



Jesus Returned to Heaven

April 25, 2021- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; Acts 1

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BOTTOM LINE: The Holy Spirit lives in me so God is always with me.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He gave us the Holy Spirit to be with us, to give us the power to live Godly lives and help us do God's work. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Context

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a 40 day period. At one point, He appeared to more than 500 people. During that time, Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. Some of them wondered if Jesus was finally going to overthrow the Roman government and set up His kingdom on earth.

Jesus had a different plan for the disciples. He directed the Eleven to go to a mountain, where He appeared to them again. They worshipped Him, but some still doubted. (Matthew 28:17) On the mountain, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission. He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel, the good news about Him.

The Great Commission is not just for missionaries far from home or those who lead in the church. All believers are called to share the gospel with others, teach them to obey God's commands, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus finished His commission with a profound promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Father's promise- the Holy Spirit. Those who repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus' death and resurrection would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would give them power to live holy lives and take the gospel to the ends of the earth. After Jesus told the disciples these things, Jesus was taken up into the sky- right in front of their eyes.

Jesus is alive in heaven, waiting to return for His people. Jesus told the disciples He was going to prepare a place for them, and when we die, we will be with the Lord. (John 14:1-3) In the meantime, Jesus has not left us alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God's work. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus told His friends to go and tell others about Him.
- Then, His friends watched Jesus go up into heaven.
- Jesus left the earth, but He didn't leave us alone.
- When we believe in Him, He lives in us and will never leave us.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** The Holy Spirit lives in me so God is always with me.

Small Group Prayer: “Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Social Activity: I Spy Activity Page or What Can You Build

What You Need: Week 1 I Spy Activity page (1 per kid), clothes pins, popsicle sticks, other miscellaneous building supplies, pencils, crayons

What You Do:

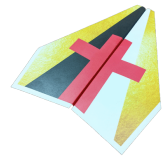
Give each kid an I spy activity page to complete as others arrive. They can circle or color in the pictures as they find the objects. See who can complete the page fastest.

OR

Using clothes pins, popsicle sticks and other building supplies kids will work together to build the tallest structure, the widest structure, the structure with the most peaks, etc. Encourage kids to use their creativity and work together with everyone to build a unique structure.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku



Application Activity: Gospel Plane

What You Need Gospel Plane (1 per kid and instruction sheet to take home)

What You Do:

- Show kids a completed plane. Provide the plane and instructions and guide kids in making their own Gospel Plane. (have kids write their name on theirs before you fly it)
- Ask kids to take turns flying their planes and have everyone vote on which one lands closest to the designated landing pad.
- Talk to kids about their planes. Did they have fun making them? Do they like how their plane flew? Have you ever flown in a real airplane? Where did you go? Did you have fun there? If you could fly anywhere in the world in a real airplane where would you want to go?
- Explain there is a place far better than any of those places and in our Bible story today, we saw that Jesus went there to make a place for us. It is called heaven. You can't get there in a real plane or paper airplane though.
- Using one of the planes, help kids find a way to share what they learned about today.
 1. **Gold reminds us of heaven. God wants us all to be with him in heaven.**
 2. **The dark page reminds us of sin. Because we have all sinned, we cannot get to heaven on our own.**
 3. **Red reminds us of the blood of Jesus. Jesus came to earth to take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross.**
 4. **The clean page reminds us that we can be made clean from sin by believing in Jesus.**
 5. **When we believe in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God and will one day be with him in heaven.**
 6. **Green reminds us of things that grow. It is important that we grow in our relationship with Jesus.**

What You Say “When Jesus taught his first disciples, he used things they were familiar with, like sheep, fish and bread. We can follow in Jesus’ footsteps by using items that kids are familiar with to share with them the gospel message. Folding and flying paper airplanes is popular around here. When you go home today, use your plane to practice telling others about Jesus. Tell mom or dad to look online so you can print more airplanes to tell more people about Jesus.

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the correct words in the blank together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible. Therefore = transition, pay attention now , anyone= everyone has the chance to believe , in= joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior , creation= reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit , old= the previous moral and spiritual condition , here=because spiritual awakening brings a new life

Discussion Questions:

- **What is the Great Commission?** Lead kids to recognize that Jesus is in heaven, and He is going to come back someday. While we wait for Him, we have a special mission. Jesus wants us to help more people believe in Him and follow Him with their whole life. The Great Commission is Jesus' command that His disciples go and preach the gospel to all people. (