

# A Great Family Reunion

Revelation 21:1-6; Isaiah 11:1-9; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 674, 675; *Early Writings*, pp. 13-20

**H**ave you ever seen a lion in the zoo? Would you like to get in the same cage? When we get to heaven, lions will be as tame as kittens and will sleep with the sheep and lambs. What will it be like to be there?

**W**hen the chariot-cloud with Jesus, the angels, and the redeemed from earth arrives in heaven, it stops in front of gates of pearl. Before entering the gates, Jesus gives everyone a crown. Written on the crown is each person's new heavenly name and the words "Holiness to the Lord." Jesus also gives each person a palm branch and a harp. One of the angels leads everyone in a praise song and the people play this song on their harps.

Then Jesus opens the gates. He says, "The battle is over. You are blessed by My Father. I've prepared this place for you from the beginning. Enjoy it; it's yours." Everyone streams in through the gates. They see people they haven't seen in years. They see

people they have only heard or read about. They shout happily to each other: "I'm glad you're here!" "Look who's here!" "See who I brought with me!" "I knew you would be here!" People hug each other. Jesus sits on His throne smiling at all the happy people. Then they turn to Him, take off their crowns, and lay them at His feet.

Suddenly another happy shout rings out. Adam enters the city. Jesus stands and stretches out His arms to him. Adam sees the scars on Jesus' hands. Instead of going into Jesus' arms,

he falls down at Jesus' feet. He cries, "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was killed for my sins!"

Jesus lifts him up and says, "Look around you, Adam."

Adam recognizes the place right away. He sees his old home, the Garden of Eden. But it is even more beautiful than when he lived there. Adam walks among the trees where he used to gather fruit. He smells the flowers he used to pick. He touches the vines he used to train.

Animals come up to him. He sees wolves and lambs playing together. All the



## The Message

Jesus wants us to live with Him forever in a happy, safe place.

## Memory Verse

“ ‘[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away’ ”

(Revelation 21:4, NIV).

animals are so gentle even little children play with them. Goats and leopards, calves and colts, and lions and bear cubs nap together. They all eat the same kind of food. No more eating each other!

Jesus leads Adam to the Tree of Life. He picks a piece of fruit and says, “This is for you



to eat, Adam.” Adam looks at all the people in the crowd standing in the new Eden. They are his children, grandchildren, and great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren. They all belong to his family. He is so happy that Jesus has saved all these people. He places his crown at Jesus’ feet. Finally, he enters Jesus’ arms.

Then Adam picks up his harp. He leads his family in singing his favorite praise song, “Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that died for my sins, and lives again!” All the people take off their crowns and lay them at Jesus’ feet. They bow deeply before Him.

When they rise, they wave their palm branches in praise and shout “Alleluia!” The angels join in their song of praise. “Alleluia, Alleluia!” rings throughout heaven. Everyone is happy to be with Jesus.

## S A B B A T H

**DO** If possible, go for a walk with your family. List the animals and birds you see. What are their natural enemies here? Can you imagine what it will be like in heaven when they will be best friends?

**ASK** As you walk, ask your family what they would like to do when they get to heaven. Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.

**PRAY** Thank Jesus that He died to make it possible for you all to live with Him.

## S U N D A Y

**DO** During family worship find out five facts about wolves and five about sheep. Why are they enemies? Look up Isaiah 11:6. What will happen in heaven?

**DO** Pretend to be the animals mentioned in Isaiah 11:6, 7. See how many your family can guess.

**PRAY** Thank Jesus that heaven is a safe place.

**DO** Write the memory verse on paper clouds. Write a few words on each cloud. Mix up the clouds; then unscramble them. Do this several times.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Revelation 21:1-6 during family worship.

**DO** Using the letters in the word HEAVEN, list as many things that you can think about heaven that begin with each letter. For example: H is for Happy, Hippo, Health.

**DO** Teach your memory verse to your family. Name some family or friends who are very sick or have died. Will they be sick in heaven?

**PRAY** Thank Jesus that there will be no sadness in heaven.

In eternity  
we will never be  
bored. We will never run out of  
things to see and learn.



## T U E S D A Y

**READ** Give a drink of water to everyone during family worship. Say that Jesus offers the water of life to everyone. Read and discuss Revelation 21:4. Imagine no more tears, no pain, no death. What jobs will not be needed in heaven?

**PRAY** Thank Jesus for good water and for the "Water of Life."

## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Revelation 21:2 during family worship. What does the Bible mean when it says "beautiful like a bride"?

**DO** Write (or ask an adult to help you write) a letter to Jesus. Thank Him for His invitation to heaven. Tell Him what you are looking forward to. Ask any questions you might have. Share your letter during family worship.



# THURSDAY

**READ** For family worship read and discuss Revelation 21:5. What does Jesus say about everything He has told John? Make up some true or false questions about heaven. See if your family can tell which are true and which are false.

**THINK** Think of what you do when you have a friend visit you. Will your time in heaven be just a visit? What do you think Jesus is doing to prepare a place for you?

**DO** Make a list of people you want to meet in heaven. Tell why you want to see them.

# FRIDAY

**DO** Today we welcome the Sabbath. This is a special day to spend with Jesus. Help your family get ready for Sabbath.

**READ** Read and discuss Revelation 21:3 during family worship. Who lives in the city?

**SING** Sing songs of praise to God at family worship.

**PRAY** Thank God for His special day, for His love, and for His promise of heaven.

## Heaven

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** Write the letters with matching symbols on the lines below. Unscramble the letters to find words that describe heaven.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



1 2 3 4



1 2 3 4 5

A



B



E



F



H



I

L



P



S



T



U



Y

