

Heaven and the New Creation

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is getting a place ready. God will wipe away all tears.

Bible passage: John 14:1–3 and Revelation 21–22. Read them yourself before class.

Memory verse: "I go to prepare a place for you." *John 14:2 (KJV)*. The old word **prepare** means get ready.

You need: a Bible, 12 white paper circles for "pearls", crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at John 14. Hide the 12 paper pearls around the room.

1. Opening game: Find the Pearls (5 minutes)

Kids hunt for the hidden paper pearls and bring them to you. Lay them in a row and count them together: 1 to 12. Say: "Twelve pearls! Today we will hear what God showed about a beautiful city with twelve gates, and every gate was one pearl."

2. Bible teaching (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 14. Say: "This is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." Don't be worried (John 14:1). *(Hand on your heart.)*

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (14:2). *(Pretend to fluff a pillow.)*

Jesus said, "I will come again" (14:3). *(Wave hello.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is getting a place ready!"

God showed John a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). *(Open your arms wide.)*

God will be with His people (21:3). *(Hug yourself.)*

God will wipe away all tears (21:4). *(Wipe your cheeks.)*

No more crying. No more hurting (21:4). *(Shake your head no.)*

Say it with me: "God will wipe away all tears!"

The city has twelve gates. Each gate is a pearl (21:12, 21:21). *(Count to twelve on your fingers.)*

The street is gold (21:21). *(Walk in place.)*

No sun, no moon. God's glory makes it bright (21:23). *(Open your hands like light.)*

A river and the tree of life (22:1–2). *(Wiggle your hands like water, then stretch up tall like a tree.)*



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What is Jesus getting ready? (*A place for you, John 14:2*)
2. What will God wipe away? (*All tears, Revelation 21:4*)
3. How many gates does the city have? (*Twelve, 21:12*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you.' Prepare means get ready." Teach the motion: point up for "I go," pretend to fluff a pillow for "prepare a place," and point to a friend for "for you." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 14:2" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God's city is clean. Nothing dirty with sin goes in (Revelation 21:27). And Jesus can wash our sins away! God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: River and Tree (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a blue river with a green tree on each side, and a gold street. While they color, ask: "What is Jesus getting ready? What will God wipe away?" Kids who finish early can count the twelve paper pearls again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, Jesus, for getting a place ready.

Thank You, God, for wiping away all tears. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it bright and simple: a place ready, no more tears, twelve pearl gates, a gold street. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can talk about it this week.

If a child is sad about someone who died: let them talk, and say it is all right to be sad: Jesus cried too (John 11:35). God promises to wipe away all tears (Revelation 21:4). Don't guess about any person, and don't say people become angels. Let the child's parents know.

