FRIDAY

God has the power to

LOVE US FOREVER!

Glacier Bay Resort and Convention Center

GLACIER BAY RESORT

FRIDAY

God has the power to LOVE US FOREVER

'Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.' John 3:16

Jesus promises us an eternal home

YEDDY

"With God, all things

GOD FORGIVES

Did you Know?

Jesus described heaven as a house filled with many rooms, an expression meaning
unlimited space. So we know heaven is really big—big enough for everyone who believes in Jesus!

Jesus gave his disciples this message of comfort and the assurance of heaven to help
prepare them for what was ahead. He knew the disciples would soon face many trials and persecutions, beginning with his own betrayal, trial, and crucifixion.

Jesus mentioned heaven many, many times in the Gospels. But he didn't give many details of what heaven is like. This is because Jesus was more concerned with making sure people knew *how* to spend eternity with him—by believing in him! "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Jesus used parables often during his ministry to explain truths to his followers. But during his last night with the disciples, described in John 13-17, Jesus spoke very plainly. This was Jesus' last chance to make sure the disciples understood who he was, the work he had for them, that he would have a place waiting for them in heaven, and that he would one day return to earth!

Why it Matters

Sometimes the Bible can seem like a big history book filled with stories from a long, long time ago. But our God is not a character in a story from once upon a time. God always has been and always will be—he is forever! Use today's lesson to help kids discover the hope they have in a heavenly future. Share the excitement Jesus' followers have and the unimaginably wonderful forever home we have waiting for us in heaven. Have you given much thought about Heaven and what it will look like? Have you ever wondered what YOU will look like? What will we do every day for eternity? Where is Heaven?

Pack Your Bags

Look for these items in your daily supply bag:

- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 4 long sheets of butcher paper (3ft each)
- ☐ 1 spray bottle per class
- ☐ Heaven mobile craft (1 per kid)
- ☐ Yarn (18 sets of 1 12" and 5 6")
- ☐ Service project supplies – upper elementary only

You do not have to provide anything from home today.

Here are some things you should do to set up before you begin:

Hang a vertical sheet of newsprint on a wall for each Crew.

Have washable markers ready and under each sheet of newsprint.

Partially fill a spray bottle with water, and set it to mist.

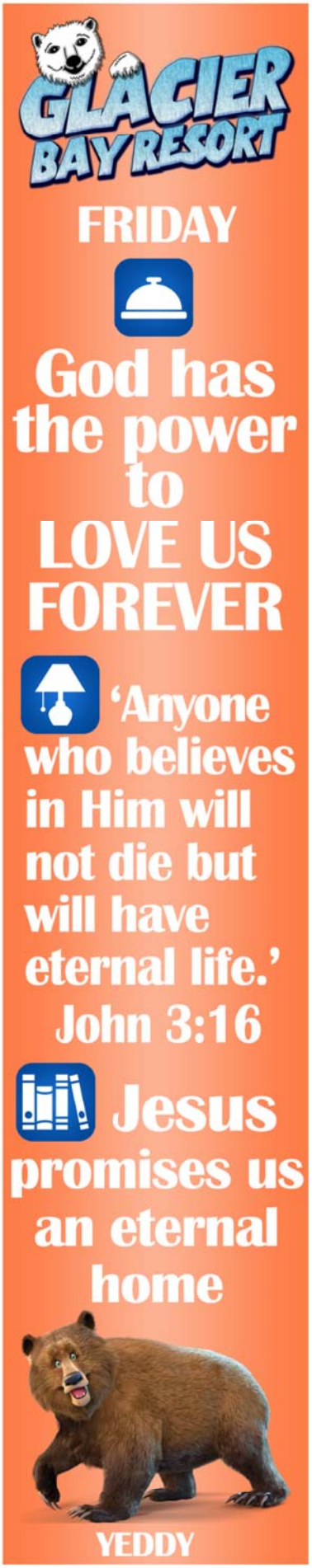
Have a table or area set aside for assembling the "mission bags"

Mark your Bible at Revelation 21:3-4 and John 14:1-3.

Check In

(Greet kids outside the door with a warm welcome. Invite them into the room, and have them sit in their group circles. Ask kids if they remember where you left off yesterday, let them answer and steer the discussion in the right direction.)

God has the power to love us forever. Jesus came back to life, and he's alive today



"With God, all things

and forever! Jesus conquered sin and death. When we believe in Jesus, he'll be our best friend here on Earth. He'll live in our hearts and always be with us. And then later, we can live with him forever in heaven!

