

MY PLACE IN SPACE

Stewardship of My New Home

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

Reinforcement Time With Show and Tell Volunteers

Who wants to share interesting thoughts you have had about the new bodies we will receive at Jesus' second coming?

[Invite the show and tell volunteers to present what they have brought that illustrates good stewardship. You may be able to add something 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 homes in heaven.]

Activity No. 1: *Keeping house in heaven.*

Jesus is preparing a special place for us to live while the earth has time to recover from sin. It will be a time for us to recover too. Some people think living in heaven is just sitting on a cloud for thousands of years strumming a harp. But there will be a lot more to do in heaven than that! During that thousand years we will be able to take trips. What place would you like to visit during those years? [Have each group member answer.]

Let's read about the preparations Jesus has made for us. [Have a volunteer read John

14:1-3.]

Mansions sound beautiful. How many of you live in a mansion now? We don't, do we? We can't even imagine how wonderful the places are that Jesus is preparing for us.

How long have you lived in your house? [Have each group member answer.] How would you like to live in the same house for a thousand years? The time that we spend in heaven--the thousand years--is called the millennium. Let's try to imagine the difference between a thousand year old house on earth and one in heaven. How will our stewardship responsibilities be different? [Make a chart similar to the illustration (P-21). If your group is unable to get started, here are some

suggestions to think about: maintenance; decorations; construction; heating; lighting; etc.]

Activity No. 2: *Sword drill of "won't be's."*

There are a lot of things that won't be in heaven. Let's sing a song about two of them. [Sing "Soon and Very Soon," *Sing for Joy*, No. 89. You may want to invent other verses in addition to no more crying and dying.]

Let's make a list of the things that won't be in heaven.

Revelation 21:1--sea
Revelation 21:4--death
Revelation 21:22--church
Revelation 21:23--sun or moon
Revelation 21: 25--night
Revelation 21:25--shut city gates

Activity 1: flip chart & markers; Bibles

Activity 2: song: "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy* No. 89); Bibles

Activity 3: flip chart & markers

Activity 4: paper & pencils for everyone

NOTE: Look ahead to Program 11 so supplies will be ready and adult help contacted.

Revelation 21:27--sin

Revelation 22:3--curse

Activity No. 3: *Questions for God.*

Heaven is a time for healing, a time for us to recover from the sad things that have happened on earth. Many things happen here that we are not able to understand. Sometimes we just have to accept that God will make everything right in the end. When we get to heaven we can ask all of our questions.

What questions would you like to ask God? [Compile a list, encouraging each person to respond. You may want to make copies of this list for each participant.] God takes our questions very seriously even though He does not answer all of them right now. He has scheduled that thousand years in heaven to answer every question we have. Many times during the millennium He will take us to His "heavenly video library" and let us watch what really happened on earth. You can also talk to your guardian angel and find out about all the times your angel protected you from things you didn't even know were happening.

Activity No. 4: *Catching up.*

Who else besides God would you like to talk to in heaven? What would you like to ask or say? [Pause for answers. If the group is large, divide them into small groups who elect a secretary to write down their answers and report them to the full group.]

Some of you will have more family members when you get to heaven. When Michael gets to heaven he won't be the youngest in his family anymore. He will have some baby brothers and sisters who died when they were very tiny. In heaven they will grow up with him. Michael is looking forward to being a big brother.

Ellen White tells about visiting with old friends in heaven. "We all went under the tree and sat down to look at the glory of the place, when Brethren Fitch and Stockman who had preached the gospel of the kingdom, and who God had laid in the grave to save them, came up to us and asked us what we had passed through while they were sleeping. We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the . . . glory that surrounded us that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, 'Alleluia, heaven is cheap enough!' and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven's arches ring." *Early Writings*, page 17.

God has planned something really special for one of your ancestors who is one of my ancestors also. [Be sure that children understand the word ancestor.] We will get to watch it happen. Remember that Adam and Eve had to leave their beautiful garden home after they sinned. When they get to heaven and Adam sees Jesus, he will fall at His feet. Jesus will tenderly lift Adam up and direct his attention to the biggest surprise in the history of the universe. The Garden of Eden will be right there in heaven.

"Transported with joy, he beholds the trees

that were once his delight—the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life and plucks the glorious fruit and bids him eat. He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God" (*The Great Controversy*, pages 647, 648).

Then Adam and Eve, and you and I, and all the angels of heaven will shout praises to God for His great love and salvation.

What one thing will not be in the garden? (The tree of knowledge of good and evil.)



□ Summary

[Suggested questions to ask: Are you ready to be a steward of your new home in heaven? Do you have any questions you want to ask about your new home in heaven?]

[It would be appropriate to sing some praise

songs in closing.]

□ 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