Revelation 21–22

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Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Revelation 21-22
- In This Passage: The Bible tells us about heaven, an amazing place where • there's no more death, sadness, or pain. It's beautiful, with golden streets and giant pearl gates. There's a crystal-clear river flowing down the middle and an amazing tree on either side. It's never dark in heaven because God's brightness is constant! Best of all, heaven is where Jesus wants to be with us forever.
- Bible Point: Jesus wants to be with us forever.
- Summary Verse: "But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior" (Philippians 3:20).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: Jesus wants to be with us forever. Kids may have mixed • thoughts about heaven. Some may be confused; some may be curious. Some may be excited; others may be scared. Use this lesson to help kids get excited about heaven and the idea that Jesus has made a way for them to live with him forever.
- Think About: How do you picture heaven? What do you think you'll do there?

Dig In to Prayer

• Ask God to open kids' hearts so they'll all be his friends who will live with him forever in heaven.

Quick Tip

 In heaven there will be no more pain...but kids have a lot of pain here on earth. As they consider what's broken about *this* world, it's important that they have a safe place to share. You could say something like, "What's said in this room stays in this room, unless the person gives permission to share." Also be aware that some of the real pains kids face are based on family issues such as divorce, abuse, and neglect. Be sensitive to these issues, and inspire hope that one day, Jesus will wipe away all their tears forever.

This Lesson at a Glance

MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- "I Have a Friend (Yo Tengo un Amigo)" (watch or download here) •
- "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (watch or download here)
- "This Train Is Bound for Glory" (watch or download here)

TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Recommended for elementary kids.

Supplies

"A Forever Friendship" teaching video (watch or download here)

OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

Bible •



DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers do an activity to travel across the room to "heaven."

Supplies

- Bible
- plain white paper
- colored construction paper
- painter's tape or masking tape
- upbeat worship song
- music player
- heaven decorations from Core Bible Discovery

Easy Prep

- Tape sheets of white paper to the floor to create a winding path through your room to the gold wall and other heaven decorations you created during Core Bible Discovery. Make sure the sheets of paper are close enough so that preschoolers can hop from 1 sheet to another.
- Scatter the colored construction paper on the floor on both sides of the white paper path.

CORE BIBLE AT HOME

Only available in One Room class format.

CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

22

Classroom: Monkeys

Preschoolers make "heaven" in their room.

Supplies

- Bible
- facial tissues (2 per child)
- large roll of yellow cellophane
- painter's tape
- scissors
- glitter or metallic stickers
- 12 bricks or stackable stones
- blue bedsheet
- 2 chairs
- brown bulletin board paper
- green construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- colorful sticky notes (1 per child)
- sliced fruit pieces
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Cut sticky notes into round or oval shapes, making sure to retain the sticky part.
- Use the brown bulletin board paper to make a "gate" around 1 door in your room. Place paper across the top and down the sides of the doorway. This "gate" will provide a place where kids can put stickers so they won't get stuck on your walls. Also, choose a door that can be opened for when the children need to toss their tissues out the door.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing a joyful song to Jesus.

Supplies

- heaven decorations from Core Bible Discovery
- music
- music player
- Friends With God Story Bible (optional) (order <u>here</u>)

Easy Prep

Choose a joyful and worshipful song that children enjoy singing.

OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers play with marker spinners.

Supplies

- preschool-friendly spinning tops (1 for every 5 kids)
- chubby washable markers (1 per child)
- old CDs (1 per child)
- Glue Dots
- craft paper
- tape

Classroom: Monkeys

Easy Prep

- Cover tables with craft paper, and tape it to secure it to the table.
- Make 1 marker spinner per child:
 - Place several Glue Dots around the top of the marker right below the cap.
 - Then insert the marker through the hole in the middle of a CD. The Glue Dots will help hold the marker securely in place.
 - Adjust the CD so it's perpendicular to the marker. The straighter the CD, the better it'll spin.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers hop in a hula-hoop circle.

