

PARENT GUIDE

Hello Kindergarten and First Grade Parents!

Here are some At Home Activities *suggestions* for you to do with your child(ren). Everyone is different, so feel free to pick any or all of these ideas to fit the needs and desires of your family.

1. Watch YouTube Worship Song and Bible Story Video
 - SEE PAGE 3
 - Scroll down on link box to see suggested YouTube worship song
2. Discuss Bible Story
3. Memory Verse Activity
4. Pray Together
5. “God Time” pages to reinforce the lesson throughout the week
6. FOR PARENTS ONLY: Parent Cue Weekly Blog – LAST PAGE

YOUR CHILD WILL EARN 3 POINTS TO SPEND AT THE STORE FOR EACH COMPLETED ACTIVITY AND 10 POINTS FOR A COMPLETED “GOD TIME”
~ PLEASE EMAIL ME POINTS EARNED EACH WEEK ~

Losborne@hillcrestcov.org

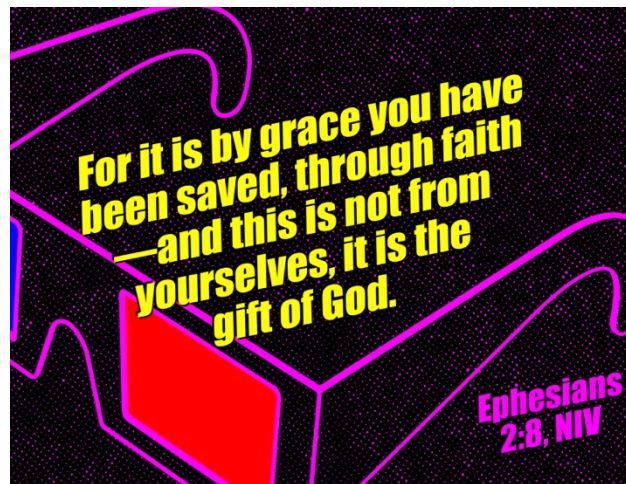
Also, don't forget to fill out the HCKids online connection card to say “hi” or to let us know your prayer requests or questions:

<https://hillcrestcov.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/284/responses/new>

Praying you all are well, safe, growing in faith, and having fun during our time apart!
Please reach out if you need anything at all.

Lisa Osborne
HCKids Elementary Coordinator

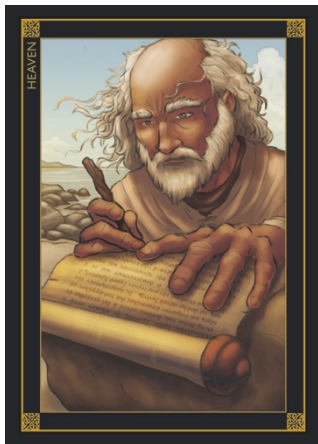
FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, WE WILL BE STUDYING:



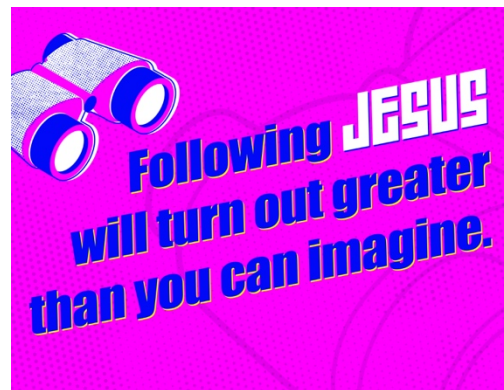
THIS WEEK WE FOCUS ON:

BIBLE STORY

Revelation 21:3-5a



BOTTOM LINE



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. *WATCH YouTube worship song (scroll down on link box to find YouTube link) and Bible VIDEO HERE:* <https://at-home.playlister.app/3e01533f-d769-41b3-9cff-91ac5761fbc5/0dddf5a3-77a9-4b39-b48f-79abe3a36a52>

2. TALK ABOUT: In and Out

What You Need: Hula hoop or line string or tape.

