**Name of Class**

**How Lovely Shines the Morning Star– CW 79:4**

**PREPARATION**

**Objective**

The student will:

1. Recall the promise of our Lord and Friend Jesus to bring us home to heaven.
2. Understand what the gift of heaven means in their life.
3. Sing, perform, and associate the tune with the text.

**Materials Needed**

1. *Christian Worship* or a copy of the text of the hymn
2. *Christian Worship Handbook* (optional)
3. Bibles
4. NPH Hymnsoft (optional)

**Words to Know**

supernal

yearning

grace

**Biblical Connections**

John 14:2-3

**Key Question**

**According to this hymn, what is one of the best things our best friend, Jesus, will do for us?**

*Jesus will take us to live with him in heaven.*

**LESSON**

**Introduction**

What do you think is the best part about having a friend? Answers will vary. Does anyone have a best friend? Although friends do lots of neat things for you, what is the best thing a friend could do for you? I am pleased to remind you again that all of you have Jesus as your best friend. Today, we are going to be reminded of why he is our best friend. **What will Jesus, our best friend, do for each of you and me?**

**Background Information**

* Born in 1556 in Germany, ten years after Martin Luther died
* Lutheran pastor as was his father
* During his ministry in Unna, Germany over 1000 died from a pestilence
* May have conducted about 30 funerals in a day
* Wrote hymn in response to his own thoughts of death and entering into heaven
* Philipp’s chorale came to be known as the ‘queen of chorales”

**Stanza 4**

*Refer to the stanza as it is written on the board, on a poster, or on the whiteboard.*

*Read or sing the stanza to the class.*

**Words to Know**

Supernal – relating to above, heavenly; out of this world

Yearning – longing

Grace – God’s love

1. **Find some words that talk about heaven.**

*Holy place, home of joy*

1. **Name some people in the Bible who went to heaven**.

*Any believer!*

1. **Who will bring us to heaven when we die?**

*Jesus, our Lord and Friend.*

1. **This hymn calls Jesus our Friend. Name some things Jesus does for us as our Friend.**

*Answers will vary.*

1. **One of the best things our Friend can do for us is found in John 14:2,3. What will Jesus do for us?**

*He is preparing a place in heaven for us so that we can be with him someday.*

1. **We’re excited for that to happen! Find some words or phrases that refer to this excitement.**

*Come and meet me! Quickly greet me! With deep yearning, Lord, I look for your returning.*

1. **Show me through action what you want to do in heaven with your Savior.**
2. **Why would someone want to think about the promise of heaven from our Lord and Friend Jesus?**

*It is our eternal and perfect home with God where sin no longer exists.*

**Key Question**

**According to this hymn, what is one of the best things our best friend, Jesus, will do for us?**

**Key Summary**

Jesus will take us to live with him in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (heaven).

**Sing the Hymn!**

Accompaniment and vocals can be found on the *CD*.

**Prayer**

Dear Jesus, thank you for promising to take us to heaven someday. This makes you the best friend we could ever have. We love you, Jesus. Amen.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Memory**

Memorize stanza 4

**Writing Activity**

*Hymn Journal*: Write some sentences that tell what this hymn stanza is about.  Use some words from the stanza in your sentences.

*Write a Prayer:* Write a prayer thanking your Friend Jesus for the promises you receive as his child, especially the promise of heaven that he gives in John 14:2-3.

**Visual Activity**

*Draw a Picture:* Draw a picture of heaven as you think it might look.

**Speaking/Listening/Performing**

*Listening:* Listen to performances of this hymn on the Internet.

**Hymnal Connection**

Find another hymn that expresses the joy of knowing heaven is ours when we die. (CWS 759)

**Performance Option - tentative**