

New Heaven and New Earth

Conversation to use with the script

The following suggestions are a few activities to help process the New Heaven and New Earth. Keep your story pieces out as you discuss.

1. Review your stories from September through March (all ages)

What pieces from God's Story could you add to the New Heaven and New Earth? Look through your story props and discuss whether to include them.

2. What else will be in the new heaven and new earth?

- Parents, older children, and youth may want to use your notebook and write down what they think will be included.
- Discuss with all ages what things from this list will be there: jobs, chores, tears, pain, sickness, cities, food, flowers, beds, houses, sin, pollution, cell phones, and other screens, your favorite food, Bible characters, family members who have died, or pets. Any other ideas?

3. Use your family peg dolls as you discuss. (all ages)

We asked you to place the backdrop of your home and your family peg dolls near the story. When Jesus returns and God comes to live with his people, has your family been invited? At some point in the conversation, family members may want to incorporate their peg dolls into the story scene. After your discussion, each person may want to write their name in the Book of Life using the gold pen. Parents: This is a permanent (eternal) marker; it could stain clothing.

Here are some questions to discuss. You can do these over several days or all at once.

Who gets to live forever with Jesus?

John 3:16:

"For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 10:9:

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you** will be saved."

Romans 10:13:

"For, '**Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

John 1:12

"But to **all** who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Why doesn't everyone choose to become a child of God?

Discuss the consequences of people's choices.

- Adam and Eve chose to disobey and ate the fruit.
- The people in Noah's day chose to disobey God.
- The people at the tower of Babel decided they didn't need God.

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- After God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt, they decided to worship other gods in the desert.
- Once they got to their promised land, God's people still decided to follow other gods.
- Even when Jesus came to earth, most people didn't want to hear about living forever in God's Kingdom.
- God's people had to be separated from his presence by the curtain in the temple.
- Our sin keeps us away from God, too.
- Jesus died on the cross so that he could forgive our sins and bring us back into a relationship
- God loves the whole world, but he won't make us love him.

What does the Bible say about how we can respond? Look back at the story in Acts:

At Pentecost, Peter told the people they sinned and crucified Jesus. When they heard this, Peter's words went straight to their hearts. Do you remember what they started asking each other and Peter? (hint: read the story in Acts 2)

What should we do now?

In Acts 2:38, Peter answered their question, "Tell God you want to be forgiven for your sin that separates you from him. Then you can be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. All you have to do is ask!"

This is God's promise to everyone who wants to be one of God's people.

What does it mean to be forgiven by God?

If you are wondering, "What should I do now?"

What happens when I ask God to forgive my sins?

1 John 1:9 "But if we confess our sins, he will forgive us. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done."

What happens to my sin when I am forgiven?

- Psalm 103:12 says that as far as the east is from the west, that is how far God will remove our sin from us.
- Micah 7:19 describes God's compassion in that he will throw away our sins far away into the sea.

How do I live as a follower of Jesus?

We have work to do while waiting for Jesus to return. More people need to know about God's Story. He loves them, and he sent his son Jesus to die for them. He wants to live with them forever. You can show them his love and tell them his story.

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 28: 19-20

Spend time in prayer. Listen to what God is saying. Are there more questions or topics to discuss?