

## Revelation 21–22

## Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 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

Kids 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

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

#### Supplies

- “A Forever Friendship” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



### CORE BIBLE AT HOME

Only available in One Room class format.



### DEEPER BIBLE

Kids wonder about heaven and find out what they can from Scripture.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- tape



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids get rid of evil and sadness, and they make a glimpse into heaven.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- masking tape
- yellow construction paper
- green crayons or markers
- newsprint or butcher paper
- scissors

- blue cellophane
- markers
- umbrella
- fishing line
- brown paper lunch bags

**Easy Prep**

- Make a secure loop of fishing line that hangs down from your ceiling. Kids will hook the handle of an umbrella through it.

**OBJECT LESSON**

Kids spin pennies inside balloons.

**Supplies**

- uninflated clear or light-colored balloons (1 per child)
- pennies (1 per child) (you'll get them back)
- balloon pump (optional)

**LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP**

Kids praise God with prayers from Revelation.

**HIGH-ENERGY GAME**

Kids try different challenges that begin and end quickly.

**Supplies**

- jump-ropes (1 for every 5 kids)
- 3 beanbags
- masking tape
- hula hoops (1 for every 5 kids)
- 5 chairs
- soccer or rubber playground balls (1 for every 5 kids)
- stopwatch or cellphone timer
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

**Easy Prep**

- Make Forever Feat Stations, and spread them out around your room.
  - Jump-Rope Station: Place the jump-ropes on the floor.
  - Toss and Catch Station: Place the beanbags on the floor.
  - Hopping Station: Tape 1x1-foot squares on the floor (1 for every 5 kids).
  - Hula Hoop Station: Place the hula hoops on the floor.
  - Soccer Station: Set out 5 chairs in a line spaced a few feet apart, and place the soccer balls at one end of the line.

**LOW-ENERGY GAME**

Kids pass paper wads down a line...forever!

**Supplies**

- paper wads
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

**CRAFT****Kids make tops that spin for a long time...but not forever!****Supplies**

- 16-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- cardboard (recycled food packaging works great)
- white paper
- pencils
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- craft knives (for teacher use only)
- pennies (at least 1 per child)
- stopwatch or cellphone timer (optional)

**Easy Prep**

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

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.



## 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](#))

#### Tip

- 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 [here](#).

#### **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](#))

#### Tip

- 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 [here](#).

#### 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. He said he went to heaven and met Jesus there! Let’s see what he says about heaven.**

Watch “A Forever Friendship.”

Ask: • **What do you wonder about most after watching this video?**

• **What most excites you 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 describes heaven as a scene of vast colors and a place full of joy. 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.**



**CORE BIBLE AT HOME**  
Not available for this age level.

[20 min]

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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 [here](#).



## DEEPER BIBLE

### Why Didn't God Tell Us More About Heaven?

[15 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pens
- tape

#### Pick a Side

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus wants to be with us forever in heaven. We learned a lot about heaven...but there's still a lot I'd like to know. I'll ask some of my questions, and you'll pick a side of the room to show what you *hope* the answer is.** Point to one side of the room to be the "yes" side and the other side to be the "no" side. Then read these questions and let kids choose a side, having a few kids from each side explain their answer for each one.

- **Are there pets in heaven?**
- **Will we sleep in heaven?**
- **Will we recognize people we knew on earth?**
- **Will we get bored?**
- **Will we remember life on earth?**
- **Is there pizza in heaven?**

After reading through all the questions, have kids ask their own questions, and repeat the experience. If kids ask questions that don't have yes or no answers, simply have kids remain where they are and share what they hope is the answer.

Say: **We have so many questions! The Bible talks about some of them...kind of. It's still not enough information for us to get a confident answer. So why didn't God tell us more about heaven? Let's dig in to that.**

#### Dig Deeper

Say: **Let's take a closer look at what God *did* tell us about heaven.** Distribute Bibles, paper, and pens. Form four to eight groups, and give each group one or two of the verses or passages below. Have kids in each group work together to draw what they learned about heaven.

- Revelation 21:3-4
- Revelation 21:21
- Revelation 21:22
- Revelation 21:27
- Revelation 22:1-3
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17
- John 14:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:40

Allow several minutes for groups to read and draw, and then have groups take turns presenting their pictures by describing what they learned about heaven. Have



kids then hang up their pictures together to make a heaven collage.

