

LESSON 13: FOREVER IN HEAVEN

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Adventure

 Revelation 21

11/15/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Revelation 21
- In This Passage: The Bible describes what heaven is like. It's a beautiful, golden city full of light from God himself! There isn't any pain, sadness, or dying. And best of all, we'll live forever with Jesus!
- Bible Point: Jesus is forever...
- Application: ...so we can live forever.
- Summary Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is forever. Forever* is a hard concept for kids (and adults!) to understand. And for some kids, the idea of heaven might seem boring, and thinking about being there forever could be a little intimidating. Help kids focus on the fact that heaven is where we can be face to face with Jesus—and that'll be better than anything we can imagine.
- Think About: What excites you most about heaven?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give your kids a genuine excitement for the hope of heaven.

Quick Tip

- Your attitude is contagious. If you have a genuine excitement about how awesome heaven will be, most kids will feel the same way! If you're scared or uncertain about heaven, that will show through to kids and give them pause. Ask God to help *you* convey a true excitement for forever life with him.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids close their eyes as they hear about heaven and create a picture of what they see.

Supplies

- Bible
- craft supplies (see Easy Prep for examples)
- white construction paper (1 piece per child)

Easy Prep

- Gather plenty of craft supplies for children to create images of heaven based on what they learn about heaven from the Bible. Consider crayons, markers, glitter glue, cellophane, tissue paper, gem stickers, and anything else you think they might want to use.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids trace a circle shape and pray while walking in a circle.

Supplies

- circles (1 per child) (see Tip below)



OBJECT LESSON

Kids experiment with pendulums.

Supplies

- small bottles of brightly colored dish soap (8, 12.6, or 14-ounce bottles work well) (1 for every 3 kids) (check your local dollar discount store)
- 3-foot pieces of yarn (1 for every 3 kids)
- masking tape
- 3- or 4-foot piece of bulletin board paper (1 for every 3 kids)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a relay that goes on and on.

Supplies

- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a board game that seems to never end.

Supplies

- "Circle Game Board" handout (1 color printout for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))

- coins (1 for every 4 kids)
- scissors (1 for every 4 kids, optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make pouches for adhesive bandages.

Supplies

- brightly colored 4x6 index cards (1 per child)
- glue sticks
- smiley face stickers and heart stickers (several of each per child)
- gold glitter paint
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- paper plates (5 for every 4 kids)
- smocks (optional)
- adhesive bandages (at least 1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Pour paint onto paper plates. You'll need 1 plate of paint for every 4 kids.
- Fold the index cards in half with the lines on the inside for kids to make pouches.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids play Charades to imagine what won't be in heaven.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” with their lips tucked over their teeth.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn Jesus is forever, so we can live forever. That means our friendship with Jesus will never, ever end. We'll find out that when we're friends with Jesus, we get to live forever in a place called heaven. Let's start today by talking about a place we'd like to stay forever.**

Share

- Share about a place that *you'd* like to stay forever. Maybe you feel so at peace being at church that you'd like to stay there forever. Or maybe you'd like to stay forever at the beach or a spa.
- In small groups, have kids share about a place *they'd* like to stay forever. They might want to stay forever at the playground, or maybe they enjoy being at Grandma's house so much that they never want to leave.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Those sound like great places to stay forever. Today we'll hear about a place called heaven that's so much better than any of the places we shared about that we'll all want to stay there forever. And we can because Jesus is forever, and we can live forever with him there!**

Pray, thanking God for giving us Jesus, who is forever and who makes it so we can live forever.



Supplies

- Bible
- craft supplies (see Easy Prep for examples)
- white construction paper (1 piece per child)

Easy Prep

- Gather plenty of craft supplies for children to create images of heaven based on what they learn about heaven from the Bible. Consider crayons, markers, glitter glue, cellophane, tissue paper, gem stickers, and anything else you think they might want to use.

Listen and Create

Seat kids around a table or in a circle on a hard floor where they can draw. Spread out all the craft supplies so kids can choose from them as they create their heaven scenes. Give each child a piece of white construction paper, and tell kids not to touch the craft supplies yet.

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever. Forever means something never, ever ends. Think about a day that was so great that you didn't want it to ever end. Pause. Jesus is making a place where we can live forever, and it will be the best place we can ever imagine! That place is called heaven. Let's listen to what the Bible says to find out a little bit of what heaven will be like.**

Open the Bible. Say: **As you listen to what the Bible says, close your eyes and create a picture in your mind of what heaven looks like.** Lead kids to close their eyes and picture what you're describing. **God's angel showed a man named John what heaven looks like. John saw a new place—not an old place—that would forever look new. He saw a very special, beautiful city with all God's friends. He heard someone shout, "God's here with all his friends. This is a place with no sadness, pain, or tears."**

Have kids open their eyes. Say: **Use the supplies to make a picture on the paper in front of you—show what you saw when you were listening with your eyes closed. We'll hear even more later, so don't worry about filling the whole piece of paper right now. Just show what you saw as you listened just now.** Encourage children to create a picture based on what they saw as they listened. They can make a city that looks "new and not old" that's beautiful and full of God's smiling friends.

