



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Elementary Devotional

November 2022

We know Heaven is real because Jesus came back to life and returned to Heaven.

How can we know that we'll really come back to life after we die? It's because Jesus already did it! The best thing about Heaven is that we'll get to live there with Jesus, along with all of the people we care about who love God.

Introduction:

Have you ever been to Disneyland?

Do you believe Disneyland really exists?



We believe in places like Disneyland, don't we? We believe they are real even if we've never been. We believe because we've seen photos. We believe because we've heard stories from friends and classmates. Maybe we've never been there, but we believe.

That brings us back to our topic, Heaven. Have you ever been to Heaven? Do you know anyone who went to Heaven and came back? Have you ever seen photos?

Heaven is a real place. The Bible tells us so, but how can we know so? We've never been there. No one alive that we know has been there. So how can we trust when we die, God is going to take us to this place called Heaven?

If you are a Christian, you know someone who has been there. He's there now, preparing a place for you and me to live when we die. Jesus is not only a resident, but the king of all Heaven, and according to Paul, we can believe Heaven is real because we believe in Jesus.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

We Will Be Raised from Death

¹² It is preached that Christ was raised from death. So why do some of you say that people will not be raised from death? ¹³ If no one will ever be raised from death, then Christ was not raised from death. ¹⁴ And if Christ was not raised, then our preaching is worth nothing. And your faith is worth nothing. ¹⁵ And also, we will be guilty of lying about God. Because we have preached about him by saying that he raised Christ from death. And if people are not raised from death, then God never raised Christ from death. ¹⁶ If the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is for nothing; you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ And also, those in Christ who have already died are lost. ¹⁹ If our hope in Christ is for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone else in the world.

²⁰ But Christ has truly been raised from death—the first one and proof that those who are asleep in death will also be raised.

Main Point:

Paul was writing to a group of believers who had their doubts about life after death. They weren't sure there was a place called Heaven. Paul assured them that the dead will rise again. We can believe this because we know Jesus rose from the grave. Because Jesus lives, we know we can live again, and we can go to the place Jesus is preparing for us.

Jesus is preparing a place called Heaven. It's a place always lit up by the glory of God. There's no sin there, and because there's no sin, there's no more sickness or dying. It is Creation, the way God intended before Adam and Eve sinned.

Heaven is the destination for all who believe in Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we can believe with all our hearts that one day, we will see him in Heaven.

Many people refuse to believe in Heaven because they can't see it. You can't point to Heaven on a map, and you can't find it in the stars. So how can we trust that Heaven is out there some place?

Those who don't believe because they can't see Heaven are only fooling themselves when they say they can't believe in things unseen. Have you ever seen oxygen, the air that we breathe? Have you ever seen the microorganisms that can get into our bodies that make us sick? You can tell yourself the flu bug doesn't exist all you want; when you get sick, you'll feel the effect of the bug. You will know it is real!



People who believe in Jesus and follow him daily have no trouble believing Jesus is alive and well. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, he gives us his Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, we receive guidance for our lives. Like the wind in our hair and the flu bug in our stomach, we see the impact of the Holy Spirit every day in our lives and in others.

The Bible tells us Jesus is alive. He has conquered death, and he is seated at the right hand of God in Heaven. Because we believe in Jesus, we can believe in Heaven. We can trust it is a real place, and we can trust that when we die, we will go there to be with Jesus forever.

You can't find Heaven on a map or see it with your eyes, but you can believe in Heaven, just the same as we believe in Jesus. Jesus rose from the grave and returned to Heaven to prepare a place for us. We can believe in Heaven because we can believe in Jesus.



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Answer the questions and mail to: SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381.

Please print legibly.

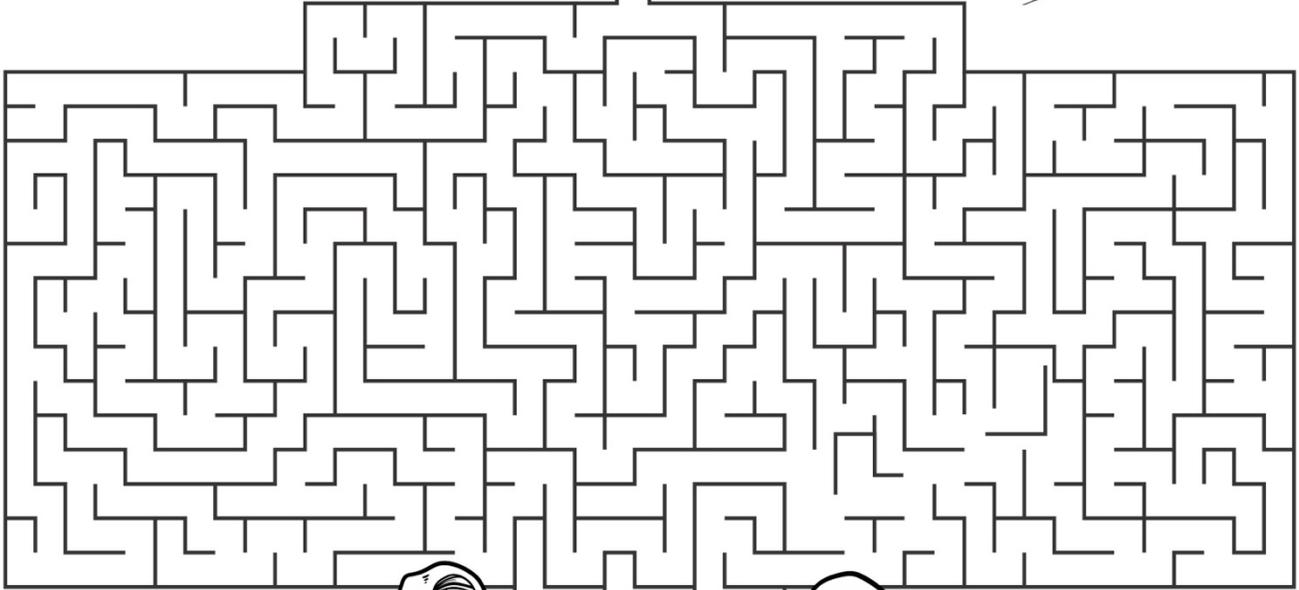
Camper's Name:

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1. What things do we believe in that we cannot see?
2. What happened to Jesus after he died?
3. Where did Jesus go after he died?
4. Whom does Jesus want to take to Heaven?
5. How can we know that Heaven is real?



START