**Talk About It**

Say: **Look at everything you learned about heaven from these verses.**

Ask: • **Why do you think God told us these details about heaven but not others? What's important about these details? What do you think they mean?**

Say: **Sometimes it can be frustrating to have questions about heaven we can't find answers to. But God told us what he wants us to know. We know that heaven will be perfect, that we'll be free of pain, and that we'll be with Jesus forever! Even though we don't know exactly what we'll do, we know we won't be bored because being with Jesus is the ultimate joy. Jesus wants to be with us forever.**



## OPENING Welcome

[5 min]

### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” while holding their tongues with two fingers.
- Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that Jesus wants to be with us forever. When we believe in Jesus, we can go to heaven! Before we hear about heaven, let’s talk about forever.**

### Share

- Tell kids about something *you* wish you could do forever.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about something *they* wish they could do forever.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

### Summarize

Open a Bible to Revelation 21, and say: **Unfortunately, nothing on earth will last forever. But the good news is, heaven is better than even the very best things on earth! Let’s turn to the Bible to learn more about heaven, where Jesus wants to live with us forever. The Bible is a really special book, unlike any other book. God can talk to us through the Bible! God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Let’s hear what he has to say.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for making a way to be with him forever.



## CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

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

[20 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- masking tape
- yellow construction paper
- green crayons or markers
- newsprint or butcher paper
- scissors
- blue cellophane
- markers
- umbrella
- fishing line
- brown paper lunch bags

#### Easy Prep

- Make a secure loop of fishing line that hangs down from your ceiling. Kids will hook the handle of an umbrella through it.

#### Write About Evil

Distribute paper and pencils.

Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus wants to be with us forever in heaven. Heaven is a special place that's very, very different from earth.**

**Here on earth, bad things happen. People hurt each other. Storms destroy homes. Sad things happen, too. People get sick and die.**

**Think of a bad or sad thing that happens on earth, and write it or make a quick drawing of it on your paper.** Allow time. Then have kids hang their papers around the room with masking tape.

Ask: • **What's it like to be surrounded by all these reminders of pain, sadness, and hurt? heaven.**

• **When you hear about some of these things on the news or at school, how do you feel?**

Turn off the lights, and say: **Seeing all our pictures makes me feel sad. Sometimes our world feels dark and hopeless. Imagine if *this* is all there is...all there will ever be!** Pause. **But listen to God's plan for**

Read Revelation 21:4.

Say: **Since God says death and sorrow and pain will be gone forever, let's get rid of all these bad things!** Have kids tear down their papers, crumple them, and toss them in the hallway or the trash. Then turn on the lights.

#### Decorate Heaven

Say: **The book of Revelation tells us a lot more about heaven, where Jesus wants to be with us forever. A man named John wrote the book of**

**Revelation after God sent an angel to show John a vision of what it would be like in heaven. John said he faithfully reported everything he saw, so now we can find out more about heaven. We'll each make a part of heaven and transform our room.**

Have kids form four groups. Assign each group one of the following tasks. If groups finish early, they can help other groups.

- Read Revelation 21:21. Use yellow construction paper to make golden streets going through your room.
- Read Revelation 21:21. Use butcher paper to cut out 12 giant pearl gates like the one shown below. Hang three on each wall around the room.



- Read Revelation 22:1-2. Use blue cellophane to make the beautiful river.
- Read Revelation 22:2. Color a long piece of butcher paper with green crayons or markers. Crumple and uncrumple it to give it texture. Tape one end to the umbrella stem, and then wrap the rest of the paper around the umbrella, covering it to look like a green tree top. Hang the umbrella upside down from the fishing line loop in the ceiling. Open brown paper lunch bags and stick them just inside one another, taping them together to make a long tree trunk. Tape the trunk underneath the hanging umbrella. Refer to photo below for an example.



### Explore Heaven

When kids have finished, turn off all the lights for a moment. Say: **Remember that darkness we experienced earlier? The Bible says heaven will never be dark like this. Check it out.**

Read Revelation 22:5. Explain that *reign* means to rule like a king and not rain from the sky.

Say: **Let's turn on our lights and see this amazing place where Jesus wants to be with us forever.**

Turn on the lights. Have groups share about what they made and what the Bible says about it.