Supplies

- hula hoops or carpet circles (1 per child, plus 1 extra)
- masking tape (optional)
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

• Create a circle path out of the hoops for kids to hop into. There should be a hoop for each child plus 1 extra. If you have a big class, make 1 circle path for every 10 kids. Alternatively, you can make circles out of masking tape instead of using hula hoops.

LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers find a way through mazes.

Supplies

- "Mazes" handout (download <u>here</u>) (1 per child)
- pencils (1 per child)
- crayons



Preschoolers make jewelry.

Supplies

- plastic lacing (about 2 feet per child)
- clear pony beads
- pearl-colored pony beads
- gold-colored pony beads
- jewel-toned pony beads
- bowls
- tape
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Pour each type of bead into a different bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show preschoolers.

*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery

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Classroom: Monkeys

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

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MUSIC VIDEO I Have a Friend (Yo Tengo un Amigo)

[10 min]

Supplies

- "I Have a Friend (Yo Tengo un Amigo)" (watch or download here)
- "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (watch or download here)
- "This Train Is Bound for Glory" (watch or download here)

<u>Tip</u>

• Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can choose your own worship songs from our Best Of Dig In Music DVD <u>here</u>.

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO A Forever Friendship

[10 min]

Supplies

• "A Forever Friendship" teaching video (watch or download here)

Tips

- Talk-About Videos may work for preschoolers, but they're geared more toward elementary kids. If you find that the videos aren't hitting the mark for your preschoolers, try using the Preschool Puppet Skit activity block instead.
- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or purchase DVDs <u>here</u>.

Discuss and Watch "A Forever Friendship"

Say: Today we're learning that Jesus wants to be with us forever.

Ask: • What do you think it will be like in heaven with Jesus?

Say: There was a boy named Colton who almost died during surgery at the hospital. He said he went to heaven and met Jesus there! Let's see what he says about heaven.

Watch "A Forever Friendship."

Ask: • What was exciting about what Colton said?

• What questions would you like to ask Colton about heaven?

Say: When Colton saw Jesus and angels, it was amazing! Colton said he felt safe in heaven and met people he'd never gotten to meet. He tells us that heaven was very colorful and happy. We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but we know it will be amazing! And anyone who believes in Jesus can spend forever there with Jesus.



[5 min]

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Supplies

Bible •

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers make a silly animal noise at two different • friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids. .
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say "yadhtrib yppah" ("happy birthday" backward).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we'll learn that Jesus wants to be with us forever. That means he never wants to be away from us-not now, not ever. We can be friends with Jesus and enjoy being with him forever! Let's think of some other things we might want to enjoy forever.

Share

- Share about something you never want to stop doing. You might love to bake and never want to stop baking, or you might enjoy running and want to do it all the time.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share things *they* never want to • stop doing. They might share about a game they love to play, something they love to do with a parent, or a place they like to go that they never want to leave, such as the park.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the • whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: We all have things we never want to stop doing because we love doing them so much. Jesus loves us like that—Jesus always wants to be with us. He wants to be with us and enjoy time with us forever. Jesus has a very special place for us to live with him forever, too. It's called heaven, and Jesus' friend John tells us about that amazing place in the Bible. The Bible is one way Jesus talks to us. Let's listen to Jesus as we hear from the Bible today.

Pray, thanking Jesus for wanting to be with us forever.



DEEPER BIBLE Path to Heaven

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- plain white paper
- colored construction paper
- painter's tape or masking tape
- upbeat worship song
- music player
- heaven decorations from Core Bible Discovery

Easy Prep

- Tape sheets of white paper to the floor to create a winding path through your room to the gold wall and other heaven decorations you created during Core Bible Discovery. Make sure the sheets of paper are close enough so that preschoolers can hop from 1 sheet to another.
- Scatter the colored construction paper on the floor on both sides of the white paper path.

<u>Tip</u>

• You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program <u>here</u>.

