

THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

Lesson 2:

God Made Heaven

CONTENT:

1. Before God made people, he made heaven.
2. Heaven is a place where God lives with his angels and saints. Everyone there is happy, because they are close to God.
3. Jesus told us about heaven. He described it as his Father's house, with many rooms. He told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them and that he would come back and take them there. He said that he was the Way to the Father.



4. If I follow Jesus and believe in him, I too will reach heaven.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Memorise the verse given. Talk about true 'angel stories' at home (from real life / the Bible) Ask someone to write one in a sentence or two.

REFERENCES: John 14:1-6. CCC 325-327.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, drawing materials.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

Let's see if you remember the true story about God that we heard last time!

- Long, long ago, before anything was made, who was there? *[God.]*
- We know that there is only one God, but how many persons are there in the one God? *[Three: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.]*
- Who is the Son? *[Jesus]*
- God decided to share his love and happiness with someone else. So whom did he make? *[He made people.. Men and women, girls and boys and little babies.]*
- Did any of you plan with your family and invite someone to your house for a meal? *[If any have done so, they could share something about the occasion, and how they felt. Do not scold the children if they have not, just encourage them to try and do it as soon as possible. After they have, they could come and tell you about it!]*
- When we open our doors to others, we are being just like God, because God shared his love and happiness with us.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- God decided to make people, but before he did that, he made heaven. Do you know what heaven is? It is the place where God and his angels live. It is a very happy place, because everyone there is close to God.
- Have you ever been there? .. None of us have ever been there, but I think we all want to go there one day. Heaven is the place where saints and all God's friends go when they die. Jesus once talked about heaven. Let's see what he said about it. *[Give out handouts at this point. Children look at the picture while the story is being told.]*

One day, when Jesus was sitting alone with his closest friends, he told them that he was going to die very soon and go away. When they heard this all of them became sad and a little frightened. They didn't want Jesus to die and leave them. (If you heard that your best friend was going to die, you would also be sad, wouldn't you?)

Jesus looked at their sad and troubled faces and said to them:

“Don’t be worried. Don’t be sad. God loves you and I love you. Believe this.

In my Father’s house in heaven there are many rooms. Those rooms are for you! I am going to get them ready for you.”

Even when they heard Jesus saying such wonderful things, his friends still looked worried. So Jesus said,

“Do you think I am bluffing you, my friends? Do you think I would tell you something that is not true? I am really going to get a place ready for you and then I myself will come back and take you there, so that you will be with me forever and ever! Don’t worry, you know the way to the place I am going.”

The friends started looking at each other with puzzled faces. But no one wanted to show how foolish he was. At last Thomas spoke up.

“Lord, first of all we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

Jesus smiled at him. “ I am going to my Father in heaven. And I am the Way to the Father. There is no other way.”

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Do you believe that Jesus was telling the truth? Do you believe in heaven? Do you believe that Jesus is the Way?

Close your eyes and make a picture of heaven in your mind. Imagine the Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Imagine lots of angels and saints all smiling and happy. Ask Jesus to help you to believe in him and follow him and reach heaven. *[Silence]*

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Children draw their idea of heaven on the other side of the handout. Encourage them to draw what they imagine: angels, saints, other people they think are in heaven.. God’s house, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.. trees, flowers, themselves.. They could name the people if they like.

[As they draw they could sing softly: We are On Our Way to Our Father’s House’]

We are on our way to our Father's house
To our Father's house
To our Father's house
We are on our way to our Father's house
Where there's joy, joy, joy.

Jesus is the Way to our Father's house...
Mary is the Queen in our Father's house....

Home assignment:

Read the handout at home with someone. Learn the verse given.

Ask your family if they know any true 'angel stories' (from real life or the Bible).

Ask someone to write about it in your handout in a sentence or two.