

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 4

Today's Bible Story: Heaven • John 14:3; Revelation 21, 22:1-5

Jesus is preparing a place for us.

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: *"I have called you friends."* • John 15:15 NIV

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Memory Verse Activity- Friends with Jesus

Wall tape

Bible Story Review- Yes or No

Bucket

Application Activity-What Do You Think?

- Butcher paper
- dot markers or crayons
- Masking tape

Craft- Hooray Hats

Journal and Prayer

Bible Story Summary

Heaven

Jesus promises to make a home for all of His friends, and He shows John what heaven is like—it's God's perfect home with no sadness, crying, or pain. We will live with God forever and never say goodbye! Jesus is preparing a place for everyone who loves and follows Him. One day we'll live forever with Him in heaven—the most wonderful home ever—all because Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

*****This can be an emotional day for some kids because of loved ones having passed or unfortunately parents (3 kids at SF).

*****Be aware kids might ask about animals going to heaven. Redirect them to us talking about people today.

1. Memory Verse Activity- Friends with Jesus

What You Need:

- “Friends with Jesus” Activity Page
- Smiley face stickers
- Painter’s tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape the picture of Jesus to a wall at child’s height. Say the Memory Verse with the motions together.

During the Activity: Play a version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Have a child stand a few feet away from the picture. If they are comfortable, gently spin them once. Then they walk toward the picture and try to place a smiley face sticker on the wall next to Jesus. As you spin them, say, “I have called you friends!”

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come stand with me and let’s say our verse and do the motions. ‘I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends,’ (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15.’ (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job! Now let’s play a game to remember our verse! Jesus calls us His friends so we’re going to play a game called ‘Friends with Jesus!’”

During the Activity: “I’m going to give you a smiley face sticker! Your job is to walk over and put the sticker right next to our picture of Jesus. Ready, [child’s name]? As I spin you, let’s all say our verse. ‘I have called you friends!’ Okay, go add your smiley face next to Jesus! (*Pause.*) You did it! Let’s cheer!” (*Repeat with each child.*)

After the Activity: “Look at all these happy faces next to Jesus! Jesus loves having you as His friend. That’s why [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

2. Bible Story Review- Yes or No



What You Need:

- A bucket
- Adhesive bandage
- Sad face drawing
- Toy thermometer
- Happy face drawing
- Heart cutout
- Toy Jesus figure
- Red and green construction paper

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the red and green papers on the floor to define the "No" and "Yes" piles. Put all the items in the bag/box.

During the Activity: Let children take turns pulling one item out of the bag. Ask them, "Will this be in Heaven?" and help them decide. A bandage for boo-boos? No, there are no ouchies in Heaven (*place on red paper*). A happy face? Yes! We will always be happy in Heaven (*place on green paper*).

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible Story tells us some amazing things about Heaven. Let's look in our story bag and decide what will be in Heaven and what won't."

During the Activity: "[Child's name], pull something out of our story bag/box! (*Child pulls out a bandage.*) It's a bandage for a boo-boo. Will we have boo-boos in Heaven? (*Pause.*) No! In Heaven, we will never be hurt. So, we'll put this on the red paper for 'No'. [Next child's name], what did you find? (*Child pulls out a happy face.*) A happy face! Will we be happy in Heaven? (*Pause.*) Yes! We will be with Jesus, so we will be happy forever! Let's put this on the green paper for 'Yes.'" (*Continue with the items that will not be in Heaven: sad face drawing and thermometer. And the items that will be in Heaven: heart cutout, toy Jesus figure.*)

After the Activity: "Look! Heaven is a place with happy faces and love and Jesus! There will be no more sadness or boo-boos. Jesus is making Heaven a special place for us because **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

3. Application Activity-What Do You Think?



What You Need:

- Butcher paper
- dot markers or crayons
- Masking tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape the butcher paper to a table.

During the Activity: Tell the children the Bible says Heaven is a very special place. The most special place. Ask them what they think it looks like. Invite them to work together to draw their ideas of Heaven on the paper using the special, sparkly art supplies.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “The Bible tells us, Heaven is the most special place ever. I wonder what it looks like. Let’s make a picture of what we think Heaven looks like together!”

During the Activity: “I have crayons for us. What do you want to draw? (Let children share ideas.) A big house for Jesus? Let’s draw it! Streets of gold? Let’s draw it! Shiny things? Let’s make the most beautiful picture of Heaven we can imagine.”

After the Activity: “Wow! Our picture of Heaven is so beautiful and sparkly! It’s going to be the best place ever, because we will be with Jesus forever. Jesus is getting it all ready for us right now! Why? Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

4. Craft- Hooray Hats



What You Need:

- “Hooray Hats Sticker” Activity Page
- Paper party hats
- Stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child’s name on their party hat.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their party hats with stickers, then assist each child in putting their party hats on.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s make a celebration hat! Because we are celebrating the best news ever that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**’ Hip, hip, hooray!”

During the Activity: “Decorate your party hat and paper strip to make it look super special! Use all the fun stickers and colors. *(Allow time to decorate.)* These look like celebration hats—hip, hip, hooray! Now glue your hat to the paper strip. *(Pause. Then measure each child’s strip around their head and staple closed.)* Children will then cover the staple closure bends with sticker(s). *(Pause.)* Your hats say, ‘Hip, Hip, Hooray! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**’

After the Activity: “Now you can wear your hat to celebrate! When anyone asks what you’re celebrating, you can tell them the happy news: **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** We can wear the hats and celebrate that Jesus is preparing a place for His friends in Heaven so we can be together forever. And we want to celebrate because Heaven is the most special place with no more boo-boos and no more sadness. Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen
- Reward stamp/stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage the children to shout “hip, hip, hooray!” as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then ask the children to help you make a list in the journal of special things.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today, we are going to shout ‘hip, hip, hooray’ and put our hands in the air as we celebrate! (*Demonstrate a fist pump in the air.*) Let’s celebrate all the way to our Small Group spot. (*Shout and celebrate as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Whew! We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story today, we heard all about a very special place that Jesus is preparing for us. Do you remember what that place is called? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Heaven! Jesus died on the cross and came back to life three days later so He could be our friend forever! Forever means you can live in Heaven with Jesus one day. The best part is that Heaven is the most special place ever. In Heaven, there are no more boo-boos, no sadness, no sickness, no more tears. Heaven is full of love and happiness! I am so glad that Jesus wants to be your friend forever and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

“The Bible verse we are learning talks about how Jesus wants to be our friend. It says, ‘I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends.’ (*Hook index fingers twice.*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Did you hear that? Jesus called us His friend! Jesus called me friend, and Jesus called you, and you, and you friend! And that is the message we can share with everyone, everywhere! Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever too!** Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! ‘I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends.’ (*Hook index fingers twice.*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) I think you’re ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have a sticker/stamp for everyone who tries to say the Bible verse! (*Hold up stamp/stickers.*) Way to go, [child’s name]! (*Give two thumbs up.*) You get a stamp/sticker! (*Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*) I’m very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and point to your stamp/sticker. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

“Yay! (*Clap.*) I’m so happy that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, we heard that Jesus is preparing the most special place for us, called heaven. Let’s make a list of special things. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one special thing, and I will write

it in our journal.” *(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

After the Activity: “Those are some pretty special things! *(Hold up journal.)* Do you know what? Heaven is even more special than ALL those things on our list! And Jesus is preparing a place in Heaven for all of His friends! Let’s pray and talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for giving us special things like *(read the things on the list)* and thank You for the most special place, heaven! Thank you, God, that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and ever! We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”