Path to Heaven

Say: Today we're talking about what a wonderful place heaven is and how <u>Jesus wants to be with us forever</u> there. But how do we get to heaven? Let's play a game to help us understand that.

Have kids line up near the beginning of your white-paper path, across the room from your heaven decorations.

Point out the heaven decorations you placed during Core Bible Discovery. Say: We want everyone to get to heaven! But let's pretend the floor between here and there is hot lava. No one can step on it!

There's only one way to get across the room—by following the whitepaper path and hopping from piece to piece. You might see other colored paper on the ground, but the colored paper won't keep you safe. There's only one way to get to the heaven we made.

Let preschoolers take turns hopping from sheet to sheet of white paper. Remind preschoolers that the colored paper won't keep them safe from the lava. Make sure every child has a turn to hop between the sheets of white paper to make it to the opposite side of the room.

Say: In our game, there was lots of paper you *couldn't* use to get to the heaven side of our room. There was only one path you could take—the white-paper path! That's kind of like life. People might think there are lots of different ways for them to get to heaven, like by being a good person or by not doing really bad things. But Jesus says there's only *one* way to get to heaven. Listen

to what Jesus tells us.

Read John 14:6.

Say: Jesus says he is the one way to get to heaven. And the way we can be with God in heaven is by asking Jesus to be our friend. It's so easy! Jesus loves us so much, and he died to take away the wrong things we all do. We can thank Jesus for his gift of love and invite him to be our friend forever!

Share with preschoolers your own brief testimony about how you became friends with Jesus.

Say: Do you want to be Jesus' friend, too? He loves you so much! Let's all pray and talk to Jesus together.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for loving us so very much. Thank you for the gift of your love and forgiving us when we do wrong things. We want to be your friend. Thank you for wanting to be with us forever in heaven! Amen.

Say: Let's celebrate Jesus' love for us and that <u>Jesus wants to be with us</u> forever.

Have preschoolers stand up, and lead them in singing and dancing along to an upbeat worship song.



CORE BIBLE AT HOME Not available for this age level.

[20 min]

To use this feature, please ask your DIG IN Director to create a **One Room** classroom. For instructions and tips on creating a classroom for at-home lessons, click <u>here</u>.

CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Revelation: Jesus Is Coming Back for Us (Revelation 21-22)

Supplies

- Bible
- facial tissues (2 per child)
- large roll of yellow cellophane
- painter's tape
- scissors
- glitter or metallic stickers
- 12 bricks or stackable stones
- blue bedsheet
- 2 chairs
- brown bulletin board paper
- green construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- colorful sticky notes (1 per child)
- sliced fruit pieces
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Cut sticky notes into round or oval shapes, making sure to retain the sticky part.
- Use the brown bulletin board paper to make a "gate" around 1 door in your room. Place paper across the top and down the sides of the doorway. This "gate" will provide a place where kids can put stickers so they won't get stuck on your walls. Also, choose a door that can be opened for when the children need to toss their tissues out the door.

<u>Tip</u>

• You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program <u>here</u>.

Talk About the Difference Between Heaven and Earth

Dim the lights before you begin. Say: **Today we'll learn that <u>Jesus wants to</u>** <u>be with us forever</u>. He made a beautiful place for us called *heaven* where we can be with him. Heaven will be a wonderful place where we'll have everything we need. We're going to love it there!

Share a few things *you* hope to see and do while you're living with Jesus in heaven. You might share that you hope to enjoy a beach, great music, or a time of laughing and talking with loved ones.

Ask: • What do you hope to do in heaven with Jesus?

Say: It's hard for us to imagine what it'll be like in heaven because it's going to be *greater* than we could ever imagine. But the Bible says there will be no sadness in heaven. We won't ever be worried or scared, and we'll never be

hurt by anything ever again. It's not like earth, where we live now.

Have kids gather close together.

