

D27. Ascension Day

Luke 24:44-53; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:9-11

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the events surrounding Jesus' Ascension.
2. The children will explore what it means to share the "good news" with others.

Memory Verse: ***"When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, He was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God."*** **--Mark 16:19 (NIRV)**

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

All Ages

Now you see it – Now you don't

Begin with three cups (not see through) placed upside down on the table. You will be playing "Now you see it – Now you don't" with the students. Lift each cup up and show the students that there is nothing under the cups. Then place a small object (eraser, small ball, etc.) under one of the cups. Tell the students to keep their eyes on the cups as you move them around (you may want to practice this ahead of time!). They will try to tell you when you are done moving them, where the object is at. (NOTE: Somehow, put the object in your lap or pocket so the kids can't see.) Play the cup game again, and when you raise the cup, there will be no object under any cup!

Tell the students that today we will be talking about how Jesus "disappeared" into heaven on Ascension Day.

Balloons Lifting Up to Heaven

Give each child a small index card or small piece of paper. Tell the children that today we are going to send messages to Jesus in Heaven. Let them write or draw anything they like on their cards and help each child to sign his name.

Bring several balloons (one for each child and a few extra) filled with helium. Tie the messages to the strings of the balloons (you may need extra grown up hands to accomplish this in a timely manner) Take the children outside and on the count of 3, let of their balloons and let them fly up to "Heaven". (Make sure the cards are small and not too heavy, so the balloons can actually "go" up to "Heaven".) Stand there with the children and watch the balloons go up into the sky until you cannot see them anymore.

Once you are back inside say: Today we will hear about Jesus, when he went up to heaven just as we saw our balloons go up into the sky. All His friends watched Him rise into the sky, until He was gone into the clouds. And we will also hear about the promise that He will come back to us and take us with Him to heaven one day.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Share the good news!

NOTE: *Remind the children why we can read about Jesus' Ascension in different books of the Bible. Each book may have a different author, and therefore gives his perspective on the events that took place.*

Luke:

Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me must happen. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written. The Christ will suffer. He will rise from the dead on the third day. His followers will preach in his name. They will tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven. People from every nation will hear it, beginning at Jerusalem. You have seen these things with your own eyes.

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised. But for now, stay in the city. Stay there until you have received power from heaven."

(Jesus Is Taken Up into Heaven)

Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted his hands up and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them. He was taken up into heaven.

Then they worshiped him. With great joy, they returned to Jerusalem. Every day they went to the temple, praising God.

Mark:

In today's story, Jesus is speaking to His disciples:

He said to them, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the good news to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be judged guilty."

Jesus went on to say that those who believe will be able to do miraculous things, including: Being able to drive out spirits that are not Godly, they will be able to speak many languages that they had not known before and they will be able to heal those who are sick that they will get well.

When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, he was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked with them. And he backed up his word by the signs that went with it.

Acts:

After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven. They watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

While he was going up, they kept on looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Discussion Questions:

1. Who did Jesus tell to share the good news? (*The disciples.*)
2. How many disciples were there when the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven? (11 – NOTE: Look up together in the Bible Acts 1:12-13, make a list on the board with all the names, and then have the children count them. Remember to ask the children if we are in the OLD or NEW Testament – Old is before Jesus was alive.)
3. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (*Baptize, heal the sick – make them well, tell others the “good news” about God.*)
4. Where did Jesus go? (*Up to heaven to be with God*)
5. Do we know when Jesus will come back for us? (*No, we do not know. Discuss how Jesus could come back at any time and emphasize on how much we look FORWARD to that day. Be sure to explain that this is not something we should be afraid of because Heaven is a beautiful and peaceful place.*)
6. How would you feel if Jesus came back today? (*Discuss together.*)
7. What can we do to prepare ourselves for his return? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Begin by reviewing the Fruit of the Spirit. Try to make a list on your easel from memory. If you need more help, look up Galatians 5:22-23 in your Bibles and complete the list.

