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Heaven: A Sneak Preview

Key References: John 14:1-3; *Early Writings*, pp. 11-20; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 9-14; vol. 10, pp. 205-208; Our Beliefs, nos. 18, 28, 17















power**text**

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 60.

LEARN Begin learning the power text.

power**point**

By God's grace we prepare to live with Him forever.

Have you ever dreamed of a new house, or a room of your own? What color would it be? What would be in it? Can you imagine Jesus designing a place just for you?

There was so much Jesus wanted to tell His disciples before He left them. He knew how much they would miss Him after He was gone. Leaning close, He said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). John remembered these words of comfort Jesus had spoken and included them in the Gospel that he wrote. Many centuries later a young girl named Ellen Harmon accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and Friend. One day Jesus chose to give her a vision of what heaven is like.

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Sunday

READ Read John 3:16 and this week's story, "Heaven: A Sneak Preview."

DRAW Draw a picture of heaven as Ellen White describes it. Write the power text below your drawing. Begin to learn it.

PRAY Thank God for eternal life available to us in Jesus.

Monday

READ Read Romans 5:21.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK Imagine how it will be when we get to heaven and live there forever, not having to return to this earth as Ellen did at the end of her vision.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for eternal life.

Tuesday

READ Read Isaiah 11:6-9.

TALK Phone a friend and share what you hope to do and see in heaven.

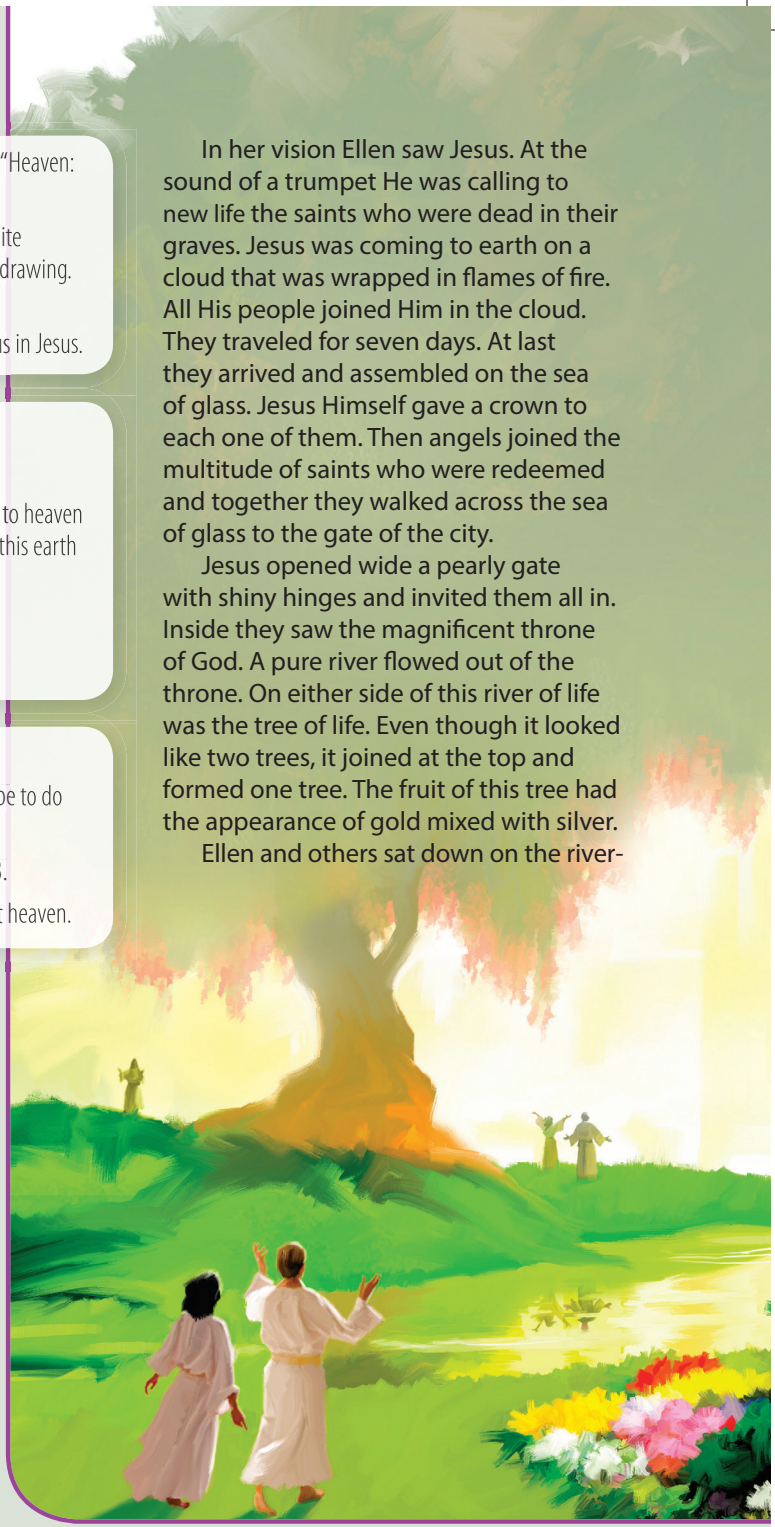
REVIEW Repeat the power text, John 14:1-3.

PRAY Pray that you may tell someone about heaven.

In her vision Ellen saw Jesus. At the sound of a trumpet He was calling to new life the saints who were dead in their graves. Jesus was coming to earth on a cloud that was wrapped in flames of fire. All His people joined Him in the cloud. They traveled for seven days. At last they arrived and assembled on the sea of glass. Jesus Himself gave a crown to each one of them. Then angels joined the multitude of saints who were redeemed and together they walked across the sea of glass to the gate of the city.

