

First Look | April 26

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

1. Balloon Art

What You Need:

- "Balloon Art" Activity Page
- Dot markers
- Paper smoothie straws
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Balloon Art" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their balloon.

During the Activity: Give each child a balloon cutout and let them decorate it with dot markers or crayons. When finished, help children tape their straw to the back of their balloon.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's make a balloon to celebrate and remember today's happy Bible Story!"

During the Activity: "Make your balloon super colorful! Use the dot markers to add lots of color. (Pause.) Wow! Your balloons look so fun and happy! Now, flip your balloon over and let's tape your straw to the back. (Help as needed.) Now you can hold your balloon up high in the air and say **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** (With children.) **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Hip, hip, hooray!!"

After the Activity: "Jesus is getting a special place in Heaven ready for His friends, and that means YOU! Jesus wants to be your friend forever! Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** That's right! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

2. Pray

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."