are preparing a home in heaven for us so that we can do that. And everyone who loves God and asks Jesus into their hearts will live forever in heaven—our parents, our family members, and our friends. The saints, angels, and even animals will be in heaven. But, most importantly, Jesus and God live in heaven. We will have a forever home with them.
PRAISE & WORSHIP – “When We All Get to Heaven” and “Oh, How I Love Jesus”

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Hello, everyone! Remember last week we talked how wonderful heaven is. Today we are going to talk about who lives in heaven. Do you know who lives in heaven? (Wait for responses.) That’s right! Heaven is where Jesus and God live, and people we love who have passed away, and the saints and angels, and even animals!

Let’s sing some songs about heaven. Are you ready?

**When We All Get to Heaven**

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace.
In the mansions bright and blessèd
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We’ll sing and shout the victory!

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we’ll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We’ll sing and shout the victory!

**Great singing! Now let’s sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus.”**

**Oh, How I Love Jesus**

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

Chorus:
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me.

Verse 2:
It tells me of a Savior’s love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner’s perfect plea.
CRAFT – A Home in Heaven

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Great singing, boys and girls! God loves to hear your voices.

Now, I want everyone to find a seat at the tables and get ready for our craft.

Do you know what a mansion is? (Allow children to respond.) Yes. A mansion is a giant, fancy home. Mansions have many, many rooms.

Did you know that God is preparing a mansion for us in heaven? That’s right! Jesus says in the Bible that there are many rooms in His Father’s house.

If you could imagine the most perfect room in heaven, what would it look like? (Allow children to respond.)

Today we are going to color a picture of what we think our rooms will look like in heaven. What is in your room? Do you have a bed or would you rather have a big mound of pillows? What color are the walls of your room? Will there be lots of windows or will the walls be all glass? Do you see trees outside and streets of gold? Do you have a pet to share your room with? Maybe your room will be like a giant tree house! Use your imaginations and draw what you want your rooms to look like in heaven.

(Give each child “A Home in Heaven” handout. Place plenty of markers and crayons on the table. If you have relevant stickers, give a few to each child. Allow children to work and ask each of them to describe their room. When children are finished, write their names on their pictures.)

What great pictures you all created! Excellent work. Now, let’s find a seat back on the floor while we listen to our Bible lesson.
A Home in Heaven

There are many rooms in my Father’s House. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. –John 14:2,3
LESSON & SNACK: A Home in Heaven

Read aloud the words in bold text. (Give each child 5–6 animal crackers on a napkin.)

Everyone look at your animal crackers. What kinds of animals do you have? (Allow children to respond.)
What do you think it would be like to pet a lion or play with a kangaroo? (Allow children time to respond.)
If you could play with any animal in the world, which animal would you choose? (Allow children time to respond.)
Those are great animals! Well, did you know that there are animals in heaven? And they won’t hurt you. They are friendly and get along with each other. You can even pet a lion or take a ride on an elephant. Cool, huh?

But animals aren’t the only things that live in heaven. Do you know who else lives in heaven? (Look for answers like: God, Jesus, people from the Bible, family members who have passed away, angels, etc.)

That’s right! People we love live in heaven, people we read about in the Bible (like Noah, Mary, and Moses), angels, and God and Jesus all live in heaven! And did you know that right now God is preparing a place in heaven for us? He is! He wants us to live forever with Him.

In the Bible, Jesus says, “There are many rooms in my Father’s House. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am (John 14:2–3).”

How cool to think that God wants us to be with Him! We just have to ask Jesus to live in our hearts and trust and obey Him. Then, we will get to spend eternity with Him.

Heaven will be like the best family reunion ever. We will get to be with other Christians and live forever in the most beautiful place we can imagine!

Let’s bow our heads and pray to God.

