



Date: _____

Series: The Christian Church Begins (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 50

Jesus Ascends To Heaven

Bible Event: Acts 1:1-11

Take Home Point: *JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN – *We keep doing his work.*

*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 went to heaven to prepare a place for us but promised to send his Spirit so we can continue to do his work.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that after his resurrection, Jesus gave his disciples instructions for 40 days. They will also learn that after the 40 days, Jesus ascends to or is taken to heaven. Just like the disciples were given instructions to continue his work, the children will learn that we are to keep doing his work. This work includes spreading the Good News to the ends of the earth until he comes again. Kids will take home the point: ***JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN – *We keep doing his work.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for living with 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.



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: “Animated Stories of the New Testament: He is Risen,” produced by Nest Entertainment, 1988. Start clip at 28:21. If you have a video to substitute, insert 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've traveled through the Bible and here is what I discovered: the true story of how Jesus was taken to heaven.

After Jesus came back to life, he visited with his disciples for 40 days and talked with them about the Kingdom of God. Let's count by tens with our hands until we get to 40.

Put ten fingers up and open and close fist four times while counting by tens.

During one of these visits, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem because they needed to wait there to receive a special power. The special power was a promise from God. He said to them, "I've told you what the Father promises: John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Why do you think God the Father and Jesus wanted the disciples to have a special power?

Pull out the deflated globe ball. Have another adult helper blow up the globe ball while standing next to the traveler.

Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came to them. When this happened, the disciples would be Jesus' witnesses to tell the whole world about Jesus. This globe reminds us Jesus sent his disciples to continue his work. He is sending us to do his work, too.

What are some of the things Jesus did? *(He was kind to people, he healed them, he helped them, he loved them, and he came to die for them.)*

Remember earlier I told you this is a true story of how Jesus was taken to heaven? After Jesus told the disciples they would receive a special power and commanded they tell the world about him, he was taken to heaven.

Pull Mylar balloon out of bag.

Just like this balloon will float up, Jesus floated or ascended to heaven.

Let go of balloon but make sure it is tied to the backpack.

As he was taken, a cloud hid him so that they could no longer see him.

The disciples were looking into the sky as Jesus went or ascended to heaven.

Pull balloon down again and ask the children to stand and look up like they were watching Jesus float to heaven. Let balloon go again.

Suddenly, two men in white robes stood near the disciples. They asked, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking at the sky? Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

Do you know who the two men in white robes were? They were angels. Until Jesus comes back in the same way he went to heaven, it is our job to tell others (hold up globe ball) until the whole world knows about Jesus.

Next week, we will find out how the disciples received their power. Remember: *JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN – *We keep doing his work.*



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: Place the Teddy Graham (Jesus) on the graham cracker. Cover the Teddy Graham with “clouds” (whip cream). Enjoy!

Drama Zone: Children will retell story of how Jesus ascended to heaven.
Option: Act out ways of doing his work, including inviting a friend to church.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to retell story.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of “Jesus Ascends to Heaven” from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #157, “Jesus Returns To Heaven” from *Betty Lukens’ Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Give each child a half sheet of cardstock. Glue cotton balls to the top 1/3 of blue card stock or construction paper. While cotton is drying, color and cut Jesus figure. Tape Jesus figure to straw or craft stick. The children will retell how Jesus ascends to heaven by pulling Jesus figure through precut slit in paper. Jesus will be hidden behind the clouds.

Hint: Pull cotton balls apart to make different sizes and shapes of clouds.

Play Zone: Have tubs filled with cotton. Children will hide Jesus figure in “clouds.”

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus ascension to heaven.

Music Zone: Your choice of music

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Ascends to Heaven” 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 the balloon from the Bible event. Bubba exclaims he is so excited. The traveler had this balloon and said he could take care of it. The presenter notices that it is tied to Bubba's wrist. Bubba says he wants to take care of the balloon like he promised the traveler and doesn't want the balloon to get away. If the balloon got away, it might get out the door and go up so high in the clouds that he won't ever see it again.

That reminds the presenter of what happened in the Bible event today. How does the balloon remind us of Jesus? Jesus ascended or went up to heaven and disappeared behind the clouds. Before Jesus went up to heaven, did he ask the disciples to do something? Yes, he asked that they continue to tell the whole world about Jesus. Did Jesus live forever on earth? No. Will we ever see Jesus again? He will return but until then, we are to tell others about Jesus and do his work of helping others and loving them like Jesus would. Remember: ***JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN – We keep doing his work.**

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 your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your 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.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons
- “*Animated Stories of the New Testament: He is Risen*,” produced by Nest Entertainment, 1988. Start clip at 28:21. Order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=HRD

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- inflatable globe
- Mylar balloon
- backpack

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham cracker
- teddy grahams
- whip cream
- napkins
- cups
- water or juice

Drama:

- costumes for angels, Jesus, disciples
- white sheet for clouds

Craft:

- half sheet of blue card stock 8 1/2 x 11 portrait (precut slit in middle) for each child
- cotton balls
- Jesus figure (see appendix)
- crayons, markers, colored pencils
- glue
- tape
- craft stick or straws

Play:

- tubs
- cotton or batting
- Jesus figurines

Quiet Reading:

- pillows
- books relating to the ascension story

Video:

- “*Animated Stories of the New Testament: He is Risen*,” produced by Nest Entertainment, 1988. Start clip at 28:21.

Music:

- songs of choice
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Puppet:

- assorted puppets
- puppet stage

Felt:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of “Jesus Ascends to Heaven;” one resource is *Betty Lukens’ Through the Bible in Felt*, Lesson 157

Color page:

- coloring page
- crayons, markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils and paper
- basket of books

