EMPTY SUITCASE ☆

A suitcase comes in handy when going on a trip, but we don't need one when we go to Heaven.

TOPICS:

Happiness, Heaven, Kingdom of God

MATERIALS:

1 small suitcase

DURATION:

Approximately 8 minutes

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WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will explain how a suitcase is needed when we go on an earthly trip, but not when we go to Heaven.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Here is a familiar object, a suitcase. What do you think of when you see someone carrying a suitcase? (Allow for answers.) When we see someone with a suitcase, the first thing we usually think of is that the person is going on a trip. It may be a business trip, or a vacation, perhaps to visit relatives or friends. This person may be going to another city, another country, or to a far away exotic place. One thing we know for sure. Inside the suitcase are things the person feels they must bring with them.

If you were going on a trip, what would you pack? (Allow for answers.) Clothes, toys, a stuffed animal, a pillow. All these things will make our trip more enjoyable. Otherwise, when we get there we would have to buy so many things.

(Open suitcase now to show that it is empty)

You know, God has a special trip planed for us too. It is not to another city. It is not to another country. However, you might say it is to an exotic place. Do you know where it is? That is right, Heaven.

We do not need to pack a suitcase when we go to Heaven. We will not need toys, or pillows, or clothes, or shoes. Jesus is in Heaven now preparing a place for us, and when we get there, we will have everything we need to be happy and comfortable. The Bible says He will even dress us in clothes of salvation. (Isaiah 61:10)

LOST AND FOUND ☆

Children scramble to find the lost sheep

TOPICS:

Parables, Lamb, Lost

MATERIALS:

Chocolate coins Stuffed toy sheep

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, hide one chocolate coin and the toy sheep in a VISIBLE place. The coin and toy sheep should not be inside something, and hidden so the younger children will be able to find them.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Before the game begins read the parable of the lost coin and/or lost sheep found in Luke 15. After reading the scripture have the children move around the room and begin to visually search for the coin and the toy sheep. When someone sees one of the objects, they say "I've found my lost coin" or "I've found my lost sheep" but they do not pick it up. The first child to find both the coin and the toy sheep wins. After the game give each child their own chocolate coin to enjoy.

PATIENCE, PLEASE ☆

Children will be enticed to enter a tent filled with scrumptious candy, but encouraged to wait until the end of the class, because then it will be even better.

TOPICS:

Blessings, Heaven, Patience, Rewards

MATERIALS:

Small pop-up tent (or large bed sheet and chairs) Candy (Individually wrapped)

DURATION:

A few minutes at the beginning, middle, and end of class $% \left(x\right) =\left(x\right)$

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PREPARATION:

Before class, set up a small pop-up tent, or make one using a bed sheet and chairs.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Part 1

As children arrive, they will be curious about the tent, and will probably want to go inside, but tell them to wait until everyone arrives. After everyone arrives, throw more pieces of candy into the tent, one for each child. Let the children see it.

Ask the childen, "Who would like to go into the tent and grab some candy? Not yet. You need to be patient, because **if you wait until the end of class, it will much be better.** The Bible says, 'If we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.' (Romans 8:25) The Bible also says, 'Blessed are those who wait for Jesus.'" (Isaiah 30:18)

Occasionally during the class, put some more candy inside the tent, while encouraging the kids still to wait. Repeat the saying, "If you wait until the end of the class, it will be much better."

Part 2

Near the end of the class, add one more piece of candy for everyone, and praise the kids for being so patient. Now let them enter the tent and take an equal number of pieces of candy. As the children proudly carry out their treasures, let them know that God can always be trusted to give us only the best. Let them know that the ultimate treasure from being patient will be when we are with Jesus in Heaven.

GODLY LIVING

LESSON 5: HEAVENLY HOMES ☆

Lessons in this series: 1 2 3 4 5 Overview

This lesson teaches that Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven. He will return one glorious day and we will be with Him in Heaven.

TOPICS

Blessings, Heaven, Kingdom of God

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Patience Please (Activity) Part 1 <u>Click here</u> Jesus Loves You (Activity) <u>Click here</u>

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

BIBLE VERSE (5 MINUTES)

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Did you know that Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven? One happy day we will be able to be with Jesus in Heaven. What a prefect day that will be!

Read John 14:1-4

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Jesus said that we should not be troubled, what should we do instead? (Trust in God and Jesus.)
- 2. What does Jesus say there are many of in His Father's house? (There are many rooms.)
- 3. Would Jesus tell us this if it wasn't true? (No, Jesus doesn't tell lies.)
- 4. Who is in Heaven preparing a place for us? ($\mathit{Jesus.}$)
- 5. Jesus said that one day He will come back and take us to be with Him. Where will He take us? (Heaven.)
- 6. How can we know the way to Heaven? (By following Jesus.)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Prepare a Place (Object Talk) Click here

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (8 MINUTES)

Empty Suitcase (Object Talk) Click here

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

Give the children snacks of sweet oranges. As the children enjoy the sweet treat explain that things in Heaven will be much better than the world that we currently live in. Be enthused and explain how great Heaven will be in simple terms that the children will understand.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

Patience, Please (Activity) Part 2 <u>Click here</u> Lost & Found (Optional Game) <u>Click here</u>

NEXT WEEK

Choose another exciting lesson plan from Kid's Sunday School Place for Preschool.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF], Click here

PREPARE A PLACE ☆

Just as our parents prepared a room for us in their house, Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven.

TOPICS:

Blessings, Heaven, Kingdom of God

MATERIALS:

Doll house Doll house furniture

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Show the class the doll house. Explain that today you will select a couple volunteers to help you set up a nice comfortable child's bedroom in the doll house. Have one child place the bed in the room, another can place a chair in the room; have another child place a dresser in the room. Say, "It is kind of fun setting up a room in this doll house isn't it?" Your parents took time and great care when they set up your bedroom. Let's name some things that make your room special." Allow for answers.

Did you know that Jesus went to Heaven to prepare a place for us? The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:9 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." We cannot even imagine all of the cool things that God is planning for us. In John 14:2 Jesus tells us that in His Father's house are many rooms and that He is going there to prepare a place for us.