



Date: _____

Series: The Gifts from Jesus (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 50

Jesus' Ascension

Bible Event: Acts 1:1-11

Take Home Point: *EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE HIM –
Jesus is with us.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is alive in Heaven and his Spirit is here to help us.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children know that Jesus was born on earth as a baby, grew up into a man, died on the cross for our sins, rose again, and then went back to heaven. Even though Jesus is in heaven today and we can't see him here on earth, his Spirit is still with each of us. Jesus is here by living in each of our hearts. Kids will take home the point: ***EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE HIM – *Jesus is with us.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 50 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit From "The Traveler"

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: I have recently been traveling through some beautiful lands climbing up some magnificent hills. As I would climb to the tops of the hills, I would look at the clouds. They were amazing! I felt like I could almost reach out and touch them. What do you think a cloud would feel like? A cotton ball? (Pull out some cotton balls.) Would they melt in your mouth like cotton candy? (Eat a small piece of cotton candy.) Would they be big and fluffy like pillows or marshmallows? (Pull out a marshmallow and a pillow.) Those all seem like good ideas. But do you know that if you reached your hand into a cloud, you would feel....nothing! Clouds are just made of water and air. Even though we can see them, we can't feel them! That seems funny, doesn't it?

Talking about clouds like this reminds me of a story, though. After Jesus lived here on earth and died on the cross, he rose again and did something very amazing. He went back to heaven on a cloud. Here's how the event goes.

Jesus was with his disciples. They were eating dinner and Jesus knew that this was the last time they would be together. He knew that he was going back to heaven and wanted to tell them what was going to happen. Jesus said to them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized you with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

What Jesus was trying to tell them was that his body was going to heaven, but his Spirit was going to come and live in each of them. The Holy Spirit is how Jesus lives in each of us today. Even though we can't see Jesus, we all know that he is with us because God's word says so. The disciples didn't quite understand. They were confused and thought that maybe Jesus was going to stay on earth forever. So they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?”

But Jesus tried to tell them again that his body was going back to heaven and his Spirit would be on earth. He said, “No, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” And after Jesus said that, the most miraculous thing happened. Right then and there, in front of the disciples, Jesus was taken up to heaven, riding on a cloud! He was lifted up so high, that the clouds blocked their view. And he was gone.

Just then, while the disciples were still staring into the sky, two angels dressed in white came and stood beside the disciples. The angels said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

That's how Jesus ended up back in heaven. He rode a big, fluffy cloud into the sky. It was amazing! But the most amazing thing about the whole story is that Jesus did not leave us alone! Even though his body went back up into heaven where we cannot see him, his Spirit continues to stay with us always. That is how Jesus is still with us. his Spirit lives in our hearts every day. We all can trust that Jesus is with us always. Remember: ***EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE HIM – Jesus is with us.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child a graham cracker square. Provide Cool-Whip pre-mixed with blue powdered Jell-O to provide blue 'paint' for the children to cover their graham cracker. They may paint their cracker using a marshmallow stuck on a pretzel or a traditional utensil. Allow the children to place a few marshmallows on their blue 'sky' to represent clouds.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Try using blueberries or cherries for paint. You may find using the fruit juice exciting to use – giving a blue/purple/red tint to the skies, like a beautiful sunset.

Drama Zone: Provide feathers for children to throw into the air. Try keeping them in the air by blowing under them.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss where Jesus is and how he is always with us.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus' Ascension from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #57 "Jesus Returns to Heaven" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have children color and decorate the Jesus' Ascension template. Have them color the hill by drawing grass and flowers. Have them glue cotton balls onto the clouds.

Play Zone: Have children throw cotton balls onto a waving parachute. They must lift the cotton balls up, just like Jesus. Another option: Provide helium balloons on strings and allow children to let them go as the balloons 'race' to the ceiling.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus' Ascension.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "Jesus' Ascension" coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a blindfold on. He thinks that because he has the blindfold on and can't see the kids, they can't see him either. He acts like he's hiding or is invisible. He yells "Surprise!" because he thinks he snuck up on the other kids and then removes his blindfold. The presenter tells Bubba that everyone could see him the whole time. A blindfold doesn't make him invisible.