There are many times in our lives when we are asked to follow someone or something. Make a list together of people who we have to follow sometimes (ex. Teachers, parents, principal, police officers, etc.). At times, we may need to follow what others are doing, or follow a set of instructions that are given. **We are also expected to follow Jesus.**

Ask the children: **Are you willing to give up everything and follow Jesus, just like His disciples did?** God is not asking us to leave our families or give back all our toys, but we can still follow Jesus with all our hearts. We need to fill our heart with good things, like love and joy and peace (refer to the fruit of the spirit list) and try to get rid of the things that are not so good in our hearts. This is how we follow Jesus with our whole hearts. By following Jesus in this way, we are sharing the “good news” with others, without saying a word. We are showing others through our example. (Refer to the message statement – “Share the Good News”.)

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review the odd numbered Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. How many fruit of the spirit can you name in one minute? Give it a try.
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

All Ages**“Be Prepared” Activity**

Have each student (or the whole class) make a list of all the things you may need to go on a trip to the beach. It’s important not to forget anything we may need, isn’t it? We want to be ready or prepared for our vacation. Don’t forget the sunscreen.

Jesus promised to come back to us here on Earth! Imagine how the disciples felt when they first thought Jesus was dead on Good Friday (Discuss – sad, empty, etc.) and how they may have felt when they now saw Him go up into heaven. But Jesus promised that He would return! That promise is one of the foundations of our faith, as we wait for Jesus to return for us again. But what do we have to do to be ready? (Discuss together.) Make a list together on the easel (or on chart paper) of ways we can work to be ready for Jesus’ coming. Remind the children that it’s always important to be prepared!

Grades K-2**“Jesus Ascending to Heaven” – Paper Cup Craft**

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Click on “Lesson Indexes” in the blue menu bar → Scroll down and click on “New Testament Lessons” → Click on “Luke” → Scroll down under Luke 24:50-53 and click on “Jesus Ascension – Now You See Him, Now You Don’t” → Scroll down to find the activity.

You will need: 16oz. foam or paper cups, blue paper, card stock (heavy paper), cotton balls, string, tape and colored pencils. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades 3-5**“Disappearing Bible Verse” Review Game**

Write the memory verse on index cards, one word per card. Show the children the cards, and read each word, then place them in order. Tell the children that you are going to take one of the cards away, and they will need to figure out which word is missing. Mix up the cards. Set one card aside and place the rest of the cards in random order on the table. See who can tell you which card is missing first.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of what you think it will be like when Jesus comes again for us. Will you be happy to go with Him? Why or why not? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Do you think it is important to share the good news about Jesus with others? Why or why not? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson "**Pentecost**" (Acts 2:1-41) and practice looking up the Bible text reference in your Bible.
- Learn the memory verse:
*"But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you.
The Friend is the Holy Spirit." --John 14:26 (NIRV)*
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Pentecost** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Who is your role model? Maybe you have more than one. Write that person's name down or draw a picture of them. Write about why they are your role model. Bring it class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.cccm.com/curriculum/> → New Testament → Lesson 284 "support curriculum"

Name: _____

Pentecost



"But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you.
The Friend is the Holy Spirit." --Acts 2:4 (NIRV)

Take Home Page: D27. Ascension Day

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to share the “good news” about Jesus with others. Children explored the events that took place when Jesus ascended into heaven. They also talked about what it means to share the “good news” with others.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*“When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, He was taken up into heaven.
He sat down at the right hand of God. --Mark 16:19 (NIRV)*

Ask me...

1. What happened on Ascension Day?
2. What does Jesus want us to share with others? Why?
3. Who could you share the good news with this week?

Live Your Faith...

Open your child’s Bible together and look for the story of Jesus’ ascension in Luke 24. Once you find it, encourage him/her to highlight it and write “go and tell” next to the story. Talk about what that phrase means, and how your family can share the love of Jesus with other families, and even tell them about Him. Pray together that God will help your family work together to share Jesus’ love and His story with other families.
