

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

No More Tears

Build It

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

Yes or No

What Do You Think?

Happy News

Hooray Hats

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



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

11 min

Worship

3 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name], and I am so happy to see you today!"

"It's time to celebrate! (*Pat legs.*) Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray! Can you do that with me?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Again!"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job! When we come to worship, we are celebrating God and His Son, Jesus. God made everything—(*make a mountain peak over your head with your arms*) the big, tall mountains ... (*make a fish with your hands*) the fish that swim in the deep, blue sea ... (*point to children*) even you! God made every single person. That is definitely something to celebrate. Let's celebrate God by saying (*pat legs*) 'hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!' Ready?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "And (*point up*) God (*cross arms over chest*) loves us so much He gave us Jesus, His only Son. Let's celebrate again. Ready?"

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "And here is something else we can celebrate: Jesus wants to be our friend forever. He wants to help us be friends with God! Let's say 'hip, hip, hooray' one more time."

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now, let's stand up, and let's continue celebrating Jesus."

SONG: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

5 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Great singing, friends! Now, let's learn some words from the Bible. These are words that Jesus said. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

Note: A video of the Memory Verse Motions is available in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

"I (*point up*) have called you (*point to others*) friends" (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15 (*open hands like a book*).

"Can you do that with me?"

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.

"Great job! Jesus calls us friends, and He wants us to follow Him. Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now, let's stand up, and let's celebrate Jesus!"

SONG: "I've Got a Friend" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Great singing, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "My Forever Friend" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

27 min

Bible Story Section (Stage)

3 min

Intro Sketch

What You Need

 Wooden birdhouse

1

Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host carries a wooden birdhouse.

HOST: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name]. Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]!"

"I want to show you something.

Hold up the wooden birdhouse.

"Do you know what this is? (*Listen.*) Yes, it's a birdhouse!

Put down the birdhouse.

"Can you flap your wings like a bird?

Flap your arms like a bird.

"Now, can you flap like a bird and say, 'Tweet! Tweet!' like a bird?"

CHILDREN and HOST: (*Flap arms like a bird.*) "Tweet! Tweet!"

HOST: "Great job! God made so many beautiful birds, and I love watching them fly around outside.

Pick up the birdhouse.

"So, I made/bought this birdhouse, and I'm going to hang it outside my window. I wanted to make a very special place, so a little bird can build a nest inside.

"Hey, did you know that Someone is making a very special place for you? It's going to be a special place for all of us! It will be the happiest place ever, and [Storyteller's name] is going to tell us all about it.

"I'll see you after the Bible Story. Bye!"

8 min

Wonder Bible Story (Video)

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

Bible Story (live)**What You Need**

| | |
|---|---|
|  Bible | 1 |
|  Heart decorations | 1 |
|  Smiley face decorations | 1 |
|  Dry-erase board | 1 |
|  Dry-erase marker | 1 |
|  Dry-erase eraser | 1 |
|  Easel | 1 |
|  Option: Cardstock | 1 |

What You Do:

- Decorate the storytelling area with hearts and smiley faces.
- Place a dry-erase board on an easel, along with the dry-erase marker and eraser.
- Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

The storytelling area is decorated with lots of hearts and smiley faces. There is a dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, and a dry-erase eraser set up on an easel.

Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible and ...

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]."

"Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's Bible story begins in the book of John, and it begins with a whole lot of love. Can you give yourself a big hug?"

Give yourself a big hug.

SLIDE: Story Image W4 01 (Jesus with disciples)

"Jesus loves us so much that He died and then came back to life to rescue everyone! And He told His friends, the disciples, that He was making a home for them in heaven! Jesus told them:

"I will come back. And I will take you to be with me" (John 14:3 NIV).

"That's amazing! But the disciples didn't know what heaven was like.

SLIDE: Story Image W4 02 (John writing)

Walk to the dry-erase board.

"Later, Jesus showed His friend John a little bit of what heaven will be like, and John wrote it down so we can read about it in the Bible.

Draw two eyes on the dry-erase board.

"What are these? (*Point to the drawing and listen.*) Yes, those are eyes. Can you point to your eyes?"

Point to your eyes.

"Tell me something that you can see with your eyes right now.

Listen and respond to the children.

"Well, heaven is where God is. When we are in heaven, we will see God with our own eyes! And we will get to live with God forever and ever in heaven!

Draw several tears falling from one eye.

"Can you tell me what these are? (*Point to the tears and listen.*) Yes, those are tears. Sometimes, we cry tears because we are very sad or because we fell and skinned our knee.

SLIDE: Story Image W4 03 (No pain)

"But John wrote about heaven, and he said:

"'[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.' And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4 NIV).

"We will never cry in heaven!

Erase the tears from the dry-erase board.

"There will be no more sadness.

"Can you rub your tummy?

Rub your tummy.

"Can you tap your ear?

Tap your ear.

"There won't be any tummy aches or 'ouchy' ears in heaven. No one will get sick or hurt.

"Can you show me a sad face?

Make a sad face, then shake your head 'no.'

SLIDE: Story Image W4 04 (Happy people)

"In heaven, we won't be sad, because we will be with our friend Jesus!

Draw a smile under the eyes on the dry-erase board.

"And that makes me feel like celebrating. Everyone, say: (*pat legs*) 'Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!'"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

STORYTELLER: "When we love and follow Jesus, we get to be His friends and live forever in heaven with God! Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Tell me: Who wants to be your friend forever?"

3 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Outro Sketch

What You Need

No supplies needed

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

STORYTELLER: "And let's say, (*pat legs*) 'Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!' for our friend Jesus."

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: (*Pat legs.*) "Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!"

Pick up and close Bible.

[Transition] "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that we get to be in heaven with You. Help us love and follow our friend Jesus every day. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus is making a home for us in heaven! We will get to live with God forever.

"I love knowing that even when I get sick or sad now, that won't ever happen when we're in heaven with Jesus! I'm so glad that Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Tell me: Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN and HOST: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

HOST: "I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN and HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

[Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Getting Ready | 3-5's Stage Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship, the Intro Sketch, and the Bible Story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay!** JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (10 minutes)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advance preparation is necessary.

1. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "I've Got a Friend"—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "My Forever Friend"—available on store.thinkorange.com

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- "I've Got a Friend" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "My Forever Friend" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com

What You Do:

- Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
- Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

2. Intro/Outro

What You Need:

- Wooden birdhouse

3. Bible Story**What You Need:**

- Bible
- Heart decorations
- Smiley face decorations
- Dry-erase board
- Dry-erase marker
- Dry-erase eraser
- Easel
- *Option: Cardstock*

Large Group Visuals:

- Story Image W4 01
- Story Image W4 02
- Story Image W4 03
- Story Image W4 04

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with the *Wonder!* video so you can plug and play the way you need to each week. *Wonder! Look at God's Story* offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God's story.

What You Do:

- Decorate the storytelling area with hearts and smiley faces.
- Place a dry-erase board on an easel, along with the dry-erase marker and eraser.
- Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HipHipHooray

Supplies

Intro Sketch

1. Wooden birdhouse

Quantity

1

Bible Story (live)

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
| 2. | Heart decorations | 1 |
| 3. | Smiley face decorations | 1 |
| 4. | Dry-erase board | 1 |
| 5. | Dry-erase marker | 1 |
| 6. | Dry-erase eraser | 1 |
| 7. | Easel | 1 |
| 8. | Option: Cardstock | 1 |