What You Do:

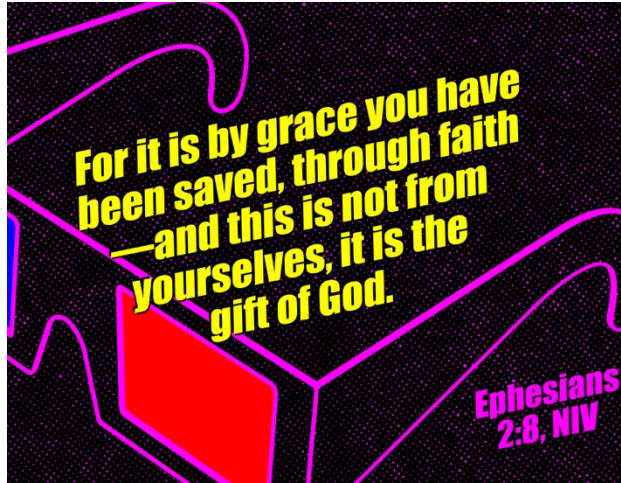
- Place Hula hoop in an area large enough for kids to jump in and out of the hoop without bumping into anything.
- *Option—if you're using tape or string instead of hula hoops, place it down the center of the room then designate one side as IN and the other as OUT.*
- Have them listen carefully as you say a word.
- If they think the word describes something we believe to be true about heaven, they should quickly jump Inside one of the hoops (*or to the designated "IN" side of the tape line*).
- However, if the word does not describe something true about heaven, they should jump or stay on the OUTside of one of the hoops.
- Read words one at a time from the list below.
- Pause as needed to clarify or help kids better understand what we believe the Bible tells us about heaven.
 - Death
 - Joy
 - Life forever
 - Crying
 - No sickness
 - Lies
 - Forgiveness
 - Truth
 - No pain
 - Bullies
 - Friends
 - Stealing
 - Love
 - Worship of God
 - Bad words
 - Singing
 - Hate
 - Selfishness
 - Jesus
 - People who believe in Jesus

What You Say:

“The Bible doesn’t tell us a lot about what heaven will look like, but one thing you can know for sure is that heaven will be the best place ever because we won’t be separated from God at all! Being with Him forever is better than anything we can imagine. That’s why God wants us to put our faith in Him and believe in Jesus. In today’s story, John didn’t know exactly when the things God showed him would happen, and neither do we. But what John shows us is that heaven is GOOD. God has a big plan and for those who believe in Jesus, He is preparing a place that is perfect for each of His kids. **[Bottom Line] Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine. Count on it.**”

3. MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY –

What You Need: Bibles



What You Say:

“Do you remember where our Memory Verse is found in the Bible? *(Allow kids to answer.)* Say it with me. *(Recite Ephesians 2:8 with the kids.)* What an awesome verse this is! It tells you about God’s grace. Grace means He gives you good things you don’t deserve. It tells you about God’s amazing gift to you—Jesus. And, it tells you that believing in Jesus is the way you can know for sure you are part of God’s family forever. That’s what faith is all about. By faith you can believe that **[Bottom Line] following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.**”

4. PRAY TOGETHER

What You Do:

- Let kids choose partners.
- Show kids how to make half of a heart shape with one hand and put it next to their partner’s hand, making the same shape, to form the shape of a heart.
- As partners hold their hands together, lead in the sentence prayers below.
- With each prayer, invite kids to switch partners and make another heart with their hands.

What You Say:

“Let’s pray with our partners. Repeat after me:

(Pause as needed for kids to follow along.) “Dear God, thank You so much for heaven. Thank You that there will be love and joy in heaven. *(Switch partners.)* Thank You that there will be no more crying or hurt. *(Switch partners.)* Thank You that You will take those who believe in You to heaven to be with You. *(Switch partners.)* Help us to love and obey You because following Jesus will turn out greater than WE can imagine. Amen.”