After a few minutes, say: **There's more! Let's find out some more things the Bible says about heaven.** Lead kids to close their eyes and picture what you're describing. **As John was looking at heaven, he heard God say that no bad people are in heaven. And one of seven angels took John to see the new city from on top of a high mountain. The city was sparkling with bright and precious gems.**

Have kids open their eyes. Say: **Add to your picture what you saw from what I just told you about heaven.** Allow time for kids to add an angel and a mountain and make the city bright and sparkling with gems. You may need to remind them of what you said.

After a couple of minutes, say: **There's still more! Let's keep going.** Lead kids to close their eyes and picture what you're describing. **The walls of heaven are higher than we can imagine—they're the tallest walls we'll ever see. The walls are so thick that no bad people could ever get in. The walls are beautifully made of gold. And the city is big—there's plenty of room for all God's friends. The gates are all made of pearls, which are beautiful gems.**

Have kids open their eyes. Say: **Add to the picture what you saw from what I told you about heaven.** Allow time for kids to make the walls so they look tall and thick and made of gold. Remind them to show the gates made of pearls using any of the supplies they choose.

Say: **There's one more thing I want to tell you about heaven.** Lead kids to close their eyes and picture what you're describing. **There's no sun or moon in heaven, but it's as bright as day! That's because God gives light to heaven. God is so amazing that his brightness brings light to all of heaven.**

Have kids open their eyes and add to their pictures based on what they saw with their eyes closed as they listened. Invite them to show their pictures to those around them.

Add Hopes to Their Pictures

Say: **Wow! Heaven is going to be amazing! It's going to be all new and beautiful, and it will be the happiest place you can imagine. We'll love everyone there, and everyone there will love us. And our best friend Jesus will be there, too. Jesus is forever, so that's why we can live forever, too. We'll get to celebrate with Jesus, and we'll have everything we need.**

Share something *you* hope will be in heaven.

Ask: • **What's something *you* hope will be in heaven?** Allow time for children to add the things they shared about to their pictures.

Say: **We can't be sure whether everything we shared about will be in heaven, but we can be sure that Jesus will make sure we have everything we need in heaven. And we can be sure that heaven will be way more amazing than our best day ever. Heaven is forever, and Jesus is forever. When we're friends with Jesus, we'll live forever in heaven where we'll never be sad, we'll never get hurt, and we'll never cry sad tears. We'll be happy and filled with joy forever! Lead kids in a group hug, and have them say, "Jesus' love is forever!"**



Supplies

- circles (1 per child) (see Tip below)

Tip

- You may choose anything you have available in your class that's a circle, such as magnet shapes or cups, or you may draw a circle on a piece of paper for each child.

Trace a Circle

Give each child a circle. Say: **Trace your circles with me.** Lead kids in tracing their circles with a finger, continuing until you tell them to stop. **A circle has no beginning or end. It goes on forever. It helps us understand what it means that Jesus is forever, and we can live forever. When we're friends with Jesus, we go on living forever in heaven with Jesus. Our joy and happiness will never, ever end in heaven because Jesus makes it so we can be with him forever.** Have kids continue tracing their circles, and point out how there's no beginning or end—the circles go on forever.

Pray in a Circle

Have kids stop tracing their circles. Say: **Since we're learning today that Jesus is forever, let's talk to Jesus while we walk in a circle that goes on forever.** Collect kids' circles.

Lead kids to get into a circle and hold hands to make a circle that doesn't end. Have kids begin to walk in a circle, still holding hands. Say: **I'm so thankful that Jesus is forever and he wants to be our forever friend! Let's thank Jesus for being our forever friend—he'll never, ever stop being friends with us!** Lead kids in saying "Thank you, Jesus!"

Say: **And I'm thankful that Jesus makes it so we can live forever in heaven with him! Let's thank Jesus for that, too.** Lead kids in saying "Thank you, Jesus!"

Ask: • **What are you thankful to Jesus for?** Invite kids to share anything they want. They might thank Jesus for their families or for something they get to do this week. Lead all the kids to say "Thank you, Jesus!" after each child shares.

