



# Benediction: Our Forever

## SUPPLIES

### Needed



#### TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)\*
- “Being in Heaven” Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)

#### TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs\* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering\*
- Blank paper and crayons for heaven pictures

#### OPTIONAL:

- Kid’s Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons\* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

\*These items will be needed every week.

## LEADER’S Review

This is the last of the forty-eight core lessons on worship. The intention of every word and the prayer behind all these lessons have been to lead our children to Christ so they may lead their generation into true praise and worship of the one true God. God’s Holy Word ends with the benediction into eternity—“Come Lord Jesus!” Use this benediction to invite your students into this eternal rest where we will be with Jesus forever.

Share your personal story with the children and tell them why you know you are going to spend forever with Jesus. Let them know you long to see them there as well. Be very intentional with the gospel presentation. Remind them every time we are given the benediction blessing at the end of the corporate worship service, we must remember it could be the last. Jesus could return at any moment. Are you ready? Assurance of eternal life is something every covenant child needs. The Holy Spirit alone can change their hearts. Pray for the Spirit to work as you tell the great ending, the great benediction, to God’s story.

We have seen that a benediction is a statement of good will and happiness promised by God as well as the condition that fulfills that promise. God’s original design in creation was for His creatures, including mankind, to experience prosperity, peace, and fulfillment. That design was ruined when sin entered the world. Statements of blessing are a wish for God to restore His favor on others or a declaration of His inherent goodness. The ultimate blessing God has given is the new life and forgiveness that comes through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. The material blessings we enjoy from day to day are temporary, but the spiritual blessings available to us in Christ encompass time and eternity, as well as all other things. As the psalmist said, “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God” (Ps. 146:5).





## Reading of the Word

*Read scripture. (2-4 minutes)*

Jude 17-25)

<sup>17</sup> But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” <sup>19</sup> It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

**<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

Revelation 22:12-21

<sup>12</sup> “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” <sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**



## Prayer

*Recite the Lord's Prayer together. (1 minute)*

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



## Hearing the Word

*Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (4-6 minutes)*

Today we read two of the last benedictions in the Bible. They both point us toward heaven. Most benedictions do mention “forever.” As followers of Christ we can know for sure there is a forever place, and we are going to be there. John, one of Jesus’s special disciples, wrote the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, and the book of Revelation we read from today. He said he wrote all those books so that we might KNOW that we have eternal life, making our joy complete.

I plan to spend forever with Jesus and this is how I know for sure: God has chosen me to be His child. He has changed my heart from a hard sinful one to a heart that longs to love and serve Him. Because I have a new heart, I have been able to believe for certain all my sins are covered by the blood Jesus shed on the cross. He died and took my sins away. I am no longer guilty before God, but I stand clean because of Jesus. I have hated and turned away from loving sin to loving Jesus. That is called repentance. Best of all, the Spirit who lives in my heart has given me the gift of faith—faith to believe, faith to love and obey God, faith to know I will live forever with God in heaven.

One day, my body will die here on earth, and I will wake up in eternity unless Jesus comes back first. Either way, I know I have a soul that will never die and you do too. I want to see each one of you in heaven with Jesus and me. ***(Call each child by name—Caleb, I want to see your face. Jonah, I hope we will sing to Jesus together there...)*** I am going to pray right now that each of you will be given the faith to believe and live with Jesus forever in heaven.

***PRAY—Name each child in your prayer as you ask Jesus to save them, bring them to repentance and faith in Him.***

In his benediction, Jude wrote to remind us that we need God to keep us from stumbling. Jude knew that this life was going to be hard because of sin. However, Jesus has already presented us clean and innocent before God. In other words, it’s tough now, but forever is coming soon! John saw the gates of heaven. He was shown by God what it was like so he could write it down for us. The very last page of the Bible talks about heaven’s gates, our white robes, the tree of life, and the holy city. Heaven is real, and we don’t have to worry about whether or not God is going to let us in. Jesus has paid our way.

What would you like to do in heaven? How do you think heaven will be different from living on earth?

**ACTIVITY #1: Being in Heaven Activity.** *Let the children talk about what they hope to do in heaven. Give each one a “Being in Heaven” activity sheet. Have them circle the things they would hope to do.*

Here’s what we know for sure: God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will be there. There is going to be a big feast, so there must be food. We are going to worship God forever and ever. We will do all the things we’ve studied each week—Worshipping! When will you be there? We just read that Jesus said, “I am coming soon.” When He went up into the clouds He told His friends, “I’m going to get a place ready for you. And when I come back, I will take you with Me.”

*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

**ACTIVITY #2: Draw heaven. Give each child a plain sheet of paper to draw and color what they think heaven will look like.**

Gates, thrones, feasts, angels, city—what do you think heaven will look like? What will definitely not be in heaven? (*Sin, death, pain, tears, sickness.*)



## **Benediction**

***Recite the following verse. (1 minute)***

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Num. 6:24-26).

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