

MY PLACE IN SPACE

Stewardship of My New Body



- Display today's topic
- Song service
- Opening prayer

Reinforcement Time With Show and Tell Volunteers

[Suggested question: This week have you had any new ideas about your responsibility for the universe?]

[Invite the show and tell volunteers to share what they have learned or enjoyed about the universe this week. You may be able to add some of what they brought to the Stewardship Bulletin Board.]

[Ask for volunteers who will bring something to the next meeting that reminds them or teaches them about stewardship of our new body.]

Introduction: [Invite someone who plays the trumpet to come and play a reveille for the group.]

We have talked about our stewardship of things and places on this earth. Last time we talked about our stewardship of the universe. Now we're going to discuss a part of our stewardship which will begin sometime soon. The trumpet music might remind you of what

it is that will happen soon. Any ideas? [Wait for answers.]

Jesus will soon come. The Bible tells us He's going to blow His silver trumpet and wake up the people who are going to go home with Him. (I Thessalonians 4:16) The trumpet we heard was pretty loud, but not loud enough to wake up dead people. Imagine what Jesus' special trumpet is going to be like! Imagine

MATERIALS NEEDED

Activity 1: copies of resurrection peek-a-boo picture (P-20) for everyone; crayons

Activity 2: song: "I Will Wear a Crown"; flip chart; marker

Activity 3: invite someone who plays a stringed instrument to the program

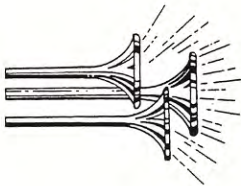
Activity 4: materials for children to make gold crowns--gold paper, sequins, glue; crayons or marking pens (you'll need these materials for Program 12); Bibles; Bible concordance; song: "Welcome Home Children"

being in a cemetery when that happens. People will be waking up and seeing Jesus coming to take them home.

Michael lives in a place where a battle was fought a long time ago. Sometimes he sits on his porch and imagines what it's going to be like when Jesus comes and blows His trumpet. Jesus' friends who were killed on the battlefield 100 years ago will wake up and see Him coming.

How do you know that people will wake up to see Jesus coming? [Allow responses.] Some may have died in the ocean and been eaten by sharks. In Nigeria some tribes bury family members under the kitchen floor. Some people are cremated and their ashes are sprinkled in various places or kept in a special container. Will Jesus have a problem resurrecting these people?

One of the wonderful things about the resurrection is that people will wake up with brand new bodies, glorious bodies that will grow but will never wear out or die. Jesus will give all of us new bodies, whether we are resurrected or are still alive when He comes.



Activity No. 1: A Resurrection Peek-a-boo picture.

Give each person a peek-a-boo picture (P-20) of the resurrection to color. Be sure they understand how to fold it so they can share the surprise with others.



Activity No. 2: What will your new body be like?

[Have the group brainstorm what it would be like to have a heavenly body. Possible answers could be: we can visit face to face with Jesus; space travel will be easy; we can play harps without practicing; we will not get tired; we will still eat; we will recognize our friends; we can see our guardian angel; children will have wings and can fly; we can look at God's creation under the water without fear of drowning.]

[After the discussion about heavenly bodies, encourage each person to share what he/she would like to do in heaven. Then turn their wishes into spontaneous verses to the tune of "I Will Wear a Crown," Examples: "I will do great art", "I will play a harp," "I will sing on tune," "I will praise my God," etc.]

I will do great art
In my Father's house
In my Father's house
In my Father's house.
I will do great art
In my Father's house,
And there'll be joy, joy, joy!

Space travel will be easy. In Ellen White's first vision she saw what Jesus' second coming would be like. She even found out that our trip home to heaven will take seven days. [See *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 33.] How will this happen? It's hard to imagine traveling through space without a space ship. Mrs. White says we will go on a great cloud.

In *Early Writings*, pages 287, 288, she adds, "On each side of the cloudy chariot were wings, and beneath it were living wheels; and as the chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, 'Holy,' and the wings, as they moved, cried, 'Holy,' and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, 'holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!' And the saints in the cloud cried 'Glory! Alleluia!' And the chariot rolled upward to the Holy City."

Now I want each one of you to share something you imagine about that trip as we roll along with our family and friends and guardian angels and Jesus with us. What do you want to see, or who do you want beside you, or how you will feel? We'll write your ideas here on the flip chart.



Activity No. 3: *Learning to play a stringed instrument.*

Music lessons will not be necessary. What will happen when we get to heaven? Here is what Ellen White saw. "In the same manner the angels brought the harps, and Jesus presented them also to the saints. The commanding angels first struck the note, and then every voice was raised in grateful, happy praise, and every hand skillfully swept over the strings of the harp, sending forth melodious music in rich and perfect strains." *Early Writings*, p. 288 or *The Story of Redemption*, p. 413. We will instantly be able to sing beautifully and play a harp perfectly the first time we try.

Here on earth these types of instruments are difficult to play. You have to practice for

years. But Jesus will do more than just give us a new harp. He will also give us the ability to play it.

What other activities can you imagine doing in heaven that are impossible to do here on earth? [Encourage responses.]

[Invite someone to the class who plays a stringed instrument. If possible have a few of the group members try to strum a tune.]



Activity No. 4: *How will we dress our new bodies?*

In addition to receiving harps, Jesus will give us new clothes and golden crowns to wear. The people who die for Jesus' sake will have clothes with a red trim around the bottom.

[Have **children** make gold crowns. Write "Holiness to the Lord" across the front of the crowns. Provide rhinestone "jewels" or sequins for them to place on the crowns and discuss what the jewels represent (people we have led to Jesus). Have volunteers read texts in the Bible that tell where "Holiness to the Lord" was written (Ex. 28:36, 37--Aaron, the high priest; Zech. 14:20--on the bells of the horses).]

Our crowns in heaven will be very special, just like Aaron's was when he stood before God in the tabernacle during the years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness.

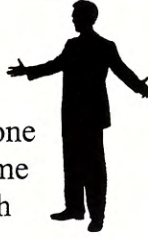
[Have **adults** do a word search on "crowns" and "jewels" in a Bible concordance and discuss what they find, then summarize what they have learned from this study.]

[Have someone sing "Welcome Home, Children" as a closing song.]

❑ Summary

[Suggested questions to ask: What do you like best about getting a new body? Is there anything that worries or frightens you from our class today?]

[Pay very close attention if anyone was worried or frightened. Take time after class to reassure and pray with them.]



❑ Reminder to Show and Tell Volunteers

[Call the names of those who volunteered for the next program and hand them written reminders. See the Sample Program for a suggested reminder.]



❑ Closing prayer