Have kids stop and sit in their circle. Say: **Jesus loves to hear from us, and we can talk to him anytime because he's our forever friend! You can talk to Jesus anytime you want this week!**

Thank kids for coming today, and ask them to come back next week.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Back and Forth to Forever

Supplies

- small bottles of brightly colored dish soap (8, 12.6, or 14-ounce bottles work well) (1 for every 3 kids) (check your local dollar discount store)
- 3-foot pieces of yarn (1 for every 3 kids)
- masking tape
- 3- or 4-foot piece of bulletin board paper (1 for every 3 kids)

Prep Bottles and Paper

Ask: • **Imagine swinging on swings at a playground. Someone gives you a push to begin with, but what usually happens if you don't pump your legs?**

Say: **Even if someone gave you a really big push, if you don't pump your legs, eventually you'll stop swinging. Swinging doesn't last forever. But swinging a pendulum, which is a hanging object, can leave a forever mark. Let's find out how!**

- Form groups of three, and give each group a bottle of dish soap and a 3-foot piece of yarn.
- Have kids use masking tape to secure one end of the yarn to the bottom of the bottle so the bottle hangs upside down.
- Last, give each group a large piece of bulletin board paper. Have groups spread out around the room and put their paper on the floor.
- With the dish-soap bottles still closed, have one child in each group hold the end of the yarn so the bottle hangs above the paper while another group member gives it a gentle push so it swings back and forth. Make sure the person holding the yarn keeps his or her arm still and lets the bottle swing freely. Have the third group member count the number of swings before it stops.

Open Bottles

Ask: • **What did you notice? Are any of your bottles still swinging on their own?**

Say: **Without our help, the bottles don't swing forever. But they can leave a forever mark. Let's see what it is!**

- Have group members change roles so someone else is holding the yarn.
- Have another group member carefully open the lid so the dish soap can come out of the bottle. He or she should hold a finger over the open top as the bottle is pulled to the side and gently released so it swings over the paper, leaving a trail of dish soap on the paper.
- Have kids observe the shape the dish-soap trail makes. You'll see the soap make ovals or circles on the paper.
- Have kids switch places so everyone has a turn holding the yarn and a turn gently swinging the bottle of dish soap.
- After several minutes, have groups close their bottles of soap and sit down beside their soap art while you debrief.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What shapes do you see on your paper?**

Say: **The soap pendulum may not swing forever, but it created circles on our papers. A circle or oval never ends! We could trace the line forever.**

Ask: • **How is the swinging pendulum like our life on earth?**

Say: **Our lives on earth will end someday, but when we're friends with Jesus, that friendship keeps going! Since Jesus is forever, our friendship with him lasts forever, too. When our lives on earth end, we'll go to heaven to be with Jesus forever.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

On and On It Goes

[10 min]

Supplies

- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Run a Continual Relay

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is forever. Jesus is different from what we're used to in our world full of beginnings and endings—nothing on earth truly lasts forever, even if it *feels* like it sometimes. Let's see what that's like with a game.**

- Form teams of six, and give each team two 1-foot strips of painter's tape.
- Have the teams split in half, each taking a piece of tape, and stand about 15 feet directly across from each other. The people holding the tape can stick it to the floor where they're standing as place markers for a relay.
- Team halves will then line up single file behind their tape lines.
- Choose one side of the room to start the relay. The people at the beginning of each line on that side of the room will run to the lines of teammates across from them, give the first people in the lines high-fives, and then move to the back of the lines they just ran to.
- The people who were high-fived will then run across to the first people in the lines across from them, give them a high-five, and then move to the back of those lines.
- Play will continue this way for as long as time allows.
- You can challenge kids to relay as quickly as they can, continuing until there isn't anyone left to run and high-five—which won't ever happen as players continue to swap lines.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did or didn't the game seem like it could go on forever?**

• **What are other things in your life that seem to take forever?**

Say: **Usually the things that feel like they take forever are boring. But when we experience forever in heaven, it'll be awesome! Heaven is the never-ending, perfect home God created, and Jesus made a way for us to live there with him. Jesus is forever, so we can live forever.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

This Is the Game That Doesn't End

Supplies

- "Circle Game Board" handout (1 color printout for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))
- coins (1 for every 4 kids)
- scissors (1 for every 4 kids, optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Board Game That Could Go on Forever

Say: **Today we discovered some of the sneak-peek details the Bible gives us about heaven. Heaven is so good and so amazing that it can't really be described in a way we can totally understand, but one thing we do know is heaven is forever. Let's play a game that'll give us a picture of what forever means.**

- Form teams of four. Have teams spread out to sit in circles, and give each team a copy of the "Circle Game Board" handout.
- Have teams tear out (or cut out if you're providing scissors) the game pieces from the handout. Each person on the team can take a game piece.
- Teammates can each place a game piece on any space on the game board.
- Give each team a coin.
- Teammates will take turns flipping the coin to see how many spaces to move on the game board. If the coin lands with the heads side facing up, they'll move two spaces. If the coin lands with the tails side facing up, they'll move one space.
- The person on each team with the closest birthday can go first, and players take turns moving clockwise around the circle.
- The goal of the game is to get to the end of the circle. (Note: That doesn't mean kids reach the place they started—there is no end!)
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you notice about this game?**

Say: **If you didn't need things like food, bathroom breaks, or sleep, you could play this game forever! Because the game board is a circle, the game could go on and on *and on*. A circle gives us a picture of what *forever* is like—there's no end.**

Ask: • **What are things you've wished wouldn't end?** Share an example of your own, such as a fun vacation or a book series you loved.

