



You will need...

- Powerpoint
- An iced chocolate cake

The story

This term in our children's slots we are answering the question "What is church?"

We've been finding out about the different ways that the Bible describes the church. We've saved the best until last! Church is a forever people.

God gave the disciple John a dream, to show him what the church in heaven would look like. *[P/pt slide 1 & 2]* He makes it sound like the Olympics - a huge party with people from all over the world, having the best time possible. Listen to what they're enjoying the most: "9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

[P/pt flick thru slide 3,4,5] People from every tribe and nation, from every country, from every language, of every colour, with every accent. A wonderfully international party.

What are they enjoying? It's better than athletics! They are all stood in front of the "Lamb" - that's Bible language for Jesus. Everyone is stood in front of the King's throne, and everyone, every single person is singing, chanting and shouting for Jesus Christ. They're singing and shouting about his rescue. That's because Heaven is full of people who Jesus has saved.

Each person is there because of Jesus. All of them are there for Jesus. And Jesus is the most wonderful part of Heaven. In heaven he has taken away everything that is wrong with our world; the sadness, the sin, the pain, the hurt. Instead of those things there will only be joy. And all the good things we know now will be even more wonderful there.

It is like this cake. *[Hold up an iced chocolate cake]* Today, as we gather together here, to listen to Jesus in the Bible, enjoying him, enjoying one another, we're enjoying a little taste of Heaven. *[Dip your finger in the icing and have a taste].* But when we're in heaven forever, we will be able



to enjoy the full taste. *[Take out a slice of cake]*. Then we will be joined by other churches, meeting people from every country who are all there because of Jesus. We won't need the Bible to learn about Jesus any more - we'll have Jesus himself, there with us, where we can see Him. And there won't be any sin or sadness to stop us enjoying it for ever. *[Look at the slice of cake!]*. I can't wait!

Let's pray!

Dear Father, we thank you that in heaven we will be with Jesus forever. Thank you that we will be able to praise Him alongside people from every part of the world. Thank you that everything will be good with no sin or sadness to spoil it. And thank you that we have a little taste of that now, as we meet together.

Amen