5. GOD-TIME THROUGHOUT THE WEEK TO REINFORCE BIBLE STUDY (NEXT PAGE)

~ WORTH 10 POINTS FOR THE “STORE” ~

FAITH

TRUSTING IN WHAT
YOU CAN'T SEE

BECAUSE OF WHAT
YOU CAN SEE

WEEK **4**
K-1st

BOTTOM LINE: Following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine. Read 2 Peter 3:13

DAY
1

The Promise of Heaven

Grab some paper and some crayons or watercolor paints. Spend a few minutes painting or coloring what you think heaven will look like.

God has made a big promise to us. (And God **always** keeps His promises.) When we trust Jesus, we can be a part of God's family forever in a place where nothing bad or sad ever happens! We will live with God in a perfect place and it will be more amazingly awesome than we could ever imagine.

DAY
2

Seeds

Have you ever planted a seed and watched it grow? If you look at a seed on its own, it's not all that exciting. But when you check the picture on the front of the seed packet, you see what that tiny seed can become.

It can be hard to wait for good things, just like it can be hard to wait for a seed to grow. But God promises us something we can look forward to when we put our trust in Jesus. One day, we will live with God in a place He's made perfect, forever. And in the waiting, we can choose to follow Jesus everyday knowing that His way is the best! Remember, **following Jesus will turn out better than you can imagine.**

DAY
3

Fish Talking

Do you have a pet fish? What if you could shrink down, jump into the bowl and talk to your fish? What if you could tell him all about what life is like outside his fishbowl? What would you tell him?

When it comes to heaven and spending forever with God, we're kind of like that fish. We won't be able to understand everything about heaven until we experience it. While we don't know all the details, God has made it very clear how to get there! When we put our trust in Jesus, we can live forever with God in a place full of happiness and joy.

DAY
4

Follow the Leader

Grab a friend or sibling and play a few rounds of "Follow the Leader." Take turns so that you both have the chance to lead and follow.

The best thing about following Jesus is that you can trust Him. He will always lead you in the right direction. When you put your faith and trust in Jesus, you will live forever with Him in a perfect place. Because following Jesus will turn out greater than you can imagine.

Ask Jesus to help you follow Him each day and thank Him for the promise of heaven.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FUTURE THERAPIST OF MY CHILDREN

By Jon Acuff

Dear therapist who may one day be counseling my children,

There are two things I need to say right out of the gate:

1. I tried my best.
2. I hope you have a sound machine.

The second point is more of a personal preference rather than a revelation. Having gone to counseling myself, I appreciate when a therapist has some sort of sound machine that makes you feel like you're at the beach. Gentle electronic waves lapping against the shore tend to help you forget you're actually in a strip mall off the highway. The second point is easy to address, the first point is a little more detailed.

I did try my best as a parent, but I know my kids are going to have many, many things to tell you about someday. They will sit on a couch and regale you with stories from their childhoods. Some will make you laugh. We put a high price on humor in our family, and laughter often filled the halls of our home.

Some stories will be gross. Ask them about the time we thought a squirrel had died within our walls. Turns out it was a year-old ostrich egg that had cracked undetected in a decorative bowl. The smell was like getting punched in the face by a vengeful bird from another continent.

Other stories will not be as funny, and you will quickly discover something I had to admit a few years into the adventure of parenting. I am not perfect. I tried to be for the first few years. I promise I did. But all too often . . .

I was impatient with my kids.

I lost my temper over things that didn't really matter.

I discouraged when I should have encouraged or encouraged when I should have been more realistic.

I gave them bad advice.

I took some things too seriously and others too casually.

I chased after my work instead of after them. I was on the road traveling for business, trying to be somebody when I already was somebody . . . A dad. A father. And in this case, a launch pad for some therapist's new boat.

Tell my kids I love them. That I'm so proud I got to be their dad. Tell them parenting involves a lot of mistakes and forgiveness, and messiness, and laughter. Tell them I'll pick up the bill for your work—which I assume might be high, depending on the quality of sound machine you've got.

Sincerely,

A not-so-perfect parent.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:

ParentCue.org

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