Say: **We're used to things ending, but Jesus is different. Jesus is forever, and he's prepared a home for us in heaven so we can live forever, too.**



CRAFT

Owie Aid Pouch

[20 min]

Supplies

- brightly colored 4x6 index cards (1 per child)
- glue sticks
- smiley face stickers and heart stickers (several of each per child)
- gold glitter paint
- paintbrushes (1 per child)
- paper plates (5 for every 4 kids)
- smocks (optional)
- adhesive bandages (at least 1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Pour paint onto paper plates. You'll need 1 plate of paint for every 4 kids.
- Fold the index cards in half with the lines on the inside for kids to make pouches.



Tell About Pain

Say: **Heaven can be hard to imagine. But one thing the Bible promises about heaven is there'll be no more pain. That means there'll be no more scraped knees or broken bones or even stomachaches. There won't be bandages because we won't ever need them. Won't that be wonderful?**

Tell about a time *you* were injured. Maybe you fell off your bike and broke your arm, tripped and sprained your ankle, or fell out of a tree and skinned your knee.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you got hurt while playing.** Kids may show you a scrape or cut they have now or tell you about a time they fell and got hurt in the past.

Say: **It's exciting to imagine a place where we never get hurt. Jesus is forever, and we get to live in heaven forever with him where we'll never get hurt again. That sounds amazing!**

Make Pouches

Say: **We don't live in heaven yet, so we still get hurt sometimes. Sometimes we even need a bandage. Let's make a pouch like this one** (show kids the sample craft) **where we can keep some bandages. Then when we get hurt and need a bandage, we can remember that there's no pain in heaven and we get to live there with Jesus forever.**

- Distribute a pre-folded 4x6 index card to each child. Help kids put glue on the sides and bottoms of the inside of the

pouches so they seal. Make sure kids leave an opening on top of their pouches so the bandages can be put inside.

- Help kids write “No Pain in Heaven!” on one side of their pouches.
- Give kids stickers to decorate their pouches. Encourage them to place stickers so they don’t cover up the writing.
- Give each child a paintbrush as well as a paper plate to put the pouch on. Have kids paint the pouches. Tell kids not to make the paint too thick so that it will dry quickly.
- Set the pouches aside to dry. After the paint is dry, help kids insert adhesive bandages into pouches.

Say: **It’s no fun to get hurt and need a bandage. But with our pouches, we can have one nearby if we need one. And when we take a bandage from our pouch, we can remember that when we’re in heaven with Jesus, we won’t ever get hurt again. Thank you, God, that heaven is such a wonderful place and we get to be there with you forever!**

**Tip**

- If you have an extra-large group, you may choose to divide kids into groups of 10 or 15.

Play Charades

Say: **It's so exciting that all of Jesus' friends get to live in heaven with him forever. Today we talked about what heaven is like. There are so many wonderful things the Bible promises we'll see in heaven. And the Bible also promises that there won't be any bad things there. Let's play a game to imagine some of the things we're glad won't be in heaven.**

Invite a willing child to come up to the front of the group and act out being sad. Remind kids when they're acting something out that they can't say any words. If needed, give the child some suggestions for acting sad (rubbing eyes, sniffing). Some kids may want you to act along with them. Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what their friend is doing.

When kids guess correctly, say: **That's right! The Bible promises there won't be any tears in heaven, and we get to live there forever!** Have the first child sit down, and invite another willing child to play. Continue having kids act out bad things that won't be in heaven. After kids guess correctly, remind them that those things won't be in heaven and we get to live there forever. Here are some ideas to act out:

- sickness
- darkness
- blindness
- getting hurt, such as falling and scraping a knee
- being afraid of something
- someone dying
- someone being mean and picking a fight

Talk About It

Say: **I am so glad there won't be any bad things in heaven.** Share with kids something *you're* glad won't be in heaven. It might be disease, sadness, or people hurting you.

Ask: • **What things are you glad there won't be in heaven?** Kids might say tummy aches, scraped knees, or mean people.

Say: **It'll be so wonderful to live in heaven without anything bad or scary or painful. Everything in heaven will be perfect. And because Jesus is forever, we get to be in heaven forever with him. That's good news!**