

Station 1

Jesus Is Preparing a Place for All Believers

Have everyone take a few blocks. (This will vary depending on how many people are in the group.) For a minute or two, have them take turns trying to “build” the Jenga® tower without it falling down.

If you are doing this as a demo, have three kids come up to race to build their towers. Put one minute on the clock and see who gets theirs the tallest in one minute. Then say:

When Jesus was on earth, the area that he lived in was ruled by a group of people called the Romans. The ancient Romans were builders—master builders. Show Station 1 poster. **They were famous for their building. Some of the things they built a long, long time ago are still at least partially standing, like this building called the Colosseum.**

They also built fancy villas, which are homes for the rich. If you were building a fancy dream home, I wonder what it would look like. Of course, nothing we have ever made or ever will make compares with what Jesus is preparing. Read John 14:2–3.

Jesus is currently in heaven preparing a place for all believers. It’s an actual place—not just a bunch of clouds to be floating around on as is often pictured in cartoons. We’ll learn more about it tomorrow, but it’s really exciting to think about! The place Jesus is preparing will be a zillion times better than any dream home we’d ever imagine or see on HGTV!

And as a side note, isn’t it cool to think that while Jesus lived on earth, he was the son of a carpenter? (Mark 6:3.) Carpenters build things!

Station 2

Jesus Is Interceding for All Believers

Show Station 2 poster. **The Romans were masters at building bridges that were strong and sturdy. Some are still standing all these years later! Let's try a couple experiments to see which bridge structure is the strongest.** Do so. First, make a bridge with only two blocks or cups, placing the card stock strip on top. Put the florist gems on top of that to see how well it holds up. Take off the gems and add a few more blocks to the base of the bridge. Try the gems again. Take them off and add a card stock arch under the bridge. Try putting the gems on this one and determine which is the strongest.

Bridges serve as go-betweens. By using a bridge, you can go back and forth between one side and another. See Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, and 1 John 2:1. **Jesus is currently in heaven acting as our go-between, or intercessor. An intercessor is someone who "bridges the gap," or goes between two people, so it's kind of like you're standing on one side of a great river and God is on the other side, with this big gap in between. Without Jesus, that big gap would remain. But Jesus bridges the gap for all who believe in him.**

Place the card stock cross over the bridge so it touches both sides. **If you're a Christian, instead of God looking at you and seeing sin, he looks at Jesus, who took the punishment for your sin, and all is well. And when you pray to God, your request goes to Jesus, who brings the request to God the Father.**

For everyone who is a child of God, isn't it awesome to know that Jesus is constantly praying for us?

Station 3

Jesus Is Protecting/Building/ Caring for the Church

Put down the plastic tablecloth. Show the volcano and pour in the vinegar and baking soda (and red food coloring, if using it) as you watch it explode. Show the Station 3 poster and say:

In Ancient Italy, which is where the Romans ruled from, there was a town named Pompeii. Pompeii was close by a big volcano called Mt. Vesuvius. One day, out of the blue, Mt. Vesuvius blew its top, killing everything around it. You can visit the area today and see things that got “frozen” in time, in a sense, from the volcanic ash. That eruption destroyed the town and the people

There’s a lot of destruction on our broken earth. One thing that will never be destroyed is the church because Jesus is in heaven protecting and caring for it. Read Matthew 16:18. When I say “the church” that doesn’t mean this church building. The church means all the people all over the world throughout all time who have turned from their sins and believed in Jesus. Together, we make up his church. Jesus is always protecting and caring for his church. The church (God’s people) may go through hard times because we’re living in a cursed, sinful world now and bad things sometimes happen. But the church will *never* be destroyed, no matter what people try to do to it, because Jesus is protecting and caring for it. Jesus is always looking out for every one of his children. Are you a child of God? If so, you can be comforted to know he is caring for you and his church.

You may want to review the gospel here briefly. Each one of us has sinned before God. We have disobeyed his commands. And even one sin is enough to separate us from God. The punishment for sin is death. We need to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, and paid the penalty for sin on our behalf by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. When we do that, we can become a child of God. And God gives his children the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us love him and obey him.