**Heaven or Hell Journey**

We start at the bottom of the stairwell and use 2 venues - His Diz room for Hell and His Youth room for Heaven. Teens get to choose which doorway they will go through - one is wide and the other is narrow. On the way up the stairwells there will be posters on the walls with verses about either heaven or hell.

Hell:

\* Setting the scene: Screams, hot air conditioning, flashing lights (preferably red lights), fog machine,

\* Drink - Vinegar in Coke

\* Food - Pilchards

\* Activities - Get them to do some exercises. Scream abuse at them. Bump into them. Have obstacles to hinder them walking around. Have a stick that is trying to trip them up.

\* Don't let them speak to each other

\* Characters - Satan, demons

Heaven

\* Setting the scene - pillows to lounge on. Worship music, and maybe a video with scenery

\* Food - marshmallow, candy floss

\* Something to drink - milkshakes

\* Characters - Peter, Angels.

\* Activities - chat freely, eat

Video 1 for Heaven: Grace Williams Sacred Mountain, I Bow My Heart. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy0CuZeE0vA

Video 2 for Heaven: Never Forsaken - River Wild - Hillsong Worship. Get it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSQYPoM2D38>

When teens are finished with their venue they return downstairs and this time they switch and go through the other door.

After teens have visited each venue they return to the bottom of the stairs for a gospel message.

After the gospel message they return to the youth room for small groups, refreshments and hang time.

Small Groups. Here are the small group questions: (1) How did you feel experiencing Heaven and Hell tonight? (2) If you had to die tonight and were asked why you should be let into heaven, what would you say? (If the person says anything about being good enough to get into heaven or because they have done some righteous acts like going to church, then you will know that they have probably not received the free gift of grace from Jesus and they are ready for step 3). (3) Do you remember a time when you repented of your sins and asked Jesus to save you? If not, would you like to do that now? Here is what you need to do: Admit you are a sinner and can’t save yourself. Believe that Jesus died to give you eternal life. Confess that Jesus is Lord of your life. Decide to follow Jesus as his disciple. (Pray with the person so they can follow the A-B-C-D plan of salvation - lead them in a prayer through each of the four points - with them praying after you line by line - something like: "Dear Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner and that I cannot save my self. I believe that Jesus died so that I can have eternal life and don’t need to spend eternity in hell. I confess that Jesus is the lord of my life and I decide to follow Jesus as one of his disciples. Amen." Then welcome them into the family of God - maybe mentioning John 1:12: “To as many as received him - Jesus - he gave the right to become children of God"). (4) Pray for each other to be faithful followers of Jesus.

Here is a set of notes from a previous version of this event.

**The Big Idea:**

This event was designed to have teens contemplate what heaven and hell are like from a scriptural reference point. We made up two rooms – one to be like heaven (with angels serving drinks, worship music etc) and the other like hell (with demons, horrible dark images of spiders snakes and sharks as well as screaming voices and the smell of gas). The youth had to walk through both rooms to experience heaven and hell respectively. The night ended with a salvation message about choosing the right road to eternity with God.

**The Preparation:**

\* Set up the heaven room – with worship music playing, people dressed as angels and food and drink that can be served.

\* Set up the hell room (see below for the full Hell experience for things to organise).

\* Find scary sounds on the Internet

\* Get food and drink for the Heaven room

\* Get the clip from the movie *What Dreams May Come* that is set in hell.

**The Program:**

The teens gathered at the bottom of two stairwells and had to choose which entrance to take. The one entrance led to the Heaven room, while the other led to the Hell room. The Hell room was a place where teens were treated harshly. The Heaven room was a welcoming environment with soaking worship happening and food and drink served. The teens made their way back down the stairwells after experiencing both rooms – where a gospel message about choosing life over death by receiving God’s gift of eternal life was presented in front of the doorways that had led to the two rooms.

**The Hell Experience:**

\* Satan in greets the teens in a suite looking smooth and charming and welcoming and enter room whilst screams are playing in the background, the heaters are turned on full blast and the gas heaters are burning.

\* Put burden on shoulders and demons shout at them as they enter telling them to lie on the floor face down and do push-ups (whips and whistles and shouting insults)

\* Make the teens pack chairs

\* Offer them disgusting food stuffs (Tomato juice, salt water, etc.) as refreshments

\* Put them under the heater and introduce what will be in hell with them: snakes, spiders, worms, bats, scorpions

\* Show the hell video clips from the Robin William’s movie: “What Dreams Shall Come”