Say: **Our room looks really neat—you all did a great job decorating it. But this is a very limited view of what it will be like in heaven. Even when John described heaven in the book of Revelation, sometimes he had to say it's *like* something else that he knew because he didn't have words to describe all the amazing things he saw.**

**We don't have supplies to create all the amazing things that will actually be in heaven. We're limited to supplies we can find here on earth. But this can help us look forward to seeing how cool heaven will be!**

Ask: • **What do you hope will be in heaven?** Have kids tell a partner, and then ask a few kids to share with the whole group.

• **What are you most looking forward to about heaven?** Share your own example first. For example, maybe you're excited about seeing Jesus face to face or seeing a loved one who passed away. Maybe you struggle with chronic pain and you're excited to be free of pain. You can read Revelation 21:4 to help spark ideas for kids.

Say: **Jesus wants to be with us forever. We've been learning about all the people in the Bible who became friends with God. But you know who *this* story is about? *You*. When *you're* friends with God, you can be with him forever in heaven. You'll get to go to a place that's indescribably amazing! It will be perfect—not a hint of evil anywhere.**

**Let's close our Bible time with a prayer from the book of Revelation. Jesus is coming back for us someday, and this is his promise at the very end of the Bible.**

Read Revelation 22:20. Then repeat it, having kids say the end part: "Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!"



## OBJECT LESSON

### Centripetal Spin

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- uninflated clear or light-colored balloons (1 per child)
- pennies (1 per child) (you'll get them back)
- balloon pump (optional)

#### Inflate a Balloon With a Penny Inside

Say: **Did you know that we can make an object spin on its own inside a balloon? Let's see how long we can make pennies stay in motion.**

- Give each child a balloon and a penny.
- Have each child place the penny inside the balloon.
- Have kids each inflate and tie off their balloons. They should blow up the balloons to a size that they can easily hold in the palm of one hand. Using clear or light-colored balloons will allow kids to see the pennies when they're inside the inflated balloons.

#### Hold and Spin the Balloon



- Show kids how to hold the tied-off top of the balloon so the penny is resting at the bottom of the balloon.
- Have kids move their balloons quickly in circles. The pennies may bounce a little at first, but they should soon spin around the inside of the balloons in motion with the balloons.

#### Watch a Penny Spin

- Kids will then stop moving their balloons and hold them still. The pennies will keep spinning in a circle!
- Have kids count to see how long the pennies keep moving. With good initial motion, the pennies will spin on their own for about 30 seconds.

- When the pennies stop completely, have kids move the balloons in quick circles again and see if they beat their first time and make the pennies spin longer.

**Talk About It**

Ask: • **What did you notice about the spinning penny? What made it spin longer?**

Say: **When we moved the balloons with our hands, we created energy that made the pennies move, too. And since we used round balloons, the pennies moved in a circle. That's called centripetal force. Even when we stopped moving our hands, the pennies kept moving for a while until the energy ran out.**

Ask: • **Why do you think energy on earth always runs out?**

• **What do you think it would be like if energy lasted forever?**

• **What do you think it will be like in heaven, where *everything* lasts forever?**

Say: **Just like the penny eventually stopped spinning, our time in this world will eventually come to an end. But when we're friends with Jesus, life with him will *never* end. Jesus wants to be with us forever. Forever life with him will keep going and going!**





## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

### Heavenly Praise

[5 min]

#### Join Heaven's Praise

Say: **Today's Bible story comes from the book of Revelation. The whole book talks about heaven. It was written by a guy named John after God showed him in a vision what heaven is like.**

**Earlier in Revelation, John talked about amazing creatures constantly praising God in heaven. That praise was going on when John saw heaven, and it's still going on *right now*! Let's join in heaven's praise by saying what was being said then:**

- Lead kids in repeating this praise several times, phrase by phrase: "Holy, holy, holy/is the Lord God, the Almighty / the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come." (This comes from Revelation 4:8.)
- Lead kids in repeating this praise several times, phrase by phrase: "You are worthy, O Lord our God / to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things / and they exist because you created what you pleased." (This comes from Revelation 4:11.)
- Lead kids in repeating this praise several times, phrase by phrase: "Blessing and honor and glory and power / belong to the one sitting on the throne / and to the Lamb forever and ever." (This is from Revelation 5:13.)

