

UNITY CHURCH OF OVERLAND PARK

Where is Heaven

K - 5th

3/21/2010

This Week's Theme: The purpose of this lesson is to understand that heaven is not a place that we can go to, but instead a wonderful place inside of us.

Teacher Insights: This week we will take a look at Jesus teachings about the Kingdom of Heaven. This Sunday there are four important points for you to keep in mind throughout the entire lesson. They are:

- Heaven is right here within us.
- We experience Heaven when we see others through loving eyes.
- We experience Heaven when we listen with loving hearts.
- When you open yourself to Spirit and turn an angry situation into a peaceful one... that's heaven.

Unity Writings:

"...we may see that Jesus is not talking about a place (the Kingdom of Heaven) to which we go; nor is it an experience in time. It is not of the future. It is not someplace to go, but rather *something to be*. There is no point in looking for it, for it comes not with observation. It is a potentiality that is always present within or on the spiritual level of life."

- Eric Butterworth, Discover the Power Within You

Heaven--The Christ consciousness; the realm of Divine Mind; a state of consciousness in harmony with the thoughts of God. Heaven is everywhere present. It is the orderly, lawful adjustment of God's kingdom in man's mind, body, and affairs.

- Charles Fillmore, The Revealing Word

Scripture:

"Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

- Luke 17:20-21

Unity Principles: (today's principle is highlighted)

1: God is all Good and active in everything, everywhere.

2: I am naturally good because God's Divinity is in me and in everyone.

3: I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe.

4: Through affirmative prayer and meditation, I connect with God and bring out the good in my life.

5: Practice, Practice, Practice. I do and give my best by living the Truth I know! I make a difference!

Pre-session: Heavenly Contemplation

Make sure you create a sacred space at the tables in your rooms. You can do this by lighting the Christ candle and then placing sacred objects around it.

Greet Parents and Children. As much as possible try to greet parents at the sign-in table.

- At the Sign-in table ask:
 - Please print names
 - Does your child have a **yellow registration form** filled out?
 - Any special needs that we should know about?

Pre-session Activity: Heavenly Contemplation

Materials: Heaven is like worksheets, crayons, markers, pencils

You will find the materials in your tubs. As each child arrives, give them a worksheet and then invite them to complete the phrase 'Heaven is like...' that is written at the top of the sheet. They may write or draw pictures of what heaven is like. After they are done have them all share their visions of Heaven.

Sacred Circle: The Kingdom of God

- **3 Ohms:** In order to synchronize our energies, have the children sit in a circle and begin sacred circle with 3 ohms.
- **Who is Jesus for us in Unity?** Our way-shower, the great master of love.
- **Affirmation:** Heaven is within me all the time!
- **Introductions/Affirmations:** In turn, have each student stand say their name and a characteristic they bring to the classroom. For example, "I am Brandon and I bring peace to the circle today." All the children warm up their hands and put their hands in the prayer position, bow, and say, "Namaste' _____, you are _____!"

Namaste' means: "The light in me sees the light in you."

- **Heart Agreements:** Heart Agreements establish the boundaries of how everyone in the group agrees to "show up" in Sunday school. They are not being TOLD how they must show up; they are telling YOU how they have agreed to show up. During the course of the lesson, you may refer back to the Heart Agreements. For example, if a group of kids is perpetually talking while you are speaking, then you may say to the class as a whole, "What was our heart agreement about listening to speakers?" And let the kids tell you!

Our basic heart agreements are:

**Gentle Hands
Open Hearts
Walking Feet
Listening ears
Kind Words**

- **Love Offering:** Divine Love, Blesses and multiples, all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive. And I am joy-filled and grateful. FYI: students may place lots of things besides money in the love offering basket: joy, friendship, peace, love, etc.

Meditation:

Story: "Like a Treasure Hidden in a Field" Jesus Parables about Heaven, Matthew 13:44 - 48

You will find the scripture printed out for you below. The focus of these parables is that the Kingdom of Heaven (God) is hidden within us, but we can find it if we know where to look for it. The common theme in the parables is that whatever item has been deemed valuable is of more worth than all the rest. It is a metaphor for the search for spiritual truth and what happens when we find it. The treasure in the field, the pearl of great value, and the good fish all represent the items of spiritual truth that lie within us. The idea here is that all that is belongs to Being

and that the true seeker of this wisdom has the ability to draw out the pearl or the treasure or the good fish!

Kingdom of Heaven Parables

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore and sat down and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

Matthew 13: 44 - 48 (NRSV)

Discussion Questions:

- What are these stories about?
- What is their common theme?
- Where does Jesus say we can find heaven? {You may want to share today's scripture (Luke 17:20-21) to help them answer this.}
- What does heaven mean to you?
- How do you know heaven is inside of you?

Creative Expressions:

An Experience of Heaven

Materials: Paper and markers/crayons

You will find the paper in your tubs. Invite the children to write or draw on the paper things or people from their personal experiences that have "felt" heavenly or filled with loving thoughts. Once they have completed their drawings encourage them to share their drawings with each other.

Present Day Parables

Materials: Paper, pencils/pens, bag containing pictures of "heavenly" (a sunset, a baby, loving moments, scenes of nature) things

Younger classes may want to do this activity as an entire class, but feel free to divide your class into smaller groups and have each group create a parable of heaven. Once you have decided how you will complete the activity for your class, have the children draw 3 pictures from the bag. They are then to work together to create their own "Kingdom of heaven" parable based on the pictures they drew out of the bag!

Closing Prayer:

Let us pause for a moment in silence. We send thoughts of love to everyone in the world. Pause.

Father Mother God, thank you for this time together to learn about the power of your presence in our lives and how we always have access to that power in our lives. In this moment we choose to create a wonderful world for all. We allow our Christ light to shine out for the world to see and speak words of love and peace into our world. We are grateful. Thank you God! Amen.

Teacher Reminders: Please HELP

- Return the teacher tub and all supplies to the Resource Room
- Sign out by writing the number of children you had on the Teacher Sign-In Sheet.
- At 11 put the sign-in sheets in your supply tubs.
- Put the love offering in the envelope in your tubs.
- Feel out the "Hums and Areas for Improvement" sheet found behind your curriculum in your tub. Leave the completed sheet in the tub for Brandon to collect after Sunday!