



WEEK
FIVE
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

“What an awesome summer. Friends, we can follow Jesus because He loves us and will ALWAYS lead us in the right direction. There is no better friend than Jesus! Thanks for worshipping with me today.”

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Box, hamster bedding, bottle of water, bag of hamster food, and a hamster wheel

Host enters, carrying the box of hamster items, and is very excited.

HOST: “Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment’s name or story time]! I’m [your name], and you’ll never guess what I’m getting today!

Put the box down on the floor and begin pacing with excitement.

“I’m so excited! I can’t wait to tell you!

Pace a couple of times and stop abruptly in front of the children.

“Would you like for me to tell you what I’m getting, like right now?

Pause and listen to responses.

“I’m getting a pet! My very own pet!

Squeal with excitement or jump up and down.

“What pet do you think I’m going to get? Shout out the pet you think I’m getting when I count to three. One. Two. Three!

Pause and listen for responses.

“I heard you say a lot of cool pets. Okay, I’ll tell you. I’m getting a . . . HAMSTER! And I’m SO excited! There are so many things I have to do to get my hamster’s new house ready. First, I have to make the cage nice and comfy with this hamster bedding.

Hold up the package of hamster bedding.

“Then I will need to get water for my hamster to drink.

Hold up the bottle of water.

“And of course, my hamster will need tasty food.

Hold up the hamster food.

“Let’s see . . . hamster bedding, water, food. Oh! My hamster needs exercise!



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Hold up the hamster wheel.

"That's what this little hamster wheel is for. It will be so much fun for him to run on!

Put the wheel back in the box with everything else.

"I think I have everything I need to prepare a wonderful new home for my hamster. Hey! That reminds me of our Bible story today. It's all about how Jesus is preparing a place for us. Bye!"

Host exits, carrying the box of hamster things.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, table, small suitcase, box of adhesive bandages, cough medicine, digital thermometer, yellow cardstock, scissors, jumbo craft stick, glue or tape, marker, and a small confetti popper; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

Storyteller enters, carrying Bible and small suitcase, then places the suitcase flat on the table.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible about heaven!

Hold up the Bible and lay it open, by the suitcase.

"We talk a lot about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever and ever and ever!

(Option: Display Story Image W5 01)

"Do you know what that means? *(Pause.)* That means Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting a place ready for all of His friends! And that is super, wonderful news! Would you like to hear what heaven will be like?

Open the suitcase and hold up adhesive bandages for the children to see.

"In heaven, there are no more boo-boos.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 02)

"No skinned knees, no bumps on the head. Everyone can run and play, and no one ever gets hurt in heaven! Bye-bye, bandages!

Put adhesive bandages back in the suitcase and hold up cough medicine and thermometer for the children to see.

"In heaven, no one gets sick.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 03)



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"No runny noses, no tummy aches, no earaches. Everyone is healthy in heaven! Bye-bye medicine and thermometer!

Put cough medicine and thermometer back in the suitcase and hold up the sad face for the children to see.

"In heaven, we will never be sad.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 04)

"Because sad things don't happen in heaven. There will be nothing to worry about and no reason to be afraid.

Flip the sad face to the happy face for the children to see.

"In heaven, we will have everything we need. We will be happy all of the time, because we will be with our friend, Jesus. Jesus will be our friend forever and ever and EVER!

Put happy/sad face back in suitcase and pick up confetti popper.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 05)

"It will be like a party that never ends!

Pop the confetti popper and laugh with joy as confetti falls down.

"It is so exciting when you think about it! Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting heaven ready for all of His friends! That is so awesome!

Put confetti popper back in suitcase and close it.

STORYTELLER: "I am so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! And Jesus wants everyone to know that He wants to be their friend forever, too. So our job is to go here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE (*both arms out*), loving people like Jesus and telling them that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

STORYTELLER: "One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

STORYTELLER: "Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."



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PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for our friend, Jesus. Thank You that He is in heaven, right now, preparing a place for everyone who follows Him. Help us tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I'm so excited about today's Bible story that I'm going to go tell my friends all about it! Bye!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible and suitcase.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Host enters.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus loves us so much that He is preparing a very special place for all of His friends in heaven. Jesus wants to be my friend and your friend forever and ever and EVER!"

"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! I'm making a pretty cool home for my new hamster but heaven is SO much more amazing! See you next time. Bye!"

Host exits, smiling.