#### Pray

Say: **Wow! It's so cool to think that even while we're here on earth, we can join in praise that's happening in heaven already! It's even better to know that when we believe in Jesus, one day we can be with him forever in heaven! Jesus wants to be with us forever, and he's prepared a very special place for us in heaven. Let's thank him for that.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you that you want to be with us forever. We want to be with *you* forever, too! Thank you for preparing a place for us in heaven and making a way for us to be there. We can't wait! In your name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

### Forever Feats

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- jump-ropes (1 for every 5 kids)
- 3 beanbags
- masking tape
- hula hoops (1 for every 5 kids)
- 5 chairs
- soccer or rubber playground balls (1 for every 5 kids)
- stopwatch or cellphone timer
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Make Forever Feat Stations, and spread them out around your room.
  - Jump-Rope Station: Place the jump-ropes on the floor.
  - Toss and Catch Station: Place the beanbags on the floor.
  - Hopping Station: Tape 1x1-foot squares on the floor (1 for every 5 kids).
  - Hula Hoop Station: Place the hula hoops on the floor.
  - Soccer Station: Set out 5 chairs in a line spaced a few feet apart, and place the soccer balls at one end of the line.

#### Tip

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

#### Play a Series of Games

Say: **We've been learning about forever and what that means. In our lives we're used to a lot of hurrying and rushing to get things done. Call out some things you've had to hurry to get done this week.** Pause. **The game we're going to play is a fun version of what our lives are like going from one busy thing to the next.**

- Form five teams.
- Each team will choose a starting station.
- At your cue, teams will play the games at their stations for one minute, and then they'll rotate to new stations and play the games there.
  - At the Jump-Rope Station, the goal is to jump rope as perfectly as possible for one minute.
  - At the Toss and Catch Station, the goal is to work together to toss and catch all three beanbags as many times as you can in a row without dropping any beanbags.
  - At the Hopping Station, you will hop in place in a square and count how many times you can hop in one minute.

- At the Hula Hoop Station, the goal is to continually hula hoop for the whole minute.
- At the Soccer Station, the goal is to weave a ball (using only your feet as in soccer) around the chairs from the start of the line to the end of the line and back to the start.
- Play music while kids are playing if you'd like. Allow teams one minute at each station, and then call out "Switch!" to have teams rotate clockwise to a new station, running to the new station as quickly as possible.
- When everyone has completed each station, turn off the music and gather everyone around you.

**Talk About It**

Ask: • **Which station was your favorite, and why?**

• **Why would or wouldn't you want to play that game forever?**

Say: **We're used to things having a beginning and an end, like our games.**

**They began and ended quickly.**

Ask: • **How would you explain *forever*?**

Say: **Forever is hard to imagine. Our lives are like one of these quick, little games compared to forever. But forever in heaven will be amazing, because that's where Jesus wants to be with us forever. Jesus has prepared a perfect place for us!**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

### Whatever Is Forever?

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- paper wads
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Tip

- You can purchase downloadable music and other items to enhance your DIG IN program [here](#).

#### Pass the Paper

Say: Today we read from the very last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation. The Bible has an ending, but Jesus doesn't; Jesus is forever, and he wants us to be with him always.

But what does *forever* really mean? It's a hard thing for any of us to understand because our world is full of beginnings and ends. Let's play a game that'll help us get a picture of *forever*.

- Form teams of five or fewer (depending on the overall size of your group).
- Have kids in each team stand in a shoulder-to-shoulder line.
- Give the child at one end of each line a paper wad, and have him or her pass it down the line.
- Challenge the teams to pass their paper wads in this one direction "forever." It will be impossible, and there will be an abrupt end to the round at the end of their line.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play, and pause the music between rounds.
- After they can no longer pass the paper wads in their lines, give teams a few minutes to strategize and try ways they think they could pass the paper wad forever while always moving in one direction.
- If after a few minutes teams haven't figured out that standing in a circle will allow them to continually pass their paper wads, give them the solution and a couple of minutes to put the solution into action.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • How was passing the paper down a line like life on earth?

Say: Our world is full of things that begin and end—we're used to things being temporary or not lasting forever.

