



CHILDREN'S SABBATH PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

Although eyes have not seen and ears have not heard the things that God has prepared for us (1 Corinthians 2:9), we can catch a real glimpse of heaven throughout the book of Revelation in the Bible. This Children's Sabbath program is about the beauty and greatness that awaits us in Destination Paradise (heaven). Jesus is preparing heaven just for us and if we accept the invitation, we can live with Him forever!

PROGRAM

- I. Island Welcome
- II. Paradise Praise
- III. Scripture
- IV. Cloud Baskets - Offertory
- V. Heavenly Gifts - Special Feature
- VI. Floral Prayers
- VII. Skit
- VIII. Paradise Praise
- IX. Closing Prayer



DESTINATION PARADISE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greeters
Ushers
Praise Leaders
Prayer Leader
Skit Participants

DOWNLOADS

Invitations
Poster
Letter to the Pastor
Sheet Music
Discussion Questions
Sharing Cards
Decision Cards

*A Destination Paradise music CD/DVD including traditional, contemporary, and gospel tracks and music videos featuring kids performing the actions to each song is available from AdventSource at adventsource.org and 402.486.8800. Catalog #039381

EXTRA ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)

Provide a potluck after church
Outreach at the park or another public place where children can use the sharing cards
Share with a family member or neighbor
For small group or family worship, use the discussion questions to dig deeper

DECORATION

Any and everything tropical!

PROGRAM ORDER

I. ISLAND WELCOME

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to our program. We are glad to have you form part of this extraordinary vacation package, Destination Paradise. There is no down payment for this package, since Jesus already paid the price. When He died for us He also stamped our passports. His visa is for life. If you repent and confess your sins, you will be saved. The travel agency also provided a special tour guide who will show all the commodities paradise has to offer. Thank you for being part of this adventure. We hope that you enjoy the benefits of choosing the right package for a delightful and eternal vacation.

I would like to greet you all one by one; however, that would take far too much time and we have a tight tour schedule this morning. Would you help me greet the people around you with a warm island greeting? Can you say, "Hey mon! Welcome to Destination Paradise"?

II. PARADISE PRAISE

Before Jesus returned to heaven He made us a promise. John 14:3 (NIV) reads, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." I can't wait to be by Jesus' side! Praise God for His love and hope. Do you feel His love? Let's pretend we are His angels and sing some songs to worship our Lord, Savior, and King.

Choose a few songs from the list below or other songs that fit the theme of the program.

Jesus Makes It Paradise

Because He Loved Us First

God Wins!

● Island in the Sky



III. SCRIPTURE

Preparation: Divide John 14:1-3 NIV into parts for several children. Beforehand, have the children create motions for the different parts. The scripture should be expressed with lots of emotion and feeling.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

IV. CLOUD BASKETS - OFFERTORY

Materials needed: Plastic baskets or bowls, cotton or pillow filling, glue gun or fabric glue.

How to make the offering baskets: Glue cotton or pillow filling to the baskets or bowls to form “clouds.”

Heaven is closer than we think. Jesus is coming back very soon! The Bible says the trumpet will sound and Jesus will appear in the clouds of glory. One way to hurry His coming is to spread the good news of salvation to others. Our offerings will be used to help do just that. Please be generous as our ushers pass around our cloud offering baskets.

Let’s pray. Dear God, we are here today to thank You for Your love and teachings. Thank You, God, for giving us the promise of a better place. A place where we will live with You forever. Please use us in whatever way you want to tell others about You. Please bless our pastors and missionaries here and all over the world. In Your name we pray, amen.

V. HEAVENLY GIFTS - SPECIAL FEATURES

Special features can be included throughout the program as needed. Special features can include participants sharing talents such as singing, playing a musical instrument, reciting a poem, creative arts, personal testimonies, or drawing or painting a picture on stage about Destination Paradise.

VI. FLORAL PRAYERS

Materials needed: Purchase cloth leis from a party supply store. Cut the string on each lei and remove the flowers and place them into baskets. You will need one flower per person.

Preparation: Have the ushers stand in the aisles with the baskets of flowers for this part of the program.

The Bible says that we can pray about anything. In fact, Jesus is in heaven right now praying for us as well. If you have a special request that you would like to take to God this morning, choose a flower from the basket that the ushers have here in the aisles. When you have done that, bring your flower up front with your petition and we will have a special prayer together.

(Allow time for people to get their flowers and walk up front.)

