



Central Kids Summer Field Guide Week of August 30th

Over the next several weeks we are encouraging families to use this Field Guide to interact with your kids on Sunday morning or mid-week to learn catechism, *a collection of biblical truths in a question and answer format*. We will be using The New City Catechism curriculum to help construct a fun and creative way for your kids to memorize doctrine. *Check out <http://newcitycatechism.com/videos> to learn more.* These Field Guides are designed for family worship or devotional time. However, they can be used individually for older children.

HOW CATECHISM WORKS: Read the question and answer with your child and repeat. Then ask your child the question and have them give the catechism answer. The Field Guide offers additional activities to make learning fun and to help your children memorize God's Word.

MEMORIZATION TIPS: The key to memorizing is repetition. Be creative: turn it into a song, write it down, cut out the words and place them in order, use funny voices, or make up actions.

FAMILY WORSHIP: "Tell the World" by Austin Stone Worship: Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXk1TFL52Ho>

Catechism Question #52

QUESTION: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

ANSWER: That we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be forever freed from all sin in a renewed, restored creation.

Introduction: Tell the children that different religions have different beliefs about what happens to a person after death, and those who don't have any kind of faith may believe that this life is all there is. Explain to the children that the bible clearly teaches that all Christians will receive the gift of eternal life. Most people think only of heaven when they think about eternal life, but actually the Bible describes eternity in terms of the new heavens and the new earth. Explain to the children that the souls of Christians who die go to be with God in heaven, but when Jesus returns, he will give them new, resurrected bodies. God will then make all things new. In fact, he will make the earth new.

Activity: Drawing Charades

Cut out the words on page 3 and put them face down in a pile or hat. Divide the children into small teams and give each team some large sheets of paper and markers. Explain that someone from each team will come up and receive a word or phrase from the leader. The team members then have to rush back to their teammates and try to draw the word for them. The drawer should not speak! Once the team correctly guesses the word, the next team member runs up to the leader, tells the leader the word that they've just guessed, and unlocks the next word. Set a timer for ten minutes. The team that has correctly guessed the most words wins the game. If there are two or less kids, take turns with yourself and your kids as the drawer, and see how quickly you can guess correctly the words.

Craft: Heaven Travel Brochure

You will need some travel brochures, if your cannot find one, finding a tourism website for a specific city will also work. Show the children the travel brochures. Explain that travel brochures only give a glimpse of what a vacation destination looks like. It's not until people experience the vacation and destination that they can fully appreciate the wonder and beauty of the place. Tell the children that by reading the bible, Christians can get some understanding and appreciation of what eternity in God's presence will be like. God gives his people enough information to help them look forward to eternity, but there's no doubt that it will be better and more wonderful than anyone can imagine. Read Revelation 21:1-4

and 22:1-5 together. Give each child a piece of paper folded hot dog style and challenge them to make their own brochure for heaven with these, using the images and hints given in their passages. Use whatever craft supplies you have available.

While your kids are making their brochures, ask them these questions:

- Are you excited about the prospect of spending eternity with God in the new creation?
- Does anything worry you about the new heavens and the new earth?
- Do you feel confident that you will spend eternity with God? Have you been forgiven of your sin through Jesus Christ?

Watch "God's Kingdom Comes" by What's in the Bible. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oGTCyQp67A>

Prayer

Invite your kids to give thanks for the hope of eternal life and the anticipation of spending forever with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Discuss – Sometimes you or your child may have additional questions. Here are some possible questions that may come up:

Will eternity be boring? No! Explain to the children that those who think eternity will be boring have a wrong understanding of who God is and what he is like. Nothing could be further from the truth. God created this world full of wonder and excitement, and the new heavens and earth will be even better!

So, will we be walking around in bodies? Yes! The new earth will be a physical, real place and everyone will have a physical body. There will be no one floating around like ghosts. These new bodies won't get sick.

Do people turn into angels when they die? No! Although movies sometimes suggest people turn into angels, the Bible teaches that the angels existed before the world was created. They are a different category of creature altogether rather than something that was once human. Likewise, humans will be human for all eternity – we cannot become angels.

Bride

Holy City

Loud Voice

No Tears

No Death

Husband

New Heaven

New Earth