

New Heavens And A New Earth

Isaiah 65:17-25

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 65:17

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

At least three sheets of small stickers (approximately 25-30 stickers).

Tape, enough suckers for each child in your class and blindfolds for each child. Use old cloth or make several blindfolds from black construction paper and yarn (punch holes in strips of construction paper and tie on the yarn).

As many “Heavenly Mansion” templates as the number of children in your class. For best results have them copied on white card stock. You will also need markers or crayons, tape, scissors, a stapler, glue, cotton balls, enough coffee stirrers and sheets of light blue construction paper as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GETTER!

The Wolves and the Lambs Game

Choose three children to be wolves (more or less depending on the size of your class). The rest of the class will be lambs. Give the wolf a sheet of stickers. The wolf’s job is to stick a sticker on each lamb. A lamb is out when a wolf sticks him or her with a sticker and the sticker sticks. It is against the rules for the lambs to remove the stickers. Say, “go” and give the wolves a few minutes to catch the lambs. Be cautious that the children do not get over active and cause injury. The game is over when all of the lambs are caught.

Ask the class to sit down. Wolves are predators: they try to catch lambs. Shepherds always want to keep wolves away from their flock. In the new heavens and new earth that God is preparing for us, the wolf and the lamb will not be enemies--it will be a place of perfect and complete peace. Sound like a good place? Let's learn more.

LESSON TIME!

Imagine the world remaining just as it is with all of the sorrow, evil, and hardships that have resulted from men breaking God's commandments. Imagine a world with no future or hope. That is a gloomy picture, is it not? Yet, for the unbeliever who has no relationship with God, life is indeed without future and hope. We, who have embraced Jesus Christ, look differently at our future. Though the world may look gloomy today, we see beyond the present picture. **God gives us a future and a hope.** One day, God has promised to create a new heavens and a new earth.

ISAIAH 65:17-19

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to
mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For
behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her
people a joy.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The
voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor
the voice of crying.

During the time that Isaiah lived, over 2,700 years ago, the world was in rebellion against God and evil was everywhere. It sounds a lot like our world today, doesn't it? In the midst of the dark scene

of Isaiah's day, God gave His people hope. The Lord gave this promise to the nation of Israel; but it also applies to all of us, today, who believe in God's Son Jesus.

Just before Jesus went to the cross He talked about the special place He would be preparing for us to live with Him for all of eternity (John 14). God has given us the hope of a better life than what we see as we look around us today. God knew that we would need hope and encouragement to continue on.

Speaking of the new heavens and new earth, Isaiah assures us we will not even remember the pain and suffering we endured in this lifetime. What an encouragement is the message of the Messiah's glorious kingdom to come. When our eyes are focused on what is to come, we are filled with hope. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:20

"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

Bible prophecy teaches us that we who are Christians will rule and reign with Jesus during the millennium, the thousand year reign of Jesus upon the earth. During that time, there will be people who survived the Tribulation—the time of God's judgment upon the earth. In that day, we who are Christians will not die, we will be in our new bodies; but there will be people who have lived through and survived the Tribulation. In their human bodies, they will continue to bear children, experience death, and make choices regarding righteousness. Those who choose not to walk in the ways of the Lord, will be accursed—they will not enjoy God's blessings, peace, and protection.

Look Up!

God gives us a future and a hope. We should always be looking up. For this game you will need tape, enough suckers for each child in your class, and blindfolds for each child. Use old cloth or make several blindfolds from black construction paper and yarn.

During an out-of-class worship time, tape as many suckers as the number of children in your class to the wall. Make them high enough so the children will have to stretch to reach them. Before they re-enter class, pass out the blindfolds and help them put them on. Tell them they will be searching around the room for treasure, and not to tell anyone else where it is if they find it. It will spoil the game if they tell. Let the children search for a couple of minutes.

Tell them that they will be playing a game to learn about searching for God's treasure. Explain that they will go into the room and search around for the treasure. Tell them not to tell anyone else where it is if they find it. It will spoil the game if they tell. Let the children search for a couple of minutes. Then have them remove their blindfolds. Tell the children to look up and get a sucker.

When the children have been seated, talk about finding God's treasure. To find God's treasure, we need to look up. God has all sorts of wonderful things in store for us. Let's learn to look up just like God was encouraging Isaiah to do.

ISAIAH 65:21-22

They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

In those days, there were not too many people who owned land or had homes to live in. In fact, many people were slaves and lived in whatever conditions their master gave to them. Still, today, there are millions of people who are not free to choose their own form of labor or own their own homes or property. God promises us that things will be different in the new heaven and earth. All His children will be free to live and enjoy the labor of their hands. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:23

They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

The Lord is telling Isaiah that children will be a blessing and not grow up apart from the Lord. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children the ways of the Lord. We are to share the truth of God's Word with our children and lead by the example of our own lives. When we are faithful to do that, our children will grow up to praise the Lord and not part from His ways. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

ISAIAH 65:24-25

"It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

The Lord finishes speaking to Isaiah with a very strong and beautiful illustration. First, God will answer the call of His children *before* they call and while they are still speaking. What a wonderful relationship. God shows His great desire for communion and intimacy with His people. The Bible tells us God already knows what we need before we ask; in fact, He knows what we need before we even know what we need. Why pray then? Because, God desires our expressions of faith and surrender and the sweet fellowship prayer brings.

And, what peace will cover the earth during the millennial reign! The Lord used examples of predators and prey to demonstrate the complete peace that will cover the earth. The lamb will not fear to feed near the wolf, for both will enjoy complete harmony with God. Since the time of the Fall, when sin entered the world, man has not known such harmony, with God, with other men, or with the animal kingdom. There will be total and complete peace.

The life of a Christian is not always an easy life. When life becomes difficult, what a joy it is to look forward to better days ahead. Let us remember this world is not our home. We walk by faith, seeing a future kingdom. **God gives us a future and a hope.**

Heavenly Mansion

This craft will help the children to remember their memory verse. You will need as many copies of the template as the number of children in your class. For best results, copy the template on white card stock. You will also need markers or crayons, tape, scissors, a stapler, glue, cotton balls, enough coffee stirrers, and sheets of light blue construction paper for each child in your class.

Ask the children to cut out (or assist them) the castle template. Ask them to write the memory verse on the main wall, and then color the castle using markers or crayons. Roll the castle to make a cylinder (small mansion) and staple or tape together. Cut three to four small slits at the base of the cylinder (more if needed). This will make small flaps so that you can tape the cylinder to the blue construction paper. The blue construction paper will serve as the base for the mansion to stand on.

Next, glue cotton balls around the base of the mansion so that they give the appearance of clouds. After that, tape or glue on a coffee stick from the top for a flagpole. Cut out the flag from the template. Have the children write their name on the flag and glue or tape it to the coffee stick.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has prepared for them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