God has given us a wonderful world to live in. A world filled with beautiful nature and amazing animals and loving families and friends. It's great! But even though it's wonderful, let's face it— our world is not perfect. Because people sin and disobey God, the world isn't a perfect place like heaven. Even though Jesus is with us, hard things still happen, don't they? But Jesus is there to help us through the hard times.

In your groups, tell about a time you or your family went through something difficult. Maybe you had to move away from your friends. Or maybe you didn't do well on a test. Maybe someone in your family was sick. Or maybe your mom or dad lost their job and money was a problem. Go ahead and talk in your group. Leaders, why don't you start by telling about a hard time you've experienced?

(*Let kids talk for several minutes, encouraging each child to share in his or her group.)*

It's true, this world isn't a perfect place. We all go through hard times. I'm going to ask each group to come up to a sheet of paper here, and each person can write a word or draw a quick picture that describes the hard time you talked about. You might write "sickness" or you might draw the symbol for money. I'm going to write "sickness."

(*Write "sickness" on one of the newsprint sheets.)*

(Assign each group a sheet of newsprint, and have guests use the washable markers to write their hard-times words on the newsprint. Have kids sit back in their circles as soon as they've written. As kids write, pick up the spray bottle of water. When everyone is seated again, point to the newsprint.)

Just look at all those hard times we've been through. Everyone goes through hard times.

(*As you speak, spray the words gently with water.)*

Look, the words look like tears. Hard times often make us feel like crying, don't they? But listen to this.

(*Hold up the Bible.)*

The Bible tells us that there's a place where there are no tears. No sickness. No sadness. That place is heaven, and Jesus is there preparing a place for us. Jesus is preparing an eternal home for us

in heaven! Just listen to what the Bible says.

(*Read aloud* ***Revelation 21:3-4****, starting with* ***"Look, God's home…"*** *Then point to the drippy hard-times paper.)*

No matter what happens here on Earth, we know that because of Jesus we can go to a place where there is no trouble!

(Tear the sheets of paper off of the wall, crumple them, and throw them into the trash can.)

Heaven will be the most amazing, comforting place ever!

Wake Up Call

When I think of comfort, I think of warm, snuggly blankets. Oh, and soft, comfy pillows! Pillows are so comforting! There's nothing like a nice snuggle on a soft pillow, is there? Do any of you have something soft and cuddly that brings you comfort? Maybe, it's a favorite stuffed animal or a favorite blanket or pillow! These things are really comforting here on Earth. But they're nothing compared to what waits for us in heaven!

Let's listen to what the Bible says heaven will be like. The Bible says in **Revelation, "It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious one—like jasper"** (jasper is a jewel) **"as clear as crystal. The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels…The wall was made of jasper...The twelve gates were made of pearls— each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass."**

I cannot even imagine what streets of gold will be like! Or a gate made from a single giant pearl! Heaven's going to be so amazing and surprising!

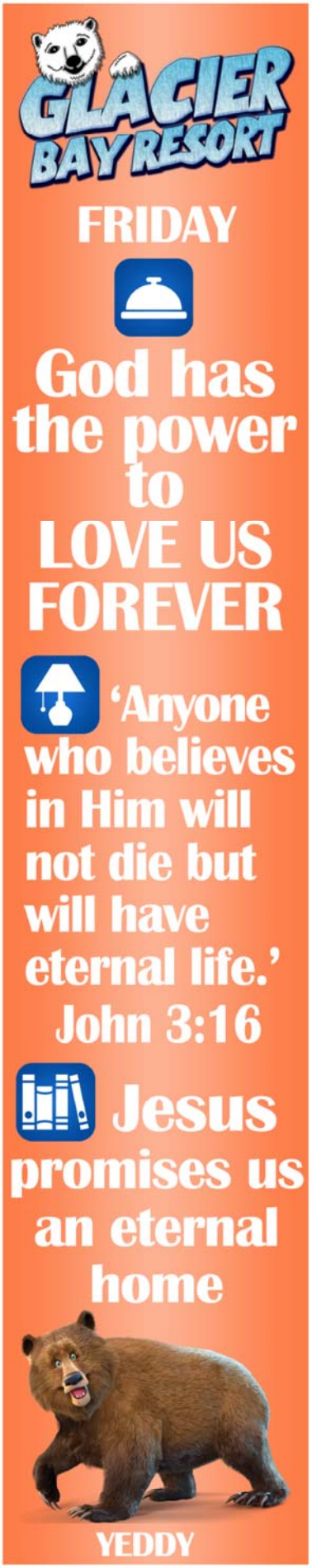
(Ask groups to discuss this:)

In your groups, talk about what you think heaven will be like.

