

July Week 5
Backyard
Ready, Set, Move!

July 30

CRAFT

Party Hats

SUPPLIES: Party hats, Foam stickers, Jesus wants to be my friend forever – Heaven label

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children around the table and pass out a party hat to each child.**

- *“Friends! We found out today in our true Bible story that Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting a place ready for all His friends! Hooray!”*
- *It is going to be like a forever celebration when we are in heaven with Jesus so today we are making party hats!”*

⇒ **Spread out the stickers on the table and let children select stickers to decorate their party hat.**

- *“Let’s decorate our party hats with all of these happy stickers!”*
- *In heaven there are no boo-boos. Everyone can run and play and no one ever gets hurt. In heaven, no one gets sick – no runny noses, tummy aches, or earaches. Everyone is healthy in heaven! Hooray! In heaven, we will never be sad because sad things don’t happen in heaven. There will be nothing to worry about and no reason to ever be afraid! Hooray!*

⇒ **Pass out Jesus wants to be my friend forever label to add to party hat.**

⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“In heaven, we will have everything we need. We will be happy all the time forever. It will be like a party that never ends. Let’s all shout Hooray! ‘Hooray!’ I’m so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and wants everyone to know that He wants to be their friend forever, too.*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Thumbs-up!

SUPPLIES: Thumbs-Up/Thumbs-Down/Jesus pages, Basket with items: squishy heart, party horn, smiley face, band-aid, medicine cup, sad face

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children on the floor or at the table together to explain the game. Show them the thumbs-up and thumbs-down pages.**

- *“Friends! Today our Bible story was about a very special place called heaven. We are going to play a game to see what we remember about heaven.*
- *This is a thumbs-up sign. Can you make a thumbs-up sign with me? Great job! This is a thumbs-down sign. Can you make a thumbs-down with me? Nice work everybody.*
- *When I pull something out of my basket, I want you to give me a big thumbs-up if it’s going to be in heaven. Let’s practice. (Hold up the thumbs-up sign.) Thumbs up! And if I show you something that won’t be in heaven, I want you to show me a thumbs-down. Let’s practice. (Hold up the thumbs-up sign.) Thumbs down.*

⇒ **Hold up one item at a time and determine thumbs-up or thumbs-down.**

- *“Ok are you ready to play? Get those thumbs ready! What is this? Do you think it will be in heaven?”*
 - **Thumbs up:**
 - Heart – everyone will love each other in heaven.
 - Smiley face – everyone will be happy in heaven.
 - Party horn – everyone will celebrate because we’ll be with God forever in heaven.
 - Jesus – Jesus will be our friend forever in heaven.
 - **Thumbs down:**
 - Bandaid – There will be NO boo-boos in heaven.
 - Medicine cup – There will be NO sick people in heaven.
 - Sad face – There will be NO sadness in heaven
 - Angry face – There will be NO anger in heaven.

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *Jesus is getting a place ready in heaven for everyone who loves Him and is His friend. Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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ACTIVITY #2

Praise and Worship Party

SUPPLIES: Instruments, streamers, CD Player, Worship music CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“Friends, join me over here in the center of the room. Today in our true Bible story we learned that Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for us! And in heaven we are going to be happy ALL the time because there are no boo-boos, no sadness, no fighting – we will have everything we need. And the best part of all is that we will be with Jesus FOREVER! That’s great news! That news makes me want to celebrate. Let’s have a praise party!*

⇒ **Turn on the music. Let kids choose instruments or pieces of streamers.**

- *“Let’s dance and celebrate that we get to be in heaven with Jesus forever!*
- *Friends, **Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

⇒ ****OPTION: Turn this into a game of freeze dance!**

⇒ **Continue as long as children are interested!**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Jesus is in heaven right now, getting it ready for all His friends. Isn’t that amazing? I’m so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”***

July Week 4

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ACTIVITY #3

Everyone Memory Verse

SUPPLIES:

I Can Only Imagine book (by Bart Millard), long strip of butcher paper, crayons

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Gather children on the floor or around the table. If at the table, put a strip of butcher paper on each table. If on the floor, put the butcher paper on the floor and have kids lay on their bellies to color.**
 - *“Friends, I have an amazing book that I want to read you. It is going to help us dream about and imagine what heaven will be like one day when we get to go there forever with Jesus!”*
 - *As I am reading, I want you to draw whatever pictures come to your mind. Let’s create a big beautiful picture of what heaven will be like! And don’t forget to draw a picture of yourself on there, too!”*

- ⇒ **Read the book aloud and have kids draw pictures.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Friends, this is beautiful. I am so thankful that Jesus is preparing a place for us where we get to be with him forever.*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY
JULY WEEK 5

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ *The Beginner's Bible: Jesus is Coming*, p. 504

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
- **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **“Jesus said, ‘Come follow me.’” Matthew 4:19**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ “Today we will make a list of our favorite places. It can be anywhere you’ve been that you really love. When I say your name, **tell me one place you really love!**”

⇒ Wow this is a great list! These are some really fun places. Now I am going to write HEAVEN up there in big letters because anywhere with Jesus is the best place ever!

⇒ **Let's pray:**

- *“Dear God, Thank You for making places like . . . (read the list the children made). These are all really great! But we know Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting a place ready for us that will be better than we can ever imagine. There will be no more sadness or sickness. Everyone will have everything they need. And best of all, we will be with You and Your amazing love forever and ever and ever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.”*