Share about a couple of sad, hurtful, or worrisome things in *your* life. You might share that it hurts your feelings when someone yells at you or says unkind things. You might also share about a physical injury you had or something that you worry about consistently.

Ask: • What's something sad, hurtful, or scary for you? When each child shares, give the child a tissue, and set another tissue a few feet behind the child. You'll make a tissue circle on the floor, surrounding the group of children.

Say: We cry here on earth because sad things happen. Sometimes it feels like sad things surround us. Point out that the tissues are surrounding the children. But in heaven, God will wipe away our tears. Invite kids to use the tissues to pretend to wipe away tears.

Create a Place Like Heaven

Show the Bible. Say: In the Bible, one of Jesus' friends, John, tells us some things about heaven. An angel showed John heaven, and John said it's amazing! As we learn about what John saw, let's make our own heaven. But first we need to get rid of all these tissues because John said that in heaven, all sadness is gone. Invite the children to pick up all the tissues. Give each child a turn to throw the tissues out your door that you've designated as the "gate."

Say: No pain, no worry, no unkindness, and no sadness will be able to enter through the gate into heaven. We'll be happy about *everything* in heaven. The Bible says Jesus will make everything new. Let's leave our sadness out there and make something new in here.

In heaven, John saw a big, tall wall. It was made of beautiful clear gold. Invite preschoolers to help you hang a large piece of yellow cellophane on the wall by the "gate." They might just hold the cellophane for you while you cut and tape it.

Say: **Heaven was also made of precious and pretty stones.** Invite children to put the stickers on the gold wall.

Say: **The wall had 12 foundation stones. Foundation stones are strong**, **and they keep the wall sturdy.** Invite children to count to 12 and take turns placing stones up against the gold wall.

Turn on all the lights in your room. Say: Here on earth we have the sun to light up our sky, but God lights up heaven by himself. It's beautiful and bright every day.

John also saw a clear river flowing through heaven. Invite children to place the blue sheet on the floor and scrunch it up on the sides to make it look like a flowing river. The water will flow from where God sits. God will make sure we have all the clean and delicious water we need.

On each side of the river, John saw two strong trees. Place a chair on each side of the kids' river. Help kids wrap the brown bulletin board paper all the way around the base of the chairs to make a trunk. Use the painter's tape to keep it in place. Then give kids each a sheet of green construction paper, and have them crumple the paper into balls and pile the balls on the chairs to make the leafy tops of the trees.



Say: **The trees will have many different delicious fruits.** Give kids each a sticky note, and have them stick the notes to the trees. Then pretend to pick fruit, and give each child a slice of fruit to enjoy.

Say: This fruit is yummy, but the fruit in heaven will be better than we can imagine. John also says that in heaven people will worship God. Sometimes when we worship God, we sing. Let's sing a song we love right now. Turn on a favorite worship song for children to sing along to.

Talk About It

Have all the children sit in the new place they created. Say: **Look around. We learned what John saw in heaven.** Allow a moment for kids to observe the area they created.

Ask: • What do you think of the pretend heaven we made?

• Do you think what we made is as good as heaven will be? Explain.

Say: We did a great job creating a new space for our room, but heaven will be the most wonderful place we'll ever experience. That's because Jesus made it. <u>Jesus wants to be with us forever</u>, so he made the most amazing place for us to laugh and play and enjoy time with him and the people we love. John *saw* heaven, but even *he* had trouble explaining how wonderful it will be.

I guess we'll have to wait to see heaven. Until then, we can remember that Jesus is our good friend, and he'll take care of us here on earth. And at just the right time, we'll get to join Jesus in heaven because <u>Jesus wants to be with us forever</u>.

Leave the decorations up for use in this lesson's other activity blocks



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP Singing in Heaven

Supplies

- heaven decorations from Core Bible Discovery
- music
- music player
- Friends With God Story Bible (optional) (order here)

Easy Prep

• Choose a joyful and worshipful song that children enjoy singing.

<u>Tip</u>

You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program <u>here</u>.