Dear Father, we thank You for such a wonderful day. We are excited to learn about an awesome Destination Paradise that You are preparing for us. We realize that we don’t deserve this special gift but we thank You for it. Help us to share Your love and this wonderful news with others. Today, Father, we have some people who have come forward with special requests. You know their hearts and their situations. I ask that you answer these special prayers according to Your will. We really love to talk with You here on earth and we really can’t

wait to see You in person and be with You forever. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen!

We will trust that God is answering our prayers. Before you return to your seat, leave your flower up front as a symbol of leaving all of our cares to Him.

VII. DESTINATION PARADISE SKIT

Props: *Vacation checklist, travel visas, angel wings for each family member, passport with one page stamped with a cross for each family member, Bible (used as travel brochure)*

CHARACTERS

Narrator – Reads the story line as the characters enter the stage acting accordingly.

The Wonderchinsky family:

George (father and husband) – Dressed as a typical tourist: tropical shirt, khaki shorts, sandals, hat, and camera. He is submissive to his wife, a pleaser, and always has the positive attitude. He is kind of goofy.

Pamela (wife and mother) – Very traditional and old fashioned; she has a nasal sounding voice and always asks George for everything.

Tiffany (oldest sibling) – Teenager with a bit of an attitude; she reacts emotionally toward her sister Clarissa's comments.

Marcus (middle sibling) – Dresses like a cool kid and is always on the ball; he is the most normal member of the family.

Clarissa (youngest sibling) – A seven-year-old girl with pigtails; she is very inquisitive.

Mr. John (tour guide) – Wears khaki pants and a polo shirt; is very knowledgeable and professional; has a deep voice.

Walls of Heaven – Dress 12 children to represent the walls of heaven. Each child should hold a sign with the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. *(These children will assemble on stage partway through the program—refer to the script for more information.)*

Pearly Gates – Dress two children to represent heaven's pearly gates. *(These children will assemble on stage partway through the program—refer to the script for more information.)*

Narrator: The Wonderchinsky family is just exiting the travel agency after purchasing a special vacation package called "Destination Paradise." Tired of their typical vacations, the family decided to look for something different and more exciting than their previous trips. After carefully reading the advertisements in the Revelation brochure, they decided that this one was the best choice for a special and unforgettable vacation.

As with any other trip, there is preparation before the family leaves, which we hope will be as non-stressful as possible. The passports were given to each member of the family, free of charge. To their surprise, Jesus had stamped their passports when He died on the cross.

Instead of getting shots before this trip, each member of the family gave their heart to Jesus and was baptized. No maps are needed—instead, they have to read the Bible and follow Jesus' steps. There are no plane tickets. They will be given angel wings so they can fly.

The skit is about what the Wonderchinsky family will encounter in paradise. They will learn about the place Jesus is preparing for us, so we can live with Him forever!

George: *(looking over a list)* I guess we are ready for our long awaited vacation.

Pamela: Finally! I desperately need a break. I am tired and need to relax for a change.

Tiffany: Dad, can I bring my phone?

George: Sorry, honey. There will not be any kind of social media on this trip. And besides, I don't think we'll have any cellular service there. Destination Paradise is a very different kind of vacation. You won't even miss it!

Tiffany: *(whining a little)* But Daddy...

Marcus: *(raises his arms helplessly and muffles)* Here comes the drama.

● **Clarissa:** We can play family games!

Tiffany: *(very annoyed voice)* Clarissa! Just be quiet... you don't know how hard it is being disconnected from the entire world. I will just die!

Clarissa: I can connect to you, sister...can't I?

Tiffany: *(takes a deep breath)* Just leave me alone!

Pamela: *(feeling stressed)* Ok, ok, ok. Let's make sure to double-check that we have everything for this trip. George?

George: Yes, darling.

Pamela: Do you have the checklist?

George: I have it right here.

Pamela: Passports?

George: Check.

Tiffany: Oh no! What about our visas? Do we need a visa to go to this...this...Destination Paradise?

George: Yes, dear, we do. However, the Destination Paradise brochure reads that when Jesus died on the cross for you and me—as a matter of fact, for all of us—He stamped our passports to paradise for life! Jesus paid the price so we can have access to this heavenly paradise free of charge.

Tiffany: That's very nice. I hope we can meet Him someday so I can thank Him for this kind gesture.

