

**Focus:** Jesus-the way to heaven

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD: Easter Medley—Cycle A  
Gospel: Children's Bible Storybook  
Book: What About Heaven?

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about Jesus the good shepherd and how he leads us to God. Today we will hear that Jesus doesn't just show us the way to God. He is the way to God!*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray. Jesus, you show us the way. Help us to love one another as you love us. It is in your name that we pray.  
Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*, track: 1, from EASTER CD CYCLE A

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Come, Christians, join to sing  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Alleluia! Amen!

**Memory Verse**

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *The way to our place in heaven is to love like Jesus. Jesus taught us how to love perfectly. Everlasting life is a life of true and perfect love. We find heaven by doing the things that Jesus did, by loving others and by leading them to God. This is how God works through us to lead all people to himself. >> Last week we talked about Jesus as the gate to the sheepfold. We are the sheep and the*

*sheepfold is heaven, a place of true and perfect love and happiness in God, our heavenly father. Jesus is the gate that keeps out what is not loving and good.*

**Sing Alleluia for Easter Season:**

*"Hallelu, Hallelu" Track 2 on CD Labeled EASTER SEASON CYCLE A,*

*Say: We celebrate that Jesus is Risen!*

*Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, repeat 2 times*

*Praise ye the Lord!*

*(Repeat three times)*

**Gospel Story**

*Say: Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

*Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. "Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** The Children's Bible Storybook, pp. 325, *A Home in Heaven*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Discussion Starters:**

- *Why are the disciples concerned about Jesus leaving them?*
- *How does Jesus comfort his friends?*
- *What does Jesus tell his followers about his Father's house (heaven)?*
- *What is the way to reach the Father?*
- *How can the work of Jesus continue in the world?*
- *Who does the work of Jesus in the world today?*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*In today's gospel the disciples are troubled about Jesus leaving them. So Jesus helps his followers understand that they will not be left alone. When they want to know where he is going, Jesus comforts his friends.*

*God loves us as he loves himself. God IS love. God wants us to be with him forever. To be with God is to be filled with Love and to give and receive love always.*

*Jesus says he will return and take his followers with him. All those who love others in Jesus' name will have a place in his Father's house.*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

Read a book-**What about Heaven?**

Choose a couple of the Bible References at the end of the book to share with the children.

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, helps us to follow you and guide us to the Kingdom of God. Amen.*

### Activity 2:

#### **Jesus is the Way Circle Activity**

Sit with the children in a circle. Remind them that Jesus said he is the Way the Truth and the Life. Doing the work of Jesus is the way to heaven. Jesus taught only truth, and he offers us everlasting life. Explain that in this activity, the group will say, "Jesus is the Way, Jesus is the Truth. Jesus is the Life." However, each person will say only one word at a time as the sentence goes around the circle.

Begin by saying "Jesus." Point to the child on your left and say "is." Point to the next child and say "the." Continue around the encouraging each child to say his or her word aloud. As the children learn the pattern, you can let them take over, each saying the next word in turn. See how fast the sentences can go around the circle.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

## Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who sent Jesus to show us the way to love and kindness?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to do God's will?*

## Sending Forth

Say: *This week we can use our actions to bring God's love to others. What are some things we can do?*

## Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*Rejoice in the Lord Always*" track 3 from EASTER CD CYCLE A while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.