


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 19

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 19: Citizens of Heaven

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>The Kingdom of God is where Jesus rules and reigns!</p> <p><i>Luke 17:20-21</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A small suitcase packed with items you might bring on a trip
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.”</p> <p><i>Philippians 3:20, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I can be a citizen of heaven, an ambassador of God’s kingdom!</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Bring in a small suitcase. Ask the kids if they have ever taken a trip before. What did they pack in their suitcase? Show them some of the things that you packed in your suitcase. Then ask them: What would they pack to go to heaven? What would they need to take with them?

The answer is that God just wants us! The only thing we will take with us will be the

rule and reign of Jesus, because where he is in control, that's where the kingdom of heaven is!

When you accept Jesus Christ as your savior, you become a citizen of heaven. You belong to heaven, and this earth becomes our temporary home. The kingdom of heaven is wherever Jesus rules. Even now, Jesus can rule in our hearts, and the Kingdom of Heaven can live within us!

What country are you a citizen of? How do you know that you are a citizen of that country? What rights and privileges do you have as a citizen?

Take student responses.

Those who believe in Jesus and become children of God are citizens of heaven, where Jesus is the King! A citizen of heaven: has the right to approach God (Hebrews 4:16), to be free from sin (John 8:36), to have peace in their heart (Isaiah 26:3), to find God's victory in everything (1 John 5:4), and so much more! Being a citizen in God's Kingdom is awesome!

While Jesus was living on the earth, several religious leaders came to him and asked, "When will the Kingdom of God come?"

Jesus replied to them, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'here it is!' or 'it's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you!" He was talking about himself. The King of the Kingdom of God was standing right in front of these religious leaders.

Jesus said this because he was standing right in front of these religious leaders but they would not acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God or accept his rulership over them because they were looking for an earthly kingdom instead of looking for God's rule and reign in their lives.

Pick up the suitcase again.

The religious leaders thought that the Kingdom of God was an earthly kingdom. They thought they could pack up their suitcases and take their earthly possessions with them, including the power they had as leaders. They didn't understand that the Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is in charge and in control.

We're going to talk about what it means to be a citizen of heaven and for our lives to be under the rule and reign of Jesus in our small groups today!

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.