

AUGUST 24

1ST-3RD GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

BLOCK PARTY 5: CROSS PATHS

GAME:

Items Needed:

None

Instructions:

The group forms a circle. One person is chosen to be the Guesser and they go into the middle of the circle. The Guesser is blindfolded or asked to keep their eyes closed. The game begins with an adult spinning the Guesser around in a circle. The group is asked to spin around in a circle as well, but in the other direction. When the spinning stops, the Guesser points in the direction of one of the people in the circle and says the name of an animal. That person must make the noise that the animal makes. The guesser will then try to guess who the person is by the sounds they make.

WHAT'S THE POINT:

We recognized our friends by their silly animal noises and voices, but the criminal on the cross recognized Jesus because he had faith.

BUILDING ACTIVITY: What Heaven Might Look Like

Hello! Welcome back to our series: Block Party! We will be partying every week with everyone's favorite hobby, LEGO bricks! Each week, I will give you a brick challenge to work on while I work on our object lesson.

This week, your Block Build is the most challenging of them all, but also the most exciting! I want you to build what you think Heaven might be like.

(Set a timer for 5-10 minutes, depending on time. While they are building theirs, build a house that has a hole in the roof)

Wow! Your Heavens are looking great! We don't know a lot about what Heaven will be like, but sometimes it is really fun to imagine.

LESSON: If I put my faith in Jesus, I can have eternal life!

We hear the words “eternal life” a lot in church, but have you ever thought about what they really mean? Let’s break it down and see if it can help us make some sense of the words. So, we know that eternal means forever. So, if we add that to life, we know that it means that we’ll live forever!

That sounds awesome, right? But what will we do forever? I mean think about it, sometimes when we have to wait in line too long for something we say it’s taking “forever.” So, is forever actually a good thing?

I think today’s story can give us a small clue about what forever might look like. It’s about a criminal who put his faith in Jesus while hanging on a cross. Let’s read!

READ LUKE 23:36-43

It blew my mind the first time I realized that Jesus wasn’t alone up there on the cross. It’s amazing to me how Jesus, even as he was dying, was able to use his last moments to show His love and draw others to Him. Even in death, He gave life.

There were two criminals, one on each side of him. One of the criminals mocked Jesus, asking why He didn’t just save all three of them. But the other criminal knew better. He knew that he deserved the punishment he was receiving. He also knew that Jesus did not.

Even though he knew he didn’t deserve it, he asked Jesus for just one thing. He asked that Jesus remember him when He goes to His kingdom. This was huge. This told Jesus everything he needed to know.

Jesus knew that the criminal believed and knew who Jesus really was. He knew he was a true King and a Savior. The criminal had faith. Jesus honored his faith by saying that the criminal would get to enter paradise with Him.

Paradise? Can you imagine? What do you imagine when you think of paradise? (Invite kids to share their answers.) Well, this story doesn't really share much more than that, but I think we can know for certain that it's going to be good, right?

So, now we know that eternal life means forever, and that it's good, and that it's somewhere that Jesus invites people to. If Jesus is inviting people there, we can guess that it's not going to be the bad, boring kind of forever.

I think the absolute best part of eternal life is that we get to be with Jesus. He wants to be our best friend, right? And we all want to spend as much time as we can with our best friend.

So, do you want Jesus to be your best friend? Are you ready to put your faith in him? If you are, please come talk to me or another teacher and we'll talk about what that looks like!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think of when you think of eternal life?
2. How do you think the criminal knew who Jesus really was?
3. What did the criminal mean when he talked about Jesus' kingdom?
4. How is Jesus' kingdom different from the kingdoms we see on the earth?

Close in prayer.

MEMORY VERSE:

THIS WEEK: "But I trust in your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because you will save me." Psalm 13:5 (NIRV)

If they memorize the verse, they can get a ping pong ball to put in the BLUE BOX in the hallway.