Ask: • Call out some things that have a beginning and an end.

• Why are endings sometimes sad?

• How was passing the paper in a circle like life in heaven?

Say: Jesus is different. Jesus lives forever—kind of like an unbroken circle without a beginning or end. The most amazing thing of all is that Jesus wants to be with us forever. All people who love Jesus can spend forever with

**him in heaven when their time here on earth comes to an end. That turns sad endings into a joyful forever!**



## CRAFT Forever Tops

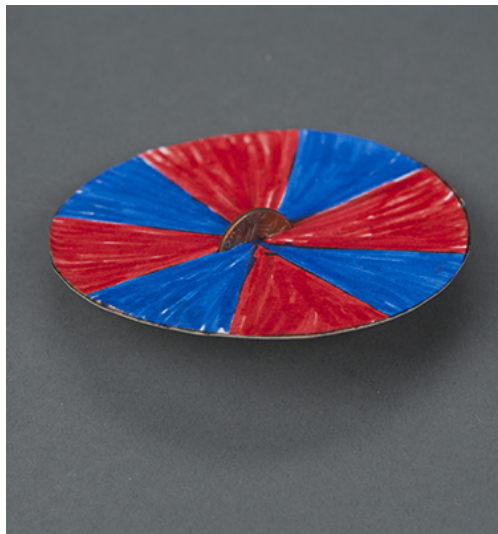
[20 min]

### Supplies

- 16-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- cardboard (recycled food packaging works great)
- white paper
- pencils
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- craft knives (for teacher use only)
- pennies (at least 1 per child)
- stopwatch or cellphone timer (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

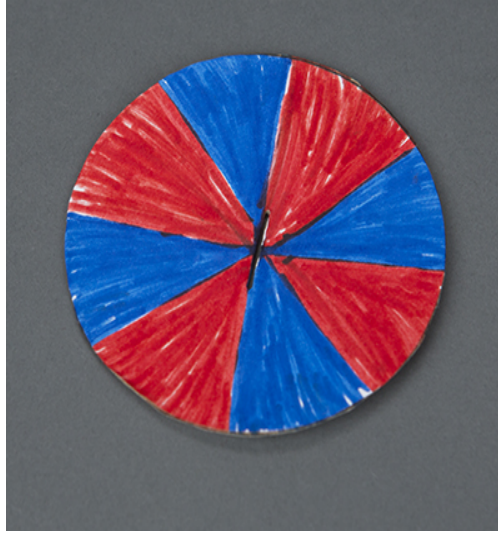


### Make Tops

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a cup and a penny. Set out the remaining supplies (except the craft knife) to share, and have kids follow these instructions to make tops.

- Turn a cup upside down, and trace a circle onto cardboard.
- Trace another circle onto a sheet of white paper.
- Cut out both circles.
- Decorate the white circle with markers. Try to use at least two colors, and make fun patterns like spirals, stripes, or dots.
- Use a glue stick to glue the white paper onto the cardboard.

- When you've finished, have an adult cut a slit down the middle of your circle. (Teachers, the slits should be the length of a penny and should be as close to the center as you can make them.)



- Put a penny in the slit. Experiment with how far to push it down so your top spins the longest.
- If time allows, make another top.

### Spin the Tops

Say: **We've been learning that Jesus wants to be with us forever. *Forever is hard to imagine. Here on earth, everything ends! Let's see how long you can get your tops to spin before the spinning comes to an end.***

- Have kids spin their tops.
- If you brought a timer, challenge kids to beat a certain time, such as 30 seconds.
- Kids can also compete against partners to see whose top can spin longest.

### Talk About It

Say: **Even though you got your tops to spin for a long time, they all stopped eventually.**

Ask: • **Why do you think it's impossible to make a top that spins forever?**

• **What are other things that don't go forever?**

• **If you could make one toy—any toy—that lasts forever, what toy would you pick?**

Say: **It's okay that nothing on earth lasts forever, because our earth isn't perfect! Here, there's sickness, pain, and death. Those aren't things we want to last forever! In heaven, those things will be gone, and people who are friends of God will live in a beautiful place with Jesus. Jesus wants to live with us forever.**

Have kids take their tops home and show them to their friends and families as a reminder that nothing on earth lasts forever, but in heaven we can live with Jesus forever.