The presenter explains that Bubba's blindfold does remind him of today's lesson. In today's lesson, Jesus went back to heaven and we couldn't see him anymore. We aren't wearing blindfolds, but still we can't see Jesus. He asks Bubba and the children how can we know someone is there if we can't see them? (Because we can hear them, feel them, or just know they are there.)

The presenter explains that the same thing is true with Jesus. Even though we can't see him, we know he's there. We can listen to what he says by reading and hearing the Bible. We can feel his love all around us because he gives us people to love us like parents, families, friends and teachers. We can also know that he is in our hearts. He sent his Spirit to fill our hearts. We know that he went to the cross to give his life for us and to be our friend for always. No matter what, always remember: **EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE HIM – Jesus is with us.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Lesson 50

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- cotton balls
- cotton candy
- marshmallows
- pillow

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham crackers
- Cool Whip
- blue Jell-O in powder form
- small marshmallows
- pretzel sticks

Drama:

- feathers

Craft:

- white paper (with template)
- cotton balls
- glue or glue sticks
- markers and crayons

Play:

- parachute
- cotton balls
- optional: helium balloons with strings

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact the story (For example, use Lesson #57 “Jesus Returns to Heaven” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

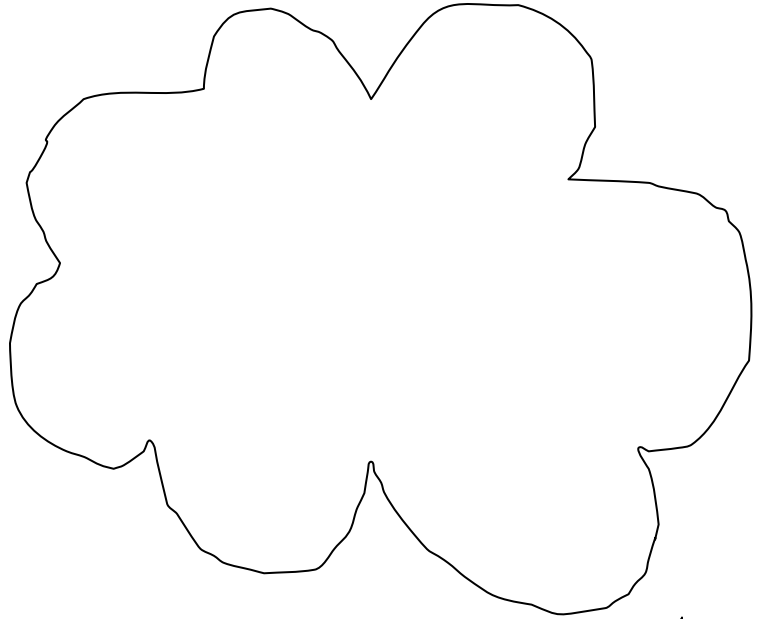
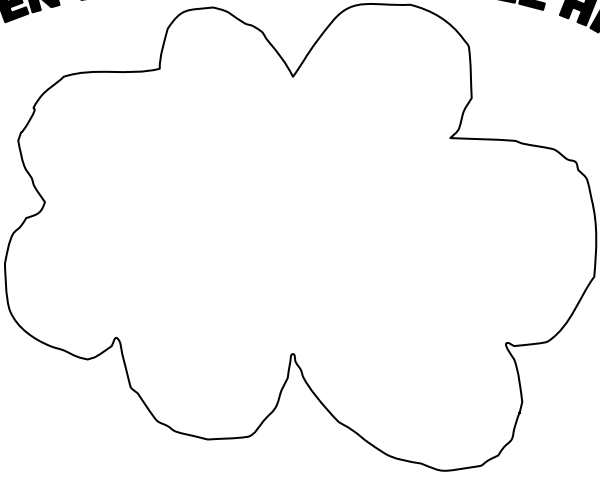
Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- blindfold

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE HIM



Jesus is with us!

Jesus' Ascension

