



Jesus Ascended into Heaven

Bible Passage: Acts 1:4-14

Key Passage: “ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

Big Picture Question: What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

Bottom Line: God lives in me so I can live for Him.

Christ Connection: Jesus prepared His disciples for a life of ministry. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

Say This: Speaking of our job, that reminds me of our big picture question. Can any of you say it from memory? [*Invite kids to do so.*] Great! ***What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.***

We have been talking about what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. The first week of this unit we learned that **Jesus appeared to His disciples**. They were in a locked room, but that couldn’t stop Jesus! Then we learned that **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas** so that Thomas would believe in Jesus’ resurrection. Two weeks ago, we learned that **Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a mission**. Last week we talked about the mission Jesus gave to all believers. **Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission**.

All of these were things Jesus was doing to prepare the world for the next stage of God’s rescue plan. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue people from sin, but there were still many people all over the world who had never heard this wonderful news! It may surprise you, but the next step in the plan included Jesus leaving earth! Our story is called “Jesus Ascended to Heaven.”

Watch Video:

What an amazing sight that would have been! I’ve flown in an airplane, but I’ve never seen anyone float up into the sky without help from a balloon or some other machine. **Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud** to be with God the Father.

You may be wondering why Jesus went to heaven if there were still many people who did not know Him. The reason is simple, even if it doesn’t seem obvious at first. God’s plan was for believers to share the gospel. Instead of Jesus, who only had one physical body, God sent out Jesus’ many disciples to make more disciples who would make even more disciples.

In order to make such a big job possible, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. He lives within people who trust in Jesus and helps them obey Jesus’ teaching. Jesus asked His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to arrive. At first, when Jesus was gone, the disciples just kind of stood



there. They may have felt a little confused or even a bit lonely after Jesus went away. But two angels appeared to remind them that Jesus would come back the same way He left! In the meantime, they certainly had a special mission to keep them very busy!

Christ connection

It's easy to think that life would be better if Jesus had stayed on earth to help us obey Him. However, when Jesus returned to heaven, He did not leave us alone. Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have God with us all the time because the Holy Spirit lives in us when we trust Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin and rose again on the third day to prove that death had no power anymore. After proving He is alive, Jesus returned to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper. With His power, we can fulfill our mission as believers and tell the whole world about Jesus!

Let's pray together and head out to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Story Point Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find the Book of Acts.
- Ask kids what division of the Bible the Book of Acts is in. (*New Testament History*)
- Challenge kids to name the five divisions of the New Testament. (*Gospels, New Testament History, Paul's Letters, General Letters, Prophecy*)
- Explain that Acts is the only book of New Testament History.
- It was written by Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke.

What You Say: **Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud.** The word *ascend* means "to move upward." Jesus told His disciples He was going away to prepare a place for them. [See *John 14:2-3*.] The Bible says that Jesus returned to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father, a place of honor. [See *Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55*.] One day, He will return and rescue those who are waiting for Him. [See *Heb.9:28*.]

2. Discussion Questions:

- **Where did Jesus tell His disciples to wait?** (*in Jerusalem, Acts 1:4*)
- **John baptized people with what?** (*water, Acts 1:5*)
- **Jesus said the disciples would be baptized with whom?** (*the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:5*)
- **Jesus said the Holy Spirit would give the disciples what?** (*power, Acts 1:8*)
- **What did Jesus say the disciples would do?** (*be His witnesses, Acts 1:8*)
- **What took Jesus out of the disciples' sight?** (*a cloud, Acts 1:9*)
- **How will Jesus come again?** (*in the same way He went into heaven, Acts 1:11*)



- **What did the disciples do back in Jerusalem?** (*They prayed and waited like Jesus told them to do, Acts 1:12-14*)

Now guide kids to discuss these questions:

- **Where is Jesus right now? What is He doing?**
- **What should we do while we wait for Jesus to return?**

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, index cards, pencil, Bibles

What You Do:

- Write the memory verse on index cards.
- Form groups of 2, 4, or 6 kids.
- Provide 2 reference cards and 2 Bibles per group.
- Invite each group to compete in a drill.
- 2 group members will compete at a time.
- Give each competitor the reference card and a Bible.
- Kids should begin with the Bibles closed and flat on the floor or table.
- At your cue, kids will race to find the memory verse in their Bibles, insert the reference card as a bookmark, and close the Bible.
- When kids finish, choose a competitor to read the key passage aloud from Bible.
- Play again with new competitors.

What You Say: “Great job everyone! The Bible is God’s Word for us, and in it we find the story of God’s plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus wants everyone to know what He has done to rescue sinners. He commands all believers to share the gospel with others.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray that kids would believe that Jesus is alive and that they would live in a way that brings honor to God, trusting that Jesus will return again soon.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.