

# April 3-5's | W4

## 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

*Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.*

### **Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience**

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### **Small Group (15 minutes)**

#### **Social: Providing time for fun interaction**

Prepare for a Party

### **Large Group (20 minutes)**

#### **Worship: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

### **Small Group (25 minutes)**

#### **Groups: Creating a safe place to connect**

Friends with Jesus

What Do You Think?

Happy News

Journal and Prayer



### **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

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Prepare for A Party | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

 Crepe paper streamers	Several
 Party hats	Several
 Painter's tape	1
 Optional: Confetti	Several

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Place the party supplies ready in a central location.

*During the Activity:* Tell the children that you are getting ready for a very special party. Invite them to help you decorate the room. Give them pieces of streamers to tape to walls, chairs, or tables. Let them wear party hats and celebrate.

*After the Activity:* Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, friends! I'm so happy you're here! Happy Easter! Come stand with me. We're going to play a game with this big, round stone! (*Hold up ball or hoop.*)"

*During the Activity:* "In our story today, we will hear about a big stone that was rolled in front of a tomb. Let's play a game and pretend to roll that stone! We'll make two teams. When I say, 'Go,' the first person in each line will roll the stone all the way to that wall and then roll it back to the next person. Ready, set, go! (*Cheer for the children as they play.*) You are doing a great job rolling that big stone! Way to go, teams!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

*After the Activity:* "That was so much fun! That big stone reminds me of our Bible story today. It's a special story that makes me want to shout, 'Hip, hip, hooray!' Let's go hear about the stone in our story."

20 min

# Groups

5 min

## Friends with Jesus | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

 "Friends with Jesus" Activity Page	1
 Cardstock	1
 Smiley face stickers	Several
 Painter's tape	1
 Optional: A bandana or scarf for a blindfold	1

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Friends with Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group. 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."**

5 min

## What Do You Think? | Made to Think \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

	Butcher paper	1
	Washable markers, dot markers, metallic or glitter crayons	Several
	Fun sparkly stickers	Several
	Masking tape	1

### 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 these super special, sparkly crayons and stickers for us. I found only the most special art supplies for us to use! 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 add some stickers! 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.**"

5 min

## Happy News | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

-  Sheets of smiley face stickers, one sheet 1 per child



### EveryChild Tips

- For a version with less movement, set this activity up on a table. Use a toy to move from number to number and shout, "Jesus is alive!"

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Have the children spread out in an open area.

*During the Activity:* Play a gentle game of tag. Every child has a sheet of smiley face stickers. Their job is to share the "happy news" by gently tagging their friends and giving them a smiley face sticker to wear.

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

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven is the happiest news! Let's play a game to share that happy news with all our friends!"

*During the Activity:* "I'm going to start with the happy news stickers. I'm going to chase you, and when I tag you, I'll give you a sticker! That means you get to help me share the happy news, too! Ready, set, go! (*Gently tag a child and give them a sticker.*) You got the happy news! Now you can help me tag our other friends with these happy stickers! Let's share the happy news with everyone!" (*Repeat as time and interest allow.*)

*After the Activity:* "Look at ALL the happy smiley faces! We're all so happy because we know in heaven there will be no more sadness, no more boo-boos, no more tears. Heaven is the happiest place where we can be with Jesus forever! Because Jesus wants to be your friend forever and **[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.**"

5 min

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

	"Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible	1
	Journal	1
	Fun-shaped pen	1
	Reward stamp/stickers	Several

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15.

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!"

*Dring 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."

# Supplies

## Prepare for A Party | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

- |                          | <b>Quantity</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Crepe paper streamers | Several         |
| 2. Party hats            | Several         |
| 3. Painter's tape        | 1               |
| 4. Optional: Confetti    | Several         |

## Friends with Jesus | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

- |   | <b>Quantity</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. "Friends with Jesus" Activity Page           | 1               |
| 2. Cardstock                                    | 1               |
| 3. Smiley face stickers                         | Several         |
| 4. Painter's tape                               | 1               |
| 5. Optional: A bandana or scarf for a blindfold | 1               |

## What Do You Think? | Made to Think \*Uses Minimal Supplies

- |   | <b>Quantity</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Butcher paper  | 1               |
| 2. Washable markers, dot markers, metallic or glitter crayons | Several         |
| 3. Fun sparkly stickers                                       | Several         |
| 4. Masking tape   | 1               |

## Happy News | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

- |  | <b>Quantity</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Sheets of smiley face stickers, one sheet per child | 1               |

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect \*Uses Minimal Supplies

- |   | <b>Quantity</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible | 1               |
| 2. Journal                                    | 1               |
| 3. Fun-shaped pen                             | 1               |
| 4. Reward stamp/stickers                      | Several         |