



## 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 skills**

**What You Need:** Bibles, Story Point Poster, 2 buckets, cotton balls

**What You Do:**

- Help kids find Acts 1 in their Bibles.
- Explain the Book of Acts tells what the early believers did to spread the gospel after Jesus ascended to heaven.
- It was written by Luke, who collected eyewitness accounts and spent time traveling with the first missionaries.
- Divide the class into two teams and line up the teams with a large bucket five feet from each team.
- Give the first child on each team a cotton ball.
- He will toss his cotton ball to try and get it in the bucket.
- The first kid who gets the cotton ball in the bucket answers a review question.
- Kids get a point for each correct answer.
- The team with the most points wins.

**What You Say** "Saying goodbye to a friend is never easy, but **Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud** for the good of those who followed Him. Jesus returned to heaven to send the Holy Spirit down to us. The Holy Spirit fills us with power so we can make disciples who make disciples. Our mission as believers is possible because of the Holy Spirit's power in our lives."

#### **2. Discussion Questions:**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:



- **After Jesus rose from the dead, over how many days did He spend some time with His disciples?** (40, Acts 1:3)
- **In which city did they need to wait for the promise?** (Jerusalem, Acts 1:4)
- **What promise were they waiting for?** (the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:5)
- **Name two of the four places Jesus said they would be His witnesses.** (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth; Acts 1:8)
- **How did Jesus ascend into heaven?** (in a cloud, Acts 1:9)
- **What was the message the two men in white had for the disciples?** (Jesus will come again the same way He went to heaven, Acts 1:11)
- **What is our mission? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.**

### 3. Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, foam ball or other soft object to pass, timer(optional)

**What You Do:**

- Lead kids to form a circle.
- Provide a foam ball or other object kids may safely pass.
- Give the ball to one kid in the circle.
- He should say the first word of the memory verse and pass the ball to the person next to him in the circle.
- She will say the second word of the memory verse and pass it to the next kid and so on.
- Continue until the memory verse is complete.
- Lead kids to try again, but guide kids to pass the ball more quickly this time.
- Use a timer to time how long it takes the group to say the entire memory verse.
- Challenge them to try and beat their time.

**What You Say:** “Jesus gave this task to His disciples before He ascended into heaven, and He gives it to us who follow Him as disciples now. Jesus commands us to make more disciples. We do this by telling people the gospel. Not only is the gospel the message of how Jesus saves people, but the gospel helps us want to obey Jesus’ commands.”

### Pray and Dismiss

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

**What You Do:**

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
  - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
  - What does this story teach me about myself?
  - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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