



Date: _____
Series: We Are In God's Family (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 57

Jesus Prepares a Place in Heaven

Bible Event: John 14:1-3; Isaiah 11:6-9; Revelation 22:3-5

Take Home Point: *HEAVEN IS JESUS' HOME – *Heaven will be our home, too.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is preparing a place for us.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn what heaven will be like some day when our life here is over. They will learn that Jesus is there making a special place just for us, that heaven will be a peaceful, amazing place, that we will see Jesus face to face and that God's face will light all of heaven. Kids will take home the point: ***HEAVEN IS JESUS' HOME – *Heaven will be our home, too.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: List a video, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

The Traveler begins:

I can't wait to share this true Bible story with you! It is about the most amazing place! It's about heaven! Let me tell you what the Bible says heaven will be like....

(Pull out a crown.) **Jesus is ruling in heaven right now. He has a crown. Since we're part of his family, when we go there, we will be like princes and princesses. We will get to rule with him, too.**

(Pull out some keys.) **These keys remind me of the keys to a house. God has a special house in heaven. In fact, the Bible says that Jesus went there to prepare a special room in God's house in heaven just for us! That's right! There will be a special spot in heaven made just for us. (Pull out Post-it Notes with a cross drawn each one. Have enough for each child to get one.) These notes with the cross on it can remind us of our special place in heaven. Each of you can come up here right now and get one. Take it back and put it on the floor to mark**

your special spot to sit on in this room. (Allow children to come up and retrieve their sticky notes and place them in their special spot on the floor.) **The cross on the note reminds us that when we trust Jesus, there will be a special place waiting for us in heaven. And heaven won't be crowded like we are in here. Heaven will be nicer than anywhere we've ever seen. It will be fun and we will get to play with Jesus! Everyone there will belong to God's family and it will be a wonderful life.**

(Pull out plastic or stuffed animals... preferably any listed in Isaiah.) **Heaven will also have other creatures besides people. The Bible says that heaven will be a peaceful place where people and animals won't hurt each other. A wolf will live with a lamb. A cow and a lion will lie down together. People won't be afraid or cry or fight and there will be lots of God's creatures there. Doesn't heaven sound wonderful? But that's not even the best part...**

(Pull out a flashlight. Overhead lights can be on or off.) **In heaven, there is no sun. God is there and his face is so bright that it lights up all of heaven! Also, Jesus is there and we get to see him face to face. We will get to spend forever being with Jesus and loving him in heaven in our special place!**

Heaven will be wonderful. When we trust Jesus and know that he died on the cross for our sins, we will get to spend forever in heaven being friends with Jesus. Remember: *HEAVEN IS JESUS' HOME – *Heaven will be our home, too.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide “materials,” such as rectangular shaped crackers, pretzels, assorted candies, etc. for children to “build” a house like God’s house in heaven. Another option: animal crackers to remind us of God’s special creatures in heaven.

Drama Zone: Provide stuffed animals, puzzles, games, etc. to play with to remind us that heaven will be fun and we will get to have fun with Jesus.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to talk about what they want to see or do in heaven.

Craft Zone: Read Revelation 22:4. On the template (copied onto cardstock), have children recreate their face. Provide markers, crayons, various colors of yarn, glue and/or glue sticks, google eyes, etc. Finish the project by having them place a sticker of Jesus or a cross on the forehead of the picture to show they are marked by Jesus and are part of his family.

Play Zone: Play a version of Musical Chairs with hula hoops or mats of some kind. In this version, when the music stops, everyone jumps into a hula hoop. As the hoops are removed each round, kids continue to play by crowding into the remaining hula hoops. The last child to jump into a hula hoop in each round must sit out for one turn. Explain that sometimes it feels rotten to be left out, but in heaven, because of Jesus, we won’t ever be left out.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus preparing a place in heaven.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Prepares a Place in Heaven” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a sticker on his forehead. (Anything will do – a colored dot, a Superhero, etc.) Bubba has started his own club and all of the members have to wear this special mark to get into the clubhouse. Bubba offers one to the presenter.

The presenter thinks Bubba's club must be pretty special, but he has an even better idea. The presenter offers Bubba a Jesus sticker instead. Bubba wants to know what he's supposed to do with it. The presenter puts one on his own forehead and explains to Bubba that the Bible says that when we get to heaven, we will be marked with Jesus' name. That means that we will be part of God's family and be with Jesus in heaven forever. Heaven will be wonderful. The presenter invites the kids to share with Bubba what heaven will be like.

Bubba takes his sticker off and asks the presenter to put a Jesus sticker on his head instead. He trusts Jesus and wants to go to heaven some day. Remember: ***HEAVEN IS JESUS' HOME – Heaven will be our home, too.**

**Optional:* Place Jesus stickers on kids' foreheads as they leave worship today.

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- crown
- keys
- Post-it Notes with cross drawn on each
- Plastic or stuffed animals
- flashlight

Action Zones:

Snack:

- rectangular shaped crackers
- pretzels
- candies such as Skittles or licorice
- another option: animal crackers

Drama:

- stuffed animals, puzzles, games

Craft:

- face template copied onto cardstock
- various colors of yarn
- google eyes
- crayons or markers
- glue or glue sticks
- Jesus or cross stickers

Play:

- hula hoops
- music player

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Color:

- coloring page
- crayons and markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- sticker (colored dot, superhero, etc.)
- Jesus or cross stickers

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

