Preschool–Grade 5

New Heaven and New Earth Craft

The holy city, new Jerusalem · Revelation 21–22 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished

Easy and medium

Harder

Both levels are a small square paper city. The floor has a light blue river down the middle, "clear as crystal" (Revelation 22:1), a street of gold on both sides of it (21:21; 22:2) and a green tree on each side of the river (22:2). A light green square wall stands around it with twelve white pearl gates, three on each side (21:13, 21:21). Medium (left): the city. Harder (right): the same, with the twelve foundations in twelve colors along the bottom of the wall, three under each side (21:14, 21:19–20).

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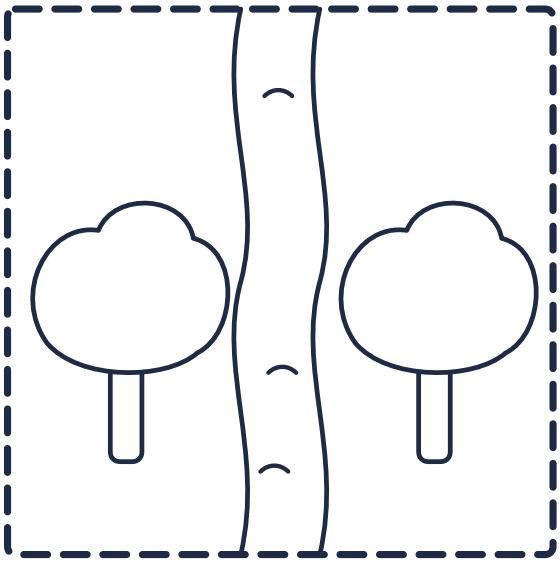
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



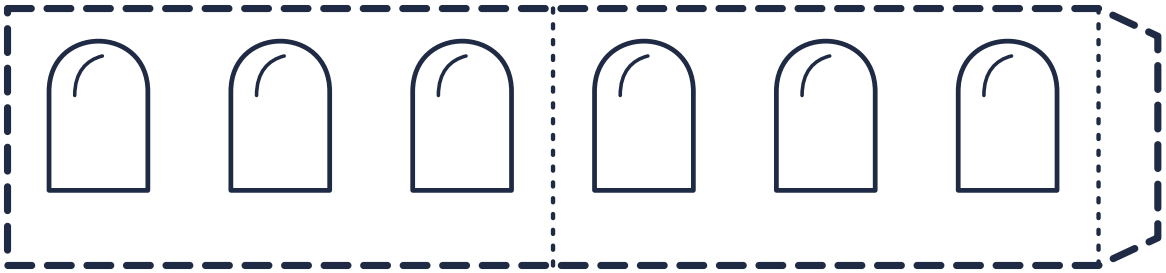
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it under the floor

floor: river light blue,
street yellow (gold),
tree tops green, trunks brown

wall, part 1 (two sides): color it light green, leave the 6 pearl gates white



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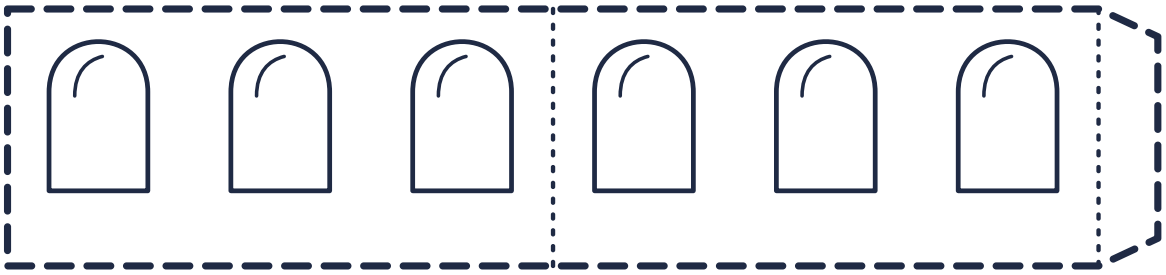

tab

wall, part 2 (two sides): color it light green, leave the 6 pearl gates white
Fold both parts on the dotted lines. Glue each tab behind the left end of the other part.

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the floor, the two wall parts and the verse strip. Glue the verse strip under the floor. Fold and glue the wall into a square with the gates outside, set it on the floor and tape each inside corner. You also need a glue stick and clear tape.

