



The Surprise of Heaven - Science Devotion - Heaven

However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love Him. 1st Corinthians 2:9

"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rules of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began." 1st Corinthians 2:6-7

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; Believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may also be." John 14:1-3

Main Spiritual Point:

Someday, Jesus will reveal the BIG SURPRISE of heaven and it's gonna be good!

Science Concept:

Water is unique. Water is a "magnetic-molecule" of sorts and wants to "stick" to itself, a property known as cohesion. Since water has a partially positive and a partially negative end (kind of like the north and south poles of the earth or of a magnet), two different water molecules may become attached and "stick" each other. This cohesive force is due to Hydrogen-Bonding, the attractive force in between the opposite ends of two different water molecules. Hydrogen bonding is responsible for water having a very high surface tension. Another factor at play in our demonstration is air pressure. When the pressure inside the bottle and outside the bottle are equal the water is held inside the bottle though there are holes poked in the sides! Once the cap is removed, the pressure changes and the water will now squirt out the holes of the bottle.

Time Needed:

10 minutes for basic set up and 12 minutes to execute the devotion with kids.

Difficulty:

Easy, but can be messy!

You will need:

- Two identical plastic, empty and clean pop bottles with screw top lids (The bottles can be 32 oz. bottles or 1 liter bottles or 2 liter bottles)
- Thumbtack(s)
- Water source (consider having pitchers of water or gallon jugs)
- Tray or large bucket to capture water
- Paper towels

Tips for Success:

- BE SURE TO PRACTICE this demonstration several times. While it is easy, you need to become familiar.
- Create one bottle ahead of time for the initial demonstration and surprise.
- After the initial surprise has occurred in front of the kids, start over and actually make a new bottle to show how the trick is set up.
- This activity can be done outside if weather permits, allowing for simpler clean up.
- Encourage kids to do this simple trick at home and share "The Surprise of Heaven" with a friend, neighbor or relative.

The Surprise of Heaven - What to Say to Kids

1. Have you ever been invited to a surprise party? Usually, the guests hide around corners, hide behind couches and await the soon-to-be-surprised birthday boy or girl. Imagine, a boy or girl walking into their house, thinking it is just another day. They walk into the living room, and to their shock, they see brightly colored decorations. Then all of their friends jump out and joyfully shout, "SURPRISE"....!
2. Have you ever had a surprise birthday party thrown for YOU? Were you shocked?
3. Have you ever been a part of planning a surprise party for SOMEONE ELSE? Were they surprised?
4. It is fun to be the special (and surprised) guest of the party. However, it is also fun to plan and prepare surprise birthday parties for others. Which do you think it MORE fun: "Planning the Surprise" or "Being Surprised"? Share how both being surprised and surprising someone else could be fun and exciting.
5. The Bible says, "We walk by faith and not by sight". I have never seen heaven. However, I believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of all who would believe. He went back to heaven and told us "I go to prepare a place for you...!" Jesus is building a place for all who believe and He is working on it RIGHT NOW...! The Bible describes heaven as a huge banquet or party!
6. 1st Corinthians 2:9 says, "However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' the things God has prepared for those who love Him." Re-read this verse. What words does Paul use to share that Heaven will be quite surprising to those who love God?
7. Today we have a surprise. It will probably NOT be what you think. First, I need TWO volunteers to help me take the lid off of this bottle of water. Who thinks they are strong enough to twist off this lid? Volunteer #1 will hold the bottle. Volunteer #2 will twist off the cap. I need everyone together in a small circle with your shoulders almost touching with our two volunteers directly across from each other.
8. Volunteer #1: please hold the water bottle in the middle of our circle. Volunteer #2: please unscrew the lid of the bottle as fast as you can, making sure you take the lid completely off. Ready? Let's do this!
9. Wow! Can I show you the way you can surprise someone else with this fun and wet science trick!? It is pretty simple. (1) Poke many holes into the sides of the bottle. Make sure the holes are near the bottom half of the bottle. (2) Now, as we will fill our bottle half way with water, some water is going to come out, but we can fill it faster than it comes out. (3) Once we have it fill half way, we will quickly place the lid on and the water should stop coming out of the holes. Here we go!
10. Just like it is fun to plan a surprise for others, I imagine Jesus is filled with joy as he plans and prepares our forever home in heaven. As He prepares and works, He knows we have no idea how wonderful our new home will be! Jesus has the biggest and best surprise of all time for those who believe.
11. Here is the challenge: I want you to do this trick at home and share this watery surprise with someone else! After you have surprised them (and soaked them!), be sure to share what we learned today about the upcoming surprise of heaven that is waiting for those who believe in Jesus.
12. Our surprise will give them a little sprinkle of water! But the surprise that Jesus has for those who believe is not just a little sprinkle but a shower of surprise and flood of blessing. Read Revelation 21:3-4.
13. There will also be a huge and SAD surprise for those who do not believe in Jesus. The Bible is very clear. Those who do not believe in Jesus and have not had their sins forgiven will NOT be allowed to enter into the big and beautiful party of heaven that Jesus has been working on for His people.
14. In Matthew 22, Jesus tells us a parable. Now a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The story is about a good king who is planning a huge party for his son. The king sends his servants to call all who were invited. But none of them would come. The king sent other servants and told them to say, "Listen, I have prepared wonderful party and everything is ready for you! Come!" But those who were invited paid no attention. Jesus ends this parable by saying, "Many are invited, but only a few are chosen to come." (Matthew 22:14)
15. God has prepared a special and everlasting place called heaven. The invitation to this party has gone out. The way to get into this heavenly party is to trust in what Jesus did on the cross and then at the end of your life, you will walk right into that heavenly party and a special guest of the king. And you will be amazed at all He has in store for those who believe. Read 1st Corinthians 2:9 one last time.