(Let kids talk for a minute or two.)

No doubt about it—amazing things wait for us in heaven! But do you know the best part? The best part is who waits for us in heaven. After Jesus came back to life, he stayed on Earth for a little while. Just before he went back to heaven, this is what he said.

(Read aloud John 14:1-3.)



"With God, all things

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Jesus is waiting for us in heaven. He's gone to prepare a place for us. For you! And for me!

When is a time you felt really welcomed? Maybe your parents gave you a nice birthday party. Or maybe your grandmother hugged you when you got to her house. For me, I felt welcomed when I saw all of you today!

(Ask guests if some of them would like to share a time when they felt really welcomed. Keep an eye on the clock and let a few share until you think the point has been made.)

It feels so good to be welcomed, doesn't it? Just think—when we get to heaven, Jesus himself will welcome us! And we can live with him forever.

Let's all stand up and join hands in a huge circle. Don't leave any gaps in your circle. When I think of forever, I think of something without an end, like our circle.
In heaven, our time with Jesus will never ever end. Because God has the power to love us forever. When Jesus welcomes us to heaven, we'll be connected to him forever. Jesus loves you and is preparing a forever home for you.

(Have guests remain standing and ask them to bow their heads. Say this prayer or one of your own.)

Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you died on the cross for us so that we can be with you forever. Help us to all accept your plan of salvation so that we can all be together in Heaven. Thank you for preparing such a beautiful place for us to live in Heaven. Amen

Turn Down Service

(All guests in all guests will make the Heaven Mobile Craft in their lodges.)

For Grades 3-5 Only

Today we're going to assemble the Mission Week bags. Remember the crosses that we made yesterday? We're going to fill bags today for all of the children who will have Vacation Bible School next week in our mission church. When I call your group I want you to come over here where we'll show you how to fill the bags. As each group takes a turn filling bags, the other groups will be working on their mobile craft.

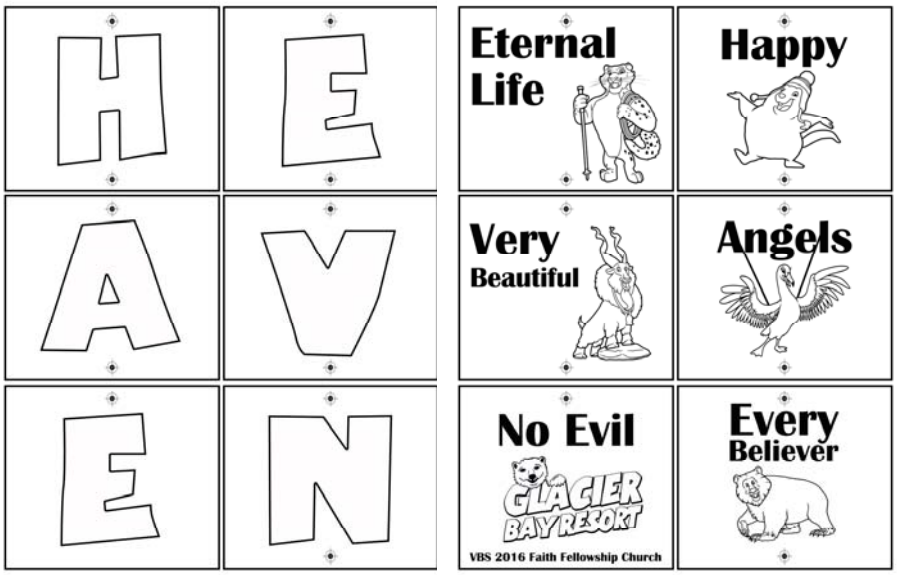
Heaven Mobile Craft

(Your supply bag has everything you need to make this craft. Each guest gets a set of six cards and the one long and six shorter yarn pieces needed to tie the whole thing together. Let guests use the classroom supplies of markers and other materials to decorate their mobile. Help the guests tie the yarn through the holes in the cards to complete the mobile.)

Have you ever given much thought about Heaven and what it will look like? Have you ever wondered what YOU will look like? What will we do every day for eternity? Where is Heaven? Today we're going to make a Heaven mobile that will remind you how wonderful Heaven will be for you!

Your mobile is going to have six cards hanging together that spell out the word HEAVEN. Each card has one letter one side and a phrase about heaven on the other. See, here's what they look like.

(Show the guests the six cards and read each side. If the guests want to comment or discuss the meaning of any of the phrases, briefly do so but keep an eye on the clock.)



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