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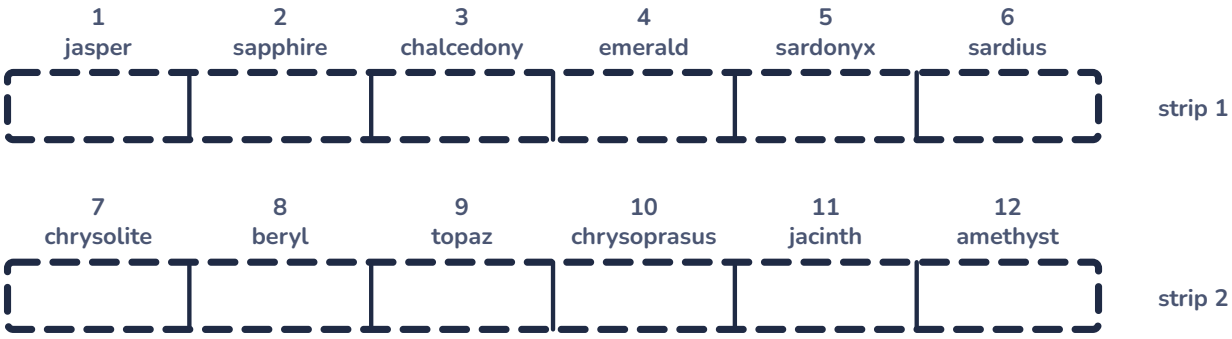
Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

The twelve foundations (harder level)

Color each stone a different color. Then cut on the dashed lines.



The stones' names are from Revelation 21:19–20 (KJV). The Bible doesn't give their colors.

How to add the foundations

1. Make the floor and color and cut out the two wall parts from page 2 first. Don't fold the wall yet.
2. Color the twelve stones on this page twelve different colors, one color for each stone. Cut out the two strips on the dashed lines.
3. Glue strip 1 along the bottom edge of wall part 1, below the gates, so stones 1–3 sit under the first side's three gates and stones 4–6 under the second side's. Glue strip 2 along wall part 2 the same way.
4. Now fold the wall on its dotted lines (the strips fold with it), glue the tabs and finish the city like the medium level.
5. Count: twelve gates and twelve foundations, three on each side. "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:14).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/heaven-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, yellow, green, brown and light green crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks and clear tape. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and crayons in 12 different colors.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the floor, the two wall parts and the verse strip ahead of time, fold the wall parts and glue them into a square.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the wall into a square. Kids color the floor and the wall. Help them glue the verse strip under the floor, then tape the wall onto the floor for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, fold and glue; a grown-up helps with the tape. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the city like the medium level, but first color the twelve foundations from page 3 and glue them along the bottom of the wall, three under each side (Revelation 21:14, 21:19–20). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the river light blue, the street on both sides of it yellow for gold, the tree tops green and the trunks brown. Color both wall parts light green, and leave the twelve pearl gates white.
2. **Cut:** cut out the floor, the two wall parts and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the floor, and read it together.
4. **Fold:** fold each wall part on its two dotted lines, with the gates on the outside.
5. **Make the wall:** glue the tab of each wall part behind the left end of the other part, so the two parts make one square wall with three gates on each side.
6. **Set it up:** set the wall on the floor, around its edges, with the river running from one wall to the other. Tape each inside corner to the floor with a small piece of clear tape.
7. **Count it:** three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west, twelve in all (Revelation 21:13). Read John 14:2–3: "I go to prepare a place for you… I will come again."

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Questions to ask while kids work

- What did Jesus say He would go and do? *(Prepare a place for you, John 14:2)*
- What did Jesus promise after that? *(I will come again, and receive you unto myself, 14:3)*
- What did John see coming down from God out of heaven? *(The holy city, new Jerusalem, Revelation 21:2)*
- Count the gates on one side, then all of them. *(Three on each side, twelve in all, 21:12–13)*
- What was each gate made of? What was the street made of? *(One pearl; pure gold, as it were transparent glass, 21:21)*
- Why is there no sun or moon on your city? *(The city has no need of them: the glory of God lights it, and the Lamb is the light, 21:23)*
- What grows on either side of the river? *(The tree of life, with twelve kinds of fruit, a fruit every month, 22:2)*
- What will God wipe away? *(All tears from their eyes, 21:4)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: mansions** means places to live; **prepare** means get ready; **jasper** is a precious stone; **foursquare** means square, with all sides equal; **every several gate** means each gate; **transparent** means clear, so you can see through it; **lighten** means give light to; **the Lamb** is a Bible name for Jesus (John 1:29), and Jesus is God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16).
- **What the Bible says:** the city "lieth foursquare," and its length, breadth and height are equal, twelve thousand furlongs, about 1,500 miles (Revelation 21:16), so our paper city is a tiny picture of it. The Bible doesn't give the color of the jasper wall (21:18), so light green is only the craft's color. The paper city shows the wall, the gates, the street, the river and the tree of life on either side of it (22:2).
- **What the craft doesn't draw:** the Bible says there were twelve angels at the gates and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on them (21:12), and the river comes out of "the throne of God and of the Lamb" (22:1). We never draw God, the Lamb, angels or people, so the craft leaves them out. Tell kids what the Bible says about them instead.
- **If a child is sad about someone who died:** let them talk, and say it is all right to be sad: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). God promises to wipe away all tears (Revelation 21:4). Don't guess about where any person is now, and don't say people become angels. Let the child's parents know.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the wall into a square ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue, and clear tape that holds well. Let every child count the twelve gates.
- **Teach it first:** this craft goes with the free heaven lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/heaven.

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