Mr. John: *(enters very slowly, holding each family members' wings)* Hello, everyone! Are you the Wonderchinsky family? I am John the Revelator and I will be your tour guide for this adventure *(shakes hands with family members)*. My job is to show you what Destination Paradise has to offer and to answer any questions you might have during the tour. Are you ready? *(Turn and connect with the audience and ask them, "Are you ready?")*

(The Wonderchinsky family puts on their wings.)

Pamela: *(tired voice)* I have been ready for a long time now.

Mr. John: Here we go! Up, up, and away!

(The Wonderchinsky family looks around as if amazed by the sight of flying through the air.)

Clarissa: I love my wings. They are awesome! Can I keep them?

Tiffany: *(annoyed voice)* Clarissa! Just be quiet. We are trying to fly here.

Marcus: Can we concentrate here, please? I have never flown before and want to make sure I do it right! Falling is definitely NOT in my plans.

Tiffany: Are we there yet?

George: Children, children, let's start this trip with good spirits. We can learn so many things from it. I am sure that with the right attitude, this can be the trip of our lives.

(Turn off the lights. Make the room as dark as possible. Assemble the children dressed to represent the walls of heaven and pearly gates at the front of the room. While the children are assembling on the stage, the Wonderchinsky family should move off of the stage and into the aisle. Once everyone is in position, turn the lights back on. The Wonderchinsky family should now walk back to the stage and stop in front of the pearly gates.)

(Optional: have the children sing a song about heaven.)

Wonderchinsky family: *(looking around at the pearly gates and walls of heaven)* Wow!

Mr. John: Dear Wonderchinsky family, welcome to Destination Paradise, a resort designed especially for you. Our heavenly architect took the time to design a perfect place for you and me. This place is so perfect that there are no words to describe it. Eyes have never seen and ears have never heard the things that God has prepared for those who love Him. As you know, the tour is free of charge and we will explore different

areas in Destination Paradise. I know you will love it here.

(The family looks around, touching imaginary objects and exploring different areas.)

Marcus: *(looks around)* I am already enjoying it!

Tiffany: This is amazing!

Pamela: I didn't expect all of this. That's for sure.

Marcus: What kind of place is this?

Clarissa: This is much better than Disneyland!

Tiffany: *(annoyed)* Clarissa—be quiet! Just listen!

Marcus: It's far more impressive than Star Wars!

George: *(pointing to the 12 walls)* Mr. John, what is this? I don't remember reading anything about this in the brochure. Was it in there?

(Everyone gathers to hear.)

Mr. John: Most definitely, my friend. The brochure gives you a brief overview of what our Destination Paradise is about. To have a better understanding, you need to read the entire twenty-first chapter of the book of Revelation. By the way *(clears his throat)*, I wrote it. *(looks at the audience and proudly smiles and winks)*

Clarissa: I like him.

Tiffany: *(annoyed)* Clarissa!

Clarissa: I know, I know, be quiet...just listen.

Mr. John: These are the walls that surround paradise. The book says that they are made of pure jasper; that is why they are so clear.

Marcus: *(counts the 12 walls)* Why 12? And what are the names? *(points to the wall/stones)*

Mr. John: Slow down, my boy. I'm getting there. These *(points to the walls)* represent the 12 tribes of Israel that you learn about in your Bible. Those are the names of each tribe.

Tiffany: Mom, look at the bottom of the walls. Precious stones. This is just beautiful!

Mr. John: You haven't seen anything yet, child. Let's continue. Please note that the gates of paradise are never closed.

Clarissa: *(starts to squint)* Wow, this place is really bright. I didn't bring my sunglasses.

Tiffany: Clarissa!

Clarissa: I know, I know.

Marcus: Is this what I think it is? *(pauses and looks astonished)* Gold?

Mr. John: Yes, Marcus. Paradise is made out of pure gold. Even the streets, as you can see. I told you that our architect, Jesus, came to prepare a good place for us.

Clarissa: Can I meet Jesus? Is He here? And what is that super bright mountain?

Pamela: Honey, let Mr. John continue to show us around.

Clarissa: But Mommy, pretty soon it will be my bedtime and I don't want to miss anything. Do I have to go to bed tonight at my regular time? *(pleading)* Please, mom?

Mr. John: Allow me to intervene, Clarissa. That mountain over there is in the throne of God. God's glory fills this place with wonderful and constant light. We don't need the sun or moon because it is never dark in paradise. So, you don't have to worry about your bedtime.

Clarissa: I like it here already! *(rubs hands together and grins sheepishly)*

Mr. John: The River of Life runs from the throne of God, and as you can see, there is a Tree of Life on each side of the river. These are the same ones found in the Garden of Eden.

