

THE GREAT COMMISSION

LESSON 2: JESUS' ASCENSION

Jesus assured the disciples that they would receive a Helper so they could serve God.

TOPICS

Jesus' Ascension, Holy Spirit, Great Commission

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

A Special Promise Word Search (Activity)

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"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." Acts 1:11B NIV

Read the verse to the class and write it on a white board. Then take turns saying the verse in silly voices (high/low, slow/fast, accents, etc.) until the class is familiar with the verse.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

After being resurrected, Jesus spent 40 days on earth preaching and teaching before ascending into Heaven. Luke, one of Jesus' disciples, recorded this special event. Today we will learn about additional instructions and promises Jesus gave believers before He took His place in Heaven at the right of God.

Read Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:50-53 (More instructions, a new promise.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who enables Jesus to preach and teach? (*The Holy Spirit.*)
2. What else does He do after His resurrected? (*Gives convincing proofs that He is alive and speaks about the kingdom of God.*)
3. What promise is waiting for the disciples? (*The coming of the Holy Spirit.*)
4. What do they have to do to receive this promise? (*Stay in Jerusalem until the Spirit came.*)
5. What question do they ask Jesus? (*"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*)
6. What is Jesus' response? (*That only Father God in His authority knows the time of restoration, but the Holy Spirit will bring them power.*)
7. Then what happens? (*Jesus ascends into Heaven.*)
8. What promise do the angels reveal? (*That Jesus will return in the same way He went to Heaven.*)
9. What do the disciples do after Jesus returns to Heaven? (*Obey Him by remaining in Jerusalem with "great joy" and continuously praising God at the temple.*)

Conclusion: Jesus instructed His followers to remain in Jerusalem until the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, believers would receive power and be equipped as witnesses to share the good news of the gospel throughout the world. Better yet, we know that

Jesus will return to earth one day and establish God's perfect kingdom. So, until that day, we share the responsibility of telling the world about Jesus just as the disciples did so many years ago.

CLASS EXERCISE (10-15 minutes)

Bouncing Ball Challenge (Activity)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10-15 minutes)

Power Up! (Game)

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

Ask the children to think about what our bodies need to keep growing. Then make a list together on a white board or poster board. Suggestions include food, water, vitamins, etc. Then ask the class to think about what we need spiritually to grow in faith. Make another list of spiritual needs. Suggestions include prayer, Bible reading, learning from parents/at church, singing worship songs, serving, etc. Help the class understand that the Holy Spirit helps us grow spiritually as we obey and serve God.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS:** Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.
- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN:** With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.
- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS:** Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.
- **SCRAMBLED:** Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.