

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

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD: Toddler Bible Songs  
Bible: Children's Bible Storybook  
Book: What About Heaven?  
Foam Heart.

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

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.*

*9:00 AM Mass: from 2 weeks ago: Last time we talked about giving God everything we have, when we do good deeds we are giving our love to God.*

*11:00 AM Mass: From last week: Did any one attend the Children's Mass last week? What was different? The processional cross was smaller, the banner carried in at the beginning, Fr. Joe called the October birthday children to the Altar to pray for the Eucharist and the Our FAther.*

**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 we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Praise the Lord., track: 7, from Toddler Bible Songs*

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.

The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord"

The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord", All through the town

The driver on the bus says, "Go to church"

The mommy on the bus says, "God loves you"

The daddy on the bus says, "Pray each day"

The baby on the bus says, "Waa, waa, waa"

The children on the bus are full of joy

The people on the bus say, "Praise the Lord"

**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. Today we remember all those who have gone to heaven already. Everlasting life is a life of true and perfect love. We find heaven by doing the things that Jesus did, by loveing others and by leading them to God. This is how God workds through us to lead all people to himself.*

### 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:** 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 the 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 the book: **What About Heaven?** Choose a couple of bible references at the end of the book to share with the children. Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to follow you and guide us to the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Activity 2:

**Love Go-Round Game**

Jesus teaches us to love others. Jesus is the way to live forever and we listen to Jesus because he shows us the way.

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

*There's plenty of love to go around,  
The more and more we share.  
Where is the love that goes around?  
Where is the love, O where?*

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to be kind to others.

(you can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know, Jesus loves the little children, I am so glad that Jesus loves me-instead of the verse.)

Repeat as time allows.

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 heaven by living lives of peace 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 be good followers of Jesus?*

**Sending Forth**

Say: *We can show that we are followers of Jesus this week. What are some things we can do show love and kindness to others?*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "*Father We Thank Thee*" track 13 from Toddler Bible Songs 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.