Sing a Joyful Song

Say: Today we learned what it means that <u>Jesus wants to be with us</u> <u>forever</u>. We found out how amazing heaven will be, and we learned that we can sing fun songs to Jesus in heaven. Let's end our time together today by singing a song to show Jesus we love him and want to be with him, too.

Play the song you chose ahead of time, and lead children in singing. Encourage children to enjoy the song by using motions and movement.

Pray

Say: Heaven will be a joyful, happy place. There will be no sadness there at all. Let's thank Jesus that <u>he wants to be with us forever</u>. Let's also thank him for making a place for us to enjoy our friendship with him in heaven.

Lead the children in a prayer, thanking Jesus for preparing an amazing place where all his friends can live with him forever.

If you have extra time, read today's Bible story, "The End That's Also the Beginning—by John," from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Say: **I'm thankful to know that we can all be together forever in an amazing place when Jesus is our friend.** Let children know how much you enjoy being with them, and tell them you hope they can be with you next week in church.



[10 min]



OBJECT LESSON Spin and Draw

Supplies

- preschool-friendly spinning tops (1 for every 5 kids)
- chubby washable markers (1 per child)
- old CDs (1 per child)
- Glue Dots
- craft paper
- tape

Easy Prep

- Cover tables with craft paper, and tape it to secure it to the table.
- Make 1 marker spinner per child:
 - Place several Glue Dots around the top of the marker right below the cap.
 - Then insert the marker through the hole in the middle of a CD. The Glue Dots will help hold the marker securely in place.
 - Adjust the CD so it's perpendicular to the marker. The straighter the CD, the better it'll spin.



Spin Tops

Set out several preschool-friendly tops, and let kids take turns spinning them on a table. Encourage adult or teen helpers to be ready to help kids and count how many seconds they keep the tops spinning in circles.

Spin the Markers

Hold up a marker spinner and show kids the round CD. Say: **These CDs are circles. The line around a circle never ends—it just keeps going forever.** Give each child a marker spinner, and lead kids to trace their fingers around the circle to show that the line around a circle never ends.

Say: Even though we couldn't make our tops spin forever, let's try to make our marker spinners spin in circles forever. Since our spinners are made with markers, they can make fun pictures as they spin.

- Show kids how to take off the caps and then place the tips of the markers onto the craft paper.
- Show kids how to spin the markers using the palms of their hands. It's okay if marker spinners don't spin perfectly. Encourage kids to keep trying.
- Help kids count how many seconds the markers and CDs keep spinning.
- Allow kids to freely play for about five minutes, experimenting with different ways to try to make the marker spinners spin and trading colors with friends as they wish.
- When finished, have kids put the caps back on the markers and look at the squiggly lines their spinners created on the paper.

Talk About It

Say: Thanks to our cool marker spinners, the paper on our table is really colorful now! It took some practice, but we made the markers and CDs spin around and around. Sometimes they spun for a long time, while other times they only spun for a short time. But no matter how well we spun them, none of the markers kept spinning forever—they all stopped. But we'll never stop being with Jesus! Jesus wants to be with us forever. When Jesus is our friend, we'll be with him forever and ever and ever!



HIGH-ENERGY GAME Hula Hops

[10 min]

Supplies

- hula hoops or carpet circles (1 per child, plus 1 extra)
- masking tape (optional)
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

• Create a circle path out of the hoops for kids to hop into. There should be a hoop for each child plus 1 extra. If you have a big class, make 1 circle path for every 10 kids. Alternatively, you can make circles out of masking tape instead of using hula hoops.



<u>Tip</u>

• You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program <u>here</u>.

Hop Around the Hula Hoop Circle

Hold up a hula hoop. Ask: • What shape is this hula hoop? Invite kids' responses. Say: It's a circle. The line forming a circle goes around and around. It keeps going forever and never stops. Let's play a game where we'll hop around in a circle. Let's see how long we can keep hopping without getting tired.

