

LESSON 13: FOREVER IN HEAVEN

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers 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

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

Supplies

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



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers experiment with toys that stop.

Supplies

- balls that bounce (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- toys with wheels (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- container to hold the toys

Easy Prep

- Collect and place the toys in a container for easy access.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers hop in a circle for what seems like forever.

Supplies

- masking tape
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Using masking tape, mark out a circle large enough so that kids will be able to hop on it.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a heavenly version of London Bridge.



CRAFT

Preschoolers make pouches for adhesive bandages.

Supplies

- brightly colored 4x6 index cards (1 per child)
- glue sticks

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Pour paint onto paper plates. You'll need 1 plate of

- 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)

- paint for every 4 kids.
- Fold the index cards in half with the lines on the inside for kids to make pouches. Write “No Pain in Heaven!” on one side of each pouch.

**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 preschoolers give an “elbow-five” to three friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, “Long live [name of birthday child]!”
- 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 leader-led small groups, have preschoolers 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 adult or teen helpers 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]

Does It Stop?

Supplies

- balls that bounce (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- toys with wheels (1 for every 5-8 kids)
- container to hold the toys

Easy Prep

- Collect and place the toys in a container for easy access.

Tip

- If you have access to a playground, consider helping kids push swings back and forth to see if they stop, too!

Bounce Balls

Say: **Jesus is forever, and we can live forever.** *Forever means something never, ever stops.* Show kids the container of toys. **I wonder...do these toys go forever, or do they stop? Let's play with them and see! Let's start with the balls.**

- Form smaller groups of five to eight kids, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group. Have groups sit together in a circle on the floor.
- Give each small group a ball that bounces. Have kids in each group take turns bouncing the ball on the ground to see if it keeps bouncing forever.
- If time allows, repeat the experience, giving kids another turn to bounce the ball.
- Once every child has had a turn to bounce the ball, have kids sit down with their small groups again. Invite them to talk about how long the balls bounced.

Push Toys With Wheels

Say: **The bouncy balls didn't bounce forever. Let's see if other toys go forever. This time, let's play with toys that have wheels.**

- Have all the small groups line up at one side of your room.
- Give each small group a toy with wheels, such as a car, train, or stroller.
- Have kids in each group take turns pushing the toy toward the other side of the room until it stops. When the toy stops, have that child run to get the toy and bring it back for another friend to try.
- If time allows, repeat the experience, giving kids another turn to push the toys.
- Once every child has had a chance to push the toy, have kids sit in a circle with their small groups again. Invite them to talk about what happened to the toys with wheels.

Talk About It

Say: **The toys didn't roll forever. They eventually stopped, or maybe they crashed into something that made them stop! Even toys with batteries stop sometimes. But Jesus is forever. When we're friends with Jesus, we get to live forever. That means our friendship with Jesus will never, ever stop.** Have small groups put their hands together in the middle of their circles and cheer, saying, "Jesus is forever!"



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Hop Around Forever

[10 min]

Supplies

- masking tape
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Using masking tape, mark out a circle large enough so that kids will be able to hop on it.

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](#).

Hop in a Circle

Say: **Playing games is so much fun. Sometimes we hope the game can go on forever. Since we're learning today that Jesus is forever, let's play a game to help us think about forever.**

- Help each child find a place to stand on the masking-tape circle.
- When you start the music, invite kids to hop like a bunny around the circle until the music stops.
- Play the music for about 15 seconds, and then stop. Ask kids if that felt like a long time.
- Start the music again, and encourage kids to continue hopping. Let the music play a little longer, and then stop it. Ask kids again if that felt like a long time.
- Continue playing as time allows, increasing the length of each round. For the final round, continue playing for a couple of minutes or until kids begin to stop on their own.

Talk About It

Say: **That felt like a long time. Sometimes we say something lasts forever when it lasts a long time. We could never hop forever—we would get so tired! But in heaven, we'll get to do some really great things forever, like be with Jesus.**

Share something *you* would be happy to do forever. You may want to lie on the beach or listen to your favorite music or spend time with your family.

Ask: • **What would you love to do forever?** Kids may say they would love to play with a favorite toy or game or play in the park.

Say: **In heaven we'll get to spend forever with Jesus doing some awesome things like having a party to thank God for all he has done. We'll be so glad to be with him forever.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Heaven's Gates

Tip

- If you have an extra-large group, you may divide kids into more than one group.

Pass Through the Gates

Say: **Heaven is such an amazing place. It'll be awesome to go there some day and stay there with Jesus forever. Let's pretend we're going through the gates of heaven right now.**

Invite two willing kids to stand facing each other and clasp hands high in the air to make a bridge. Have the rest of the group line up in front of the "bridge." Lead kids in singing this song to the tune of "London Bridge," and the kids making the bridge will lower their arms and hug the child inside their lowered arms on the last line.

Heaven's gates are open wide,
Open wide,
Open wide.
Heaven's gates are open wide,
We will live forever.

Continue playing as time allows, rotating kids in the bridge so everyone gets a turn.

Talk About It

Say: **It's fun to imagine what heaven will be like, and it'll be so much better than anything we can imagine. Everything good will be there, and there won't be anything bad. But the best part of heaven is getting to be with Jesus. It'll be awesome to be able to talk to him face to face.**

Share about something *you* would love to talk to Jesus about. Maybe you want to thank him for helping you, ask him what it was like to walk on water, or ask why he made mosquitoes.

Ask: • **What are *you* excited to talk to Jesus about?** Kids may want to tell Jesus they love him, ask him what dinosaurs were like, or ask what he liked to do as a kid. Encourage kids to use their imaginations to picture actually being able to talk to Jesus face to face.

Say: **The Bible says Jesus is in heaven preparing a place just for us. Jesus is forever, and we can live with him forever.**



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. Write "No Pain in Heaven!" on one side of each pouch.



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 tummy aches. 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 another owie. That sounds amazing!**

Make Pouches

Say: **We don't live in heaven yet, so we still get owies 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 an owie 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 carefully 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.
- 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. Help kids paint the pouches. Make sure that the paint is well distributed 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!**

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