

LESSON PLAN

LESSONS ON ENTERING HEAVEN

Luke 18:15-30

Lesson Memory Verse; John 3:3 -"Jesus answered and said unto him, Truly, truly, I say unto you, **except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To show children how to be born again so they can be ready to go to heaven.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Your **first objective** is to create a great desire in the heart of each child to want to go to Heaven, so we suggest you use pictures to do this. Choose a few of the most beautiful pictures you can find of God's creation. Show them to the children and tell them that Heaven will be ever prettier.

Then show some pictures of children or of older people having fun. Tell the children that in Heaven we will have greater joy than we have ever had on earth.

Finally, show some pictures of loving relationships between members of a family or between friends. Tell your class that in Heaven we will be closer to God and we will be loved more by God than anyone ever loved us on earth. Also tell them that everyone in Heaven will love each other more than people could ever love each other on earth.

Your **second objective** is to get the children to examine themselves to see if they are prepared to go to Heaven. To do this, we suggest that you ask them to tell you what they must do to be sure they are going to Heaven. **Do not tell them if they are right or wrong at this time.** Just put a simple statement of their thought on the whiteboard or on a large piece of poster board. If you can, draw a face, a symbol or a stick figure above the statement; it will be a stronger hold on their interest. Remember, in this introduction you are to put down their thoughts, not yours. After you have gotten their ideas, tell them, "Our memory verse for today will tell us what Jesus said to Nicodemus about the way to Heaven."

HE (for Authority): Nicodemus was a religious teacher in Jerusalem, but he saw Jesus do several miracles that only a man of God could do. So he came to Jesus to ask the secret of His power with God. Jesus knew his real need for power with God was to become a child of God. In John 3:3 Jesus said to him, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus needed another birth. The first time he was born of his mother to be in the family of his parents. Jesus told him he needed to be born of the Holy Spirit to be in the family of God. We must be in God's family to go to Heaven. Our memory verse uses "Kingdom of God" instead of "Heaven," because God's Kingdom includes Heaven. So then, how can you be born again? You must admit that you have sinned by disobeying God. Then you must repent of your sins; you must hate your sins and ask Jesus to take them out of your life. Believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins and will give you victory over the power of your sins. When you believe what He has done for you and receive Him as your Savior, you will become a child of God (Jn 1:12). Now you will be ready to go to Heaven.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today we will discover several things that Jesus said about those going to Heaven.

I. Jesus Loved the Children - Luke 18:15-17

Jesus loved children and wanted them to come to Him. God, the Father, also loved the children and gave His Son, Jesus, to die for them and for the whole world (John 3:16). He did not baptize them. He simply received them as they were and wanted them to learn of Him so they could be saved.

Jesus said that all people must come to Him just as little children come. How do little children come? They come with faith, trusting Jesus. They are sure Jesus will not harm them, but will bless them.

WE: We must come to Jesus with simple faith that He will save us when we receive Him as our Savior. When we call on Him with faith in His promise to hear us, we will be saved (Rom 10:13).

II. Jesus Loved the Rich Young Ruler - Luke 18:18-24; Mark 10:21

A. The rich young ruler did not believe that he had sinned against God (18:18-21).

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He thought he had kept all of God's commands; but the Bible says no one has kept all of His commandments. All have sinned (Rom 3:10-12, 23; James 2:10).

WE: Have we have sinned against God? Have we made the same mistake that the rich young ruler made? We must agree with God that we have sinned and deserve to go to hell. When we do this, we are ready to be saved, but if we refuse to agree with God about this, we can never be born again.

B. The rich young ruler loved his riches more than he loved Jesus (18:22-23).

When Jesus told him to give away his riches and follow Him, he refused because he had great riches. He loved them too much to obey Jesus and give them away. Anything we love more than Jesus is sin.

WE: If we love playing games on Sunday more than going to church and Sunday school, it is sin. If we love to watch TV shows more than the Bible, it is sin. If we love to text or talk to our friends more than Jesus, it is sin. Are you willing to admit your sin, ask Jesus to save you and follow Jesus?

C. The rich young ruler was loved by Jesus (Mark 10:21).

Even though the young ruler loved his riches more than Jesus, Jesus still loved him. Maybe he received Jesus later and loved Him more than His riches. Jesus loves everyone, even His enemies.

WE: We are loved by Jesus. How? He died for our sins so we can go to Heaven. But His love cannot save us until we believe Him, ask Him to take away our sin and be our Savior. Do we want Him more than anything or anyone else? We must if we want to be born again.

D. The rich young ruler learned that it was not easy to go to Heaven (18:23-24).

He had to give up his sins to go to Heaven. This was hard for him to do. He loved his sins. Jesus said it is very difficult for a rich man to get into Heaven because He usually will love his riches more than Him. When this happens, it is impossible to get him into Heaven. But riches are not the only thing that can keep people out of Heaven. Anything more important to them than Jesus will keep them out of Heaven (18:28-30; Mt 10:37-39).

WE: Do we love anything or anyone more than Jesus? If we do, we need to confess it as sin. We need to ask Jesus to take that sin away from us and be our Savior. Then we will be ready to go to Heaven.

III. God loves us so much that He performs a miracle to save us (18:25-30).

It is so difficult for someone to be saved from his sins so He can go to Heaven. Jesus said bringing sinners to Heaven is like a camel going through an eye of a needle. (Show a needle's eye to your class.) Do you know why it would be easier for God to get a camel through a needle's eye than to get someone into Heaven? (Let your class discuss it. It will greatly help them to appreciate their salvation when they think about what God had to do to save them.) Think about this answer: God could quickly make a camel small enough to go through a needle's eye and then make it large again, but to save us, God had to do many miracles. **First**, He had to send His Son to earth to be born of a virgin so He could become a man and be like us. Then His Son had to live a perfect life while Satan was desperately trying to make Him sin. Then His Son had to suffer and die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Then He had to raise Him from the dead on the third day, so He could share His eternal life with us. All this took many miracles. **Second**, He had to find someone who would tell us how to be saved. You know, not every Christian wants to witness to sinners and tell them about Jesus. This is too bad, but it is very true. God works hard to get Christians to witness to sinners. **Third**, God had to work on us so we would hate our sins. He had to show us our sins and convince us that our sins would keep us out of Heaven. Then He had to convince us that Jesus was the only One Who could save us. After all this, He had to wait until we hated our sins and wanted to ask Jesus to save us from our sins. Only after He had done this work in our hearts could He do the miracle of saving us so we could become His children.

WE: We need to be born again. It will take a miracle, but God is ready to do it. Do you want Him to do it?

BE (for Action): Give an invitation for the children to ask Jesus Christ to become their Savior from sin. Ask them to bow their heads. Then ask them if they want Jesus Christ more than anything or anyone else. If so, ask them to raise their hand to let you know that they want to be born again and become a child of God. Tell them that you will help those who raise their hands to be born again after the class is dismissed.