Clarissa: Is that THE Tree of Life? Oh my, I'm frightened I... *(grabs onto Tiffany and holds her tightly)*

Tiffany: *(annoyed)* Clarissa! Just be...

George: Let her finish, Tiffany. Go ahead, Clarissa.

Clarissa: I am scared that what happened to Adam and Eve will happen to us.

Mr. John: Don't worry, Clarissa. There's no need to be afraid. The Tree of Life is important to remind us of what happened on earth. But sin will never exist again.

Tiffany: *(scared—grabs onto Clarissa for dear life)* Oh no, there is no way I am going there.

Pamela: Where?

Tiffany: *(points toward imaginary animals such as lions and tigers [optional: have children dressed as lions and tigers])* Over there!

George: Girls, I read in the Bible that animals in heaven will live together peacefully. They are all tame and friendly. Right, Mr. John?

Mr. John: Isaiah 11:6-7 (NIV) says, "The wolf will lie with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the cow will feed with the bear, and the lion will eat straw like the ox."

Tiffany: *(excited)* This place is incredible. Who needs social media with this?

Marcus: Mr. John, is there a library here?

Mr. John: Marcus, it's funny you should ask. We do have quite the collection. We have volumes and volumes of the Book of Life. This is a book that contains the names of people who put their trust in Jesus.

Marcus: Is my name in there?

Mr. John: If you have put your trust in Jesus, indeed it is!

Clarissa: I want my name to be in there.

Tiffany: *(hugs Clarissa and speaks with a caring voice)* Clarissa, I want mine to be there too.

Marcus: *(reflecting and looking around)* Mr. John, what would happen if someone were to get hurt around here? Do you have hospitals here?

Mr. John: Let me refer to the Destination Paradise brochure. Hmm...Revelation chapter 21 verse 4 (NIV): "He 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."

Clarissa: I don't want to go back home. This is the best place to be! I want to stay here. *(puts hands together and begs)* Can we stay here, please?

Mr. John: Soon, Clarissa, soon. But it is not time yet to stay here forever. There is still work to be done back on earth before Jesus' second coming.

Marcus: *(serious and hesitant)* When is Jesus coming back, Mr. John?

Mr. John: Soon, very soon, but nobody knows the exact day or hour. The Bible says in Matthew 24:36 (NIV), "Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

George: Since we don't know exactly when Jesus will be coming back, we must be prepared now.

Pamela: *(stressed and anxious)* What if God doesn't want us in paradise?

Mr. John: No worries, my friends. God gave us hope and assurance that we are all welcome in His home. 2 Peter 1:11 (NIV) reads, "And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Pamela: Oh George, we can't waste another minute! We have to prepare ourselves for the next trip. I can't wait to tell others that God loves us so much that He wants us to be with Him in this paradise!

(The family continues to look around.)

Mr. John: *(speaking directly to the audience)* My friends, this was just a sneak peek of what heaven will look like. Would you like to join us in our final destination to paradise? I've heard that our tour guide will be Jesus Himself and this paradise will last forever. Yes! For all eternity. Are you ready? The time of Jesus' arrival will be announced with a loud trumpet sound and "everyone will see Him when He comes back" Revelation 1:7 (NIV). Thank you for being part of our Destination Paradise adventure. Let's get ready and tell everyone we know about being able to live with our Savior and friend Jesus forever! Goodbye now!

(Cast exits the stage excited and talking about paradise.)

VIII. PRAISE

WOW! What a promise! What a place! What precious love! Jesus not only paid the price for us by dying on the cross; He is also preparing this unique and marvelous place so we can join Him very soon. For closing we will sing "When We All Get To Heaven." Please stand up as we worship our Creator and Savior. *(Optional: choose another song that goes with the theme.)*

While we are singing, if you feel in your heart that you want to be ready for heaven when Jesus comes back again and want to commit to Him, either by baptism, Bible studies, dedicating your talents to Him, spreading His message to your community, or looking for ways to be prepared when time comes, we invite you to come forward. Our ushers will be here to assist you in whatever you need.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, we are amazed with Your infinite love. What a blessing. We want to be ready and looking to the skies when Jesus comes back. Thank You for Your promise; thank You for giving us hope; thank You for giving us the resources we need to be ready when time comes to spend our lives with You through eternity. Come back soon...we love You. In Your name we pray, amen.