- Start by having each child stand in a hula hoop.
- When the music starts, have kids all hop in one direction around the circle path from one hoop to the next. Remind kids to wait to hop until the person in front of them has hopped out of the hoop.
- When you notice kids getting tired, stop the music, and invite kids to rest for a bit.
- After a short break, start the music again, signaling that it's time to get hopping again.

 Continue for several rounds; then invite kids to each sit in a hula hoop while you debrief.

Talk About It

Say: We couldn't hop forever. We got too tired. But Jesus never gets tired of loving us. Jesus wants to live with us forever. He's made a special place for us called *heaven*.

Ask: • Do you think we'll get tired in heaven? Why or why not?

Say: We don't know exactly what heaven will be like, but when we're friends with Jesus, we'll find out someday. <u>Jesus wants to live with us forever</u>! Just like a circle never ends, our friendship with Jesus will never end.



LOW-ENERGY GAME A-MAZE-ing!

Supplies

- "Mazes" handout (download <u>here</u>) (1 per child)
- pencils (1 per child)
- crayons

Find Ways Through the Mazes

Say: I have something fun for us to try! Let's see if we can make our way through these mazes. We'll follow the path to the pictures in the middle.

- Give each child a "Mazes" handout and a pencil.
- Encourage kids to find their way through each maze.
- If they finish the mazes quickly, invite them to color them.

Talk About It

Say: One maze led us to a tree with yummy fruit. Maybe it's like the tree John saw in heaven! The other maze led us to a heart and some musical notes. In heaven, we'll sing and tell Jesus how much we love him.

Invite children to share in pairs how they reached the end of their mazes. Then say: It looks like we all took the same path to heaven on our mazes. That reminds me of something Jesus said in the Bible. He said there's only one way to get to heaven. When we believe in Jesus, he makes a place in heaven for us! Jesus wants to live with us forever. Let's celebrate that we get to always be with Jesus! On the count of three, let's shout, "Yay, Jesus!" Invite kids to shout with you several times.



CRAFT Heavenly Jewelry

Supplies

- plastic lacing (about 2 feet per child)
- clear pony beads
- pearl-colored pony beads
- gold-colored pony beads
- jewel-toned pony beads
- bowls
- tape
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Pour each type of bead into a different bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show preschoolers.



Make a Necklace or Wristband

Say: In our Bible story, we learned that an angel showed Jesus' friend John what heaven will be like. John says he saw a beautiful city, and because God is there, it sparkled like glass. Hold up the clear beads. John said there's a huge wall around the city built of precious jewels of all different colors—blue, green, red, orange, and purple. Hold up the jewel-toned beads. There are 12 gates in the city wall that are made of pearls. Hold up the pearl-colored beads. And John said the main street in the city is pure gold. Hold up the gold-colored beads. Heaven sounds like a beautiful place! Let's make a necklace or wristband with these beads to remind us of how amazing heaven will be. Show preschoolers the sample craft.

• Let each child decide whether to make a necklace or wristband.

- For each child, cut approximately 2 feet of lacing for a necklace or 8 inches for a wristband.
- Tie a knot in one end of each piece of lacing about 1 inch from the end. Then tape those ends to a table so that preschoolers can easily string beads onto the lacing without them sliding off.
- Let preschoolers use any combinations of the beads they'd like to make their jewelry, stopping about 1 inch from the other end.
- After preschoolers have finished adding beads, tie a knot in the second end of the lacing so the beads are secured at both ends.
- Help preschoolers tape the two ends of the lacing together to finish their necklaces or wristbands.

Say: Heaven will be more wonderful than we can even imagine. And that's where Jesus wants to be with us forever! Forever means something that never ends, kind of the way a circle doesn't end. It goes around and around and around. Have preschoolers each trace the circle of the necklace or wristband with a finger. I'm glad that Jesus loves us so much and has such a wonderful place waiting for us in heaven where we'll get to live with him forever.