Jesus opened wide a pearly gate with shiny hinges and invited them all in. Inside they saw the magnificent throne of God. A pure river flowed out of the throne. On either side of this river of life was the tree of life. Even though it looked like two trees, it joined at the top and formed one tree. The fruit of this tree had the appearance of gold mixed with silver.

Ellen and others sat down on the river-



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bank and tried to remember some of the troubles from their days on earth. But they couldn't recall them clearly. Compared to the glorious things they were seeing and feeling, any troubles they had experienced on the earth seemed insignificant.

Then, in Ellen's vision, she and the others went back to the new earth with Jesus. When they looked up, they saw the magnificent Holy City coming down from heaven. Outside of the city Ellen saw houses shining with the glimmer of silver, each sustained by pillars and adorned with pearls. These houses were for the human beings Jesus saved through His sacrifice. Each house had a special shelf for the crowns Jesus had given them. They set their crowns there when they wanted to go out and work in the garden. But even the work in the garden wasn't like it had been before. It wasn't sweaty and tiring. It was enjoyable.

In her vision Ellen saw a field full of all kinds of wonderful flowers. She picked them, knowing that they wouldn't ever fade. In another field were all kinds of



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Wednesday

READ Read John 5:24 and 1 John 5:13.

THINK When does eternal life actually begin? How does it feel to know that as a believer you have the seeds of eternal life in you?

FIND In whom does eternal life originate? 1 John 5:11; 1 John 5:20.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that He has planted in you the seeds of eternal life and that living with Jesus can begin now.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 to an adult.

ASK Ask the adult to tell you what this text is saying about heaven. What things in this text excite you about going to heaven?

THINK How can you know that you have the key to heaven? John 3:16; Jude 21.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you accept eternal life.

Friday

READ Read John 14:2: "In My Father's house are many mansions." On a separate sheet of paper, design your own home in heaven. What would you like to have in your house? With whom will you share your home?

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAISE Thank God that His grace keeps us forever.

animals—lions, lambs, leopards, and wolves—all getting along just fine. She entered woods that were not dark and scary, as woods are now. It was sunny there, bright, and very safe.

On Mount Zion Ellen saw a majestic temple that was supported by seven pillars of transparent gold and decorated with most precious pearls. Surrounding the temple were seven other mountains where roses and lilies grew. Children climbed the mountains and picked the flowers. Sometimes they used their little wings instead of climbing.

Later in her vision Ellen heard Jesus call them all back to the city for supper. When they entered, they saw a table of silver that was miles and miles long. But they could still see the other end. It was already set with fruit from the tree of life, manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and lots of other fruit.

Ellen wanted to stay and eat, but Jesus told her that she must go back to earth and tell others what she had seen. When she awoke from her vision, everything seemed dreary in comparison. Sometimes after that she would be sad and lonely. She wanted to go back where everything had been joy and light.

Ellen saw heaven in a vision. When finally you and I see that land, we will stay and eat of the heavenly fruit. God's grace will keep us forever.

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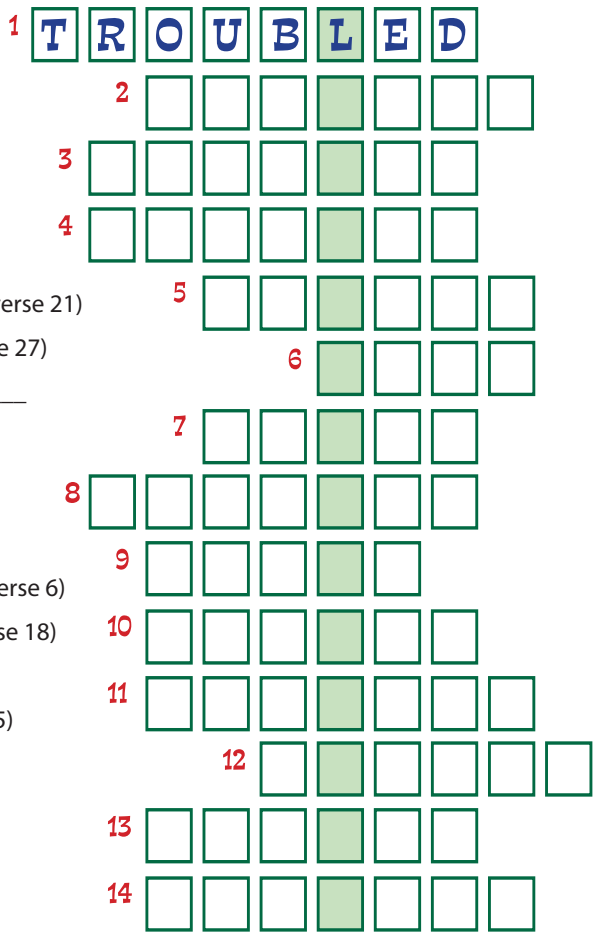
PUZZLE
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HOME AT LAST

Instructions: All of the single-word answers to this puzzle can be found in John 14.

Clues:

1. Concerned (verse 1)
2. Via, assisted by (verse 6)
3. Eternity, always (verse 16)
4. To accept as true (verse 11)
5. "He who loves me, . . . [I will] manifest _____to him." (verse 21)
6. "My peace I _____ you." (verse 27)
7. Expression, put into _____ (verse 10)
8. Make ready (verse 2)
9. To give instruction, show how (verse 26)
10. Other than, but, apart from (verse 6)
11. Children without parents (verse 18)
12. Arriving, returning (verse 28)
13. A name meaning twin (verse 5)
14. Accept, get, obtain (verse 17)



Puzzle Clue: Because God L _ _ _ _ you, He has given you the gift of _ _ _ _ _. You are forgiven, and you are promised a _ _ _ _ with the righteous.

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