Dear God, thank You for preparing a place for us in heaven. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about you and about heaven. Help us to serve you and live for you. We love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.
GAME: The Road to Heaven

(Before class, place a 6-foot tapeline on the floor and have your other obstacle course materials ready – hula-hoops, mound of pillows, tunnel tube, etc. – and place your tapeline on the floor. Print the “Our Home in Heaven” sheet and tape it on a far wall.)

Say aloud the words in bold. (While teacher is announcing the game, have a helper place the obstacles in the room.)

Great job listening today, boys and girls. Isn’t it going to be so exciting and wonderful to spend forever in heaven with God, Jesus, people we love, and all kinds of cool animals?

Sometimes living on earth can be hard. Kids are mean to us sometimes. Sometimes we get in trouble with our parents. We have to do things that we don’t always want to do, like clean up our toys or take naps. Sometimes life can be hard.

Our game today is called “The Road to Heaven Obstacle Course.” See that sign on the wall? It says, “Our Home in Heaven.” That is the FINISH line for today’s game. First, you will crawl over this mound of pillows. Then, you will hop through some hula-hoops. Next, you will crawl through a tunnel tube. And finally, you will balance on this tapeline. All these things represent hard things we have to do or things that happen to us on earth. The goal is to go through all the obstacles and then touch the “Our Home in Heaven” sign on the other side of the room. Got it?

All right. Let’s play.

(Have children line up behind you. Play music and allow children to complete the obstacle course as quickly as they can until all children reach the “Our Home in Heaven” sign. Repeat as often as time allows. Then, ask children to have a seat on the floor.)

Great job, everyone! You are all so fast! That was a fun game, wasn’t it?

Life sometimes feels like this obstacle course, doesn’t it? But guess what? I have great news for you! We have the promise of heaven. Someday we will get to leave all the hard things here on earth and live in a perfect place. Do you know where that is? (Allow children to answer “heaven.”) That’s right! We will get to spend eternity with God, Jesus, and all the people we love.

Now, let’s all sing “When We All Get to Heaven” again before it’s time to go home.

(Sing song and let kids shout “victory.”)
OUR HOME IN HEAVEN
Sample Obstacle Course SET UP

START HERE

tapeline

Mound of Pillows

Tunnel Tube

Hula-Hoop Hop

FINISH OUR HOME IN HEAVEN
Lesson Three: Heaven is a Happy Place

For ages 2-4
Lesson Three: Heaven Is a Happy Place

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1–4
THEME: A New Heaven and New Earth

PRAISE & WORSHIP: “Amazing Grace” and “We’re Marching to Zion”
5 minutes
CRAFT: The Sick Made Well Faces
15 minutes
LESSON & SNACK: A New Heaven and New Earth / Teddy Grahams (6–7 per child – some broken, some whole)
10 minutes
GAME: YES/NO Heaven
10 minutes

Lesson Supplies:
Praise & Worship: music CDs and CD player (optional)
Note: All of the songs are public domain and easy to find on children’s church song CDs.
Craft: Egg (uncooked), clear bowl, Paper Plates (one for each child), markers and crayons, Band-aids (1–2 per child)
Lesson & Snack: Bible, Teddy Grahams (6–7 per child – some broken, some whole)
Game: YES/NO Heaven printout

Teacher Note:
Children are often apprehensive or scared when they think of heaven. In their minds, it is so far from their homes and families, and they think they will be sad or lonely there. Remind them that there is no sadness in heaven. It is a happy place full of wonderful things to do and see. There is no fear or sickness in heaven, no evil or bad. Everyone is made new. The sick are made well. The blind will see. The sad are made happy. Heaven is a happy place where we will spend our days with Jesus, praising God.
Hello, boys and girls! Today we are going to learn more about heaven. Can you tell me some things you remember about heaven from last week? (Allow children to respond.) Do you think anyone is sad or sick in heaven? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right. No one is ever hurt, sad, or sick in heaven. Everyone who enters heaven is given a new body. They are made well. Heaven is a happy place!

Let’s sing some songs about heaven. Are you ready?

**Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we first begun.

**We’re Marching to Zion**

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

Chorus:
We’re marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We’re marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.
CRAFT – The Sick Made Well Faces

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Great singing, boys and girls! God loves when we praise Him with our singing. Now, let’s find seats at the tables and get ready for our craft.

(Hold up an egg.)

What is this? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right. It’s an egg. See how perfect the egg is. It is smooth and has no cracks in it. It is a perfect oval shape. In fact, I have never seen a more perfect egg. (Now, hold the egg over a clear bowl. Crack the egg and let it fall in the bowl.)

What happened to the egg? (Allow children to respond.) Yes, it’s broken. I cracked the egg and now there are pieces of eggshell everywhere and the inside of the egg spilled out.

Do you think we can put it back together again? (Allow children to respond.) We can’t, can we? It’s broken for good. This egg is like our world. Our world is broken. But do you know the one person who can fix our world and put it back together again? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right. God can.

Today we are going to make The Sick Made Well faces. (Give each child a paper plate and a Band-aid.) Here is a paper plate and a Band-aid. On one side of the paper plate, we are going to draw a sad face. Can you draw a sad face? (Allow children to color their faces.) This child is also sick. Can you draw spots on his face? Maybe he has the measles or chicken pox. (Allow children to draw spots on their paper face.) Now, can you put your Band-aid on one of the spots? (Allow children to do this.) Now, we are going to write the word “SICK” on this side of your paper plate. (Help children write the word “sick” on this side of their plates.) Now flip your paper plate to the clean side. We are going to draw happy faces. Can you draw a happy face? (Allow children to work on their happy faces.) This person was sick, but now he is well. This represents how God makes us new when we go to heaven. Anyone who is sick is made well. The sad are made happy. Now, we’re going to write “HAPPY” on this side of our plates. (Help children write “happy” on this side of their plates.)

(Write children’s names on their plates.)

Great job, everyone! Now, let’s go find a seat on the floor and get ready to listen to our lesson.
LESSON & SNACK: A New Heaven and New Earth

Read aloud the words in bold text. (Give each child 6–7 Teddy Grahams, some broken and some whole.)

Everyone look at your Teddy Grahams. What can you tell me about them? (Allow children time to respond.)
Some of them are broken and some of them are whole. This is like our happy and sad faces. When we are here on earth, we are broken. Some people are sick or sad. Some people are lonely or scared. Some of us need wheelchairs to move around or glasses to see. But, when we get to heaven, God makes us all new. He puts us back together and we are whole.

In the Bible, John talks about his vision of heaven. He says that he saw a new heaven and a new earth. He heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, “Now God’s home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.” (from Revelation 21:1–4)

Wow! How amazing will that be? No one will be sick or sad in heaven. And there will be no pain or death. Everyone will be made new and will be happy and full of joy.

Now, think about the happiest, most fun day of your life. Maybe you were at the beach or at the fair. Maybe you were spending the night at a friend’s house or at your grandparents’ house. Can you think of a day when you were so happy? (Allow some children to share about their happiest day.) Those are great examples, everyone!

Guess what? Each day in heaven is going to be 10,000 times happier and more fun than even your best day on earth. That’s right! We will spend our days with Jesus and the people we love. We will sing and praise God forever. You will never be bored or lonely because you will be in the most perfect place. Won’t that be amazing?

Now, let’s bow our heads and pray to God.

Dear God, thank You for promising to make all things new in heaven. We look forward to praising you forever. Help us to serve you and praise you here while we wait for heaven. In Jesus’ name, amen.
GAME: YES/NO Heaven

(Before class, print the YES/NO heaven word sheet.)

Say aloud the words in bold.

Great job listening today, boys and girls. How exciting to know that one day we will be in heaven with Jesus!

**Who is ready to play a game?** (Allow children to respond.) **Great!**

Our game today is called “YES/NO Heaven.” I have a bunch of words and I am going to hold each one up and ask you if that word is something that belongs in heaven or not. We’re going to start by sitting on the floor. I will say a word, and if that word is something that belongs in heaven, you will jump up and shout, “YES!” If I say a word and it is something that doesn’t belong in heaven, you will sit down on the floor, point your thumbs down, and say in a really low voice, “NO!” Are you ready to play?

All right. Everyone sit down on the floor.

(Hold up words and say them out loud. If you have a teacher’s helper, have her play the game with the kids so they can follow her lead. You may want to say the word and then ask if that word belongs in heaven. For example: “TEARS. Do tears belong in heaven? NO!” Feel free to go through the words more than once so children learn to listen and process each word.)

Great job, everyone! You really are learning a lot about heaven.

Why don’t we sing “When The Saints Go Marching In” before it’s time to go home? Everyone get your marching feet ready.
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Lesson Four: Heaven is A Gift.

For ages 2-4
Lesson Four: Heaven Is A Gift.

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16
THEME: Salvation and Eternal Life

PRAISE & WORSHIP: “When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder” and “Nothing But the Blood”
5–10 minutes
CRAFT: Crown of Jewels
15 minutes

LESSON & SNACK: Heaven Is A Gift / Jewel-Colored Fruit Snacks (one pack or 6–7 per child)
10 minutes
GAME: The Greatest Gift – Hot Potato Game
10 minutes

Lesson Supplies:
Praise & Worship: music CDs and CD player (optional)
Note: All of the songs are public domain and easy to find on children’s church song CDs.
Craft: Crown Handout (one per child), crayons and markers, craft jewels (5–6 per child), glue, tape, scissors
Lesson & Snack: Bible, Jewel-colored Fruit Snacks (one pack or 6–7 per child)
Game: music CD, CD player, Wrapped Gift Box with removable lid, stickers, candy, toy erasers, or any small giveaway items for the gift box (1 giveaway per child)

Teacher Note:
Once children understand that heaven is someplace they want to go, they may ask what they can DO to get there. We are so used to our performance-based world, that it’s hard to imagine something could be free simply because God loves us. It’s important that children know that salvation and eternity in heaven are gifts from God if we ask Jesus to live in our hearts and we live our lives for Him.
PRAISE & WORSHIP – “When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder” and “Nothing But the Blood”

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Hello, boys and girls! It’s so good to see your faces this week. Do you remember some of the things we’ve been learning about heaven? (Allow children to respond.) Great job! You guys have great memories. This week we will learn that heaven is a gift from God. When we ask Jesus into our hearts and live for him, we are given the promise of heaven. We will get to spend forever with Jesus in heaven. That sounds like an awesome gift, doesn’t it?

Let’s praise God by singing songs to Him. Are you ready?

**When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder**

- When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
- And time shall be no more,
- And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
- When the saved of earth shall gather
- Over on the other shore,
- And the roll is called up yonder,
- I’ll be there.

**Chorus:**
- When the roll, is called up yonder,
- When the roll, is called up yonder,
- When the roll, is called up yonder,
- When the roll is called up yonder,
- I’ll be there.

**Nothing But The Blood**

- What can wash away my sin?
- Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
- What can make me whole again?
- Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Chorus:**
- O precious is the flow,
- That makes me white as snow,
- No other fount I know;
- Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
CRAFT – Crown of Jewels

(Before class, you may want to cut out the crowns and rectangle strips to save time.)

Say aloud the words in bold text.

Great singing, boys and girls! You have such beautiful voices, and God loves to hear you sing. Now, let’s find seats at the tables and get ready for our craft.

What is the greatest gift you’ve ever received? Was it a toy car, a doll, a bike? (Allow children time to respond.) Wow! Those sound like great gifts.

Did you know that when Jesus returns to take us to heaven, He will give us a crown? That’s right. In the Bible, Peter writes, “When Christ, the Head Shepherd, comes, you will get a crown. This crown will be glorious, and it will never lose its beauty.” (1 Peter 5:4)

And God has promised us something else as well. He has promised us eternity in heaven! Do you know how long eternity is? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right. Forever! We will get to live forever in heaven with God and Jesus.

Today, we are going to make Crowns of Jewels to remember the great gifts God has promised us.

(Give each child a crown handout and several craft jewels. Place marker, crayons, and glue in the center of the table.)

We are going to color our crowns our favorite colors and glue beautiful jewels to them. Once you are finished, we will tape a rectangle strip to the back of your crown so you can wear them.

(Let children work on decorating their crowns. As they finish, help them tape their rectangle strip securely to the back of their crown so they can slip it on their heads. Remember to write their names on their crowns.)

What beautiful crowns, boys and girls. We have so much to look forward to in heaven, don’t we?

Now, let’s go find a seat on the floor and get ready to listen to today’s lesson.
Everyone look at your fruit snacks. What can you tell me about them? (Allow children time to respond.)

Do they look a little bit like jewels? They are pretty colors and shapes like the jewels we glued to our crowns, aren’t they? Go ahead and eat your snack while you listen to the lesson.

God has given so many gifts to us. Have you ever heard the Bible verse, John 3:16. (Allow children to respond or recite.) Very good!

John 3:16 says, “For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”

The greatest gift God has ever given us is Jesus. Jesus came to our world to save us. He died on the cross to take away all of our sins. And God says that if we believe in Jesus and ask him to come live in our hearts, we will have eternal life. That means that we will get to live forever in heaven. We don’t have to do anything to receive this gift. Doing good things for people is nice, but it won’t get us in to heaven. The gift is free! Isn’t that amazing? Heaven is a gift from God.

What are you most looking forward to in heaven? Maybe you look forward to seeing all the pretty things in heaven. Or do you look forward to playing with the animals? Or talking to Jesus or John the Baptist? Maybe you look forward to seeing a grandparent who has passed away. Or playing with other children. What do you look forward to the most? (Allow children time to respond.)

Did you know that as much as we look forward to being in heaven forever, God looks forward to us being with Him even more? God loves us so much. He gave us His only Son so we could be saved. Because Jesus died on the cross, we have the gift of eternal life, the gift of heaven.

That is the greatest gift we could ever receive!

Now, let’s bow our heads and pray to God.

Dear God, thank You for the gift of heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. We want to love and serve You always so that we can spend eternity in heaven with You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.
GAME: The Greatest Gift – Hot Potato Game

(Before class, prepare your gift box. Make sure it has a removable lid. Wrap the box and lid separately and place a bow on the lid. Inside the box, place small gifts for the children in your class: stickers, candy, toy erasers, plastic rings, bracelets, etc. Depending on the size of your class, you may choose to give kids 2–3 gifts from the box.)

Say aloud the words in bold.

Great job listening today, boys and girls. Now who is ready to play a game?

Our game today is kind of like Hot Potato. Has anyone ever played the Hot Potato game? (Allow children to respond.)

Today's game is called “The Greatest Gift.” Let’s start by sitting in a big circle.

(Bring out gift box.) See this beautiful gift? What do you think is inside? Aren’t you curious?

For our game today, we are going to pass this gift around our circle while the music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the box gets to open it and choose a gift from inside. No peeking until it’s your turn to open the box, though. Are you ready? All right. Let’s play.

(Play music and tell children to begin passing the box. Stop the music and allow each child to choose a gift. Play until each child receives a gift. You may choose to repeat the game several times depending on the amount of children and gifts you have.)

Great job, everyone! Getting gifts is fun, isn’t it? In a few weeks we will probably forget about the gifts we got today during this game. But there is one gift God has given us that will last forever. Do you know what that is? (Allow children to respond.) That’s right! Heaven! Things on earth will one day go away, but the gift of heaven is forever!

Now, why don't we sing “God Is So Good” before we go home?

(God is so good. God is so good. God is so good. He's so good to me. He loves me so. He loves me so. He loves me so. He's so good to me.)

Awesome job, everyone! I’m so proud of you.