



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Heaven's Gates

[10 min]

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.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kylie's Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Kylie’s Story” teaching video

Tips

- This video is about a preteen girl whose dad died. While she shares about the hope of heaven, the video could be a trigger to kids in your ministry who’ve recently lost someone. Be sensitive to those kids, and allow extra time for them to share and process. You might even choose to give them a heads-up about the video and let any grieving kids choose to step outside with a helper if they don’t want to watch it.

Discuss and Watch “Kylie’s Story”

Say: **We’re learning that Jesus is forever, so we can live forever. We’re going to watch a story that seems really sad. But we’ll see how knowing that we can live forever brings hope, even when things are sad.**

Watch “Kylie’s Story.”

Ask: • **What do you like to do with your family?**

• **Why do you think Kylie had hope, even though her dad died?**

• **Kylie said it will be amazing to see her dad again in heaven. What are you looking forward to about heaven?**

Say: **When we believe in and follow Jesus, we can live forever in heaven! And even though we’ll always be sad and miss people who die, we can have hope that we’ll get to see them again in heaven. Plus, just like Kylie, we can trust that the people we love are in a great place, hanging out with Jesus! Jesus is forever, so we can live forever.**



DEEPER BIBLE No More

[15 min]

Tip

- If you have an extra-large group, you may choose to divide kids into groups of 10 or 15.

Play Charades

Say: **It's so exciting that all of Jesus' friends get to live in heaven with him forever.** Today we talked about what heaven is like. There are so many wonderful things the Bible promises we'll see in heaven. And the Bible also promises that there won't be any bad things there. Let's play a game to imagine some of the things we're glad won't be in heaven.

Invite a willing child to come up to the front of the group and act out being sad. Remind kids when they're acting something out that they can't say any words. If needed, give the child some suggestions for acting sad (rubbing eyes, sniffing). Some kids may want you to act along with them. Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what their friend is doing.

When kids guess correctly, say: **That's right! The Bible promises there won't be any tears in heaven, and we get to live there forever!** Have the first child sit down, and invite another willing child to play. Continue having kids act out bad things that won't be in heaven. After kids guess correctly, remind them that those things won't be in heaven and we get to live there forever. Here are some ideas to act out:

- sickness
- darkness
- blindness
- getting hurt, such as falling and scraping a knee
- being afraid of something
- someone dying
- someone being mean and picking a fight

Talk About It

Say: **I am so glad there won't be any bad things in heaven.** Share with kids something *you're* glad won't be in heaven. It might be disease, sadness, or people hurting you.

Ask: • **What things are you glad there *won't* be in heaven?** Kids might say tummy aches, scraped knees, or mean people.

Say: **It'll be so wonderful to live in heaven without anything bad or scary or painful. Everything in heaven will be perfect. And because Jesus is forever, we get to be in heaven forever with him.** That's good news!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Forever Prayers

[5 min]

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!**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Looking Heavenward

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Forever in Heaven” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader)
- pencils
- crayons
- glitter glue (optional)

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Jesus is forever, and we can live with him in heaven forever! Let’s color a picture of heaven.**

Allow time for kids to color. Optionally, kids can add glitter glue to make heaven sparkle.

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When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders when they're dry, if desired. Since this is the end of this program, allow kids to take their binders home and use them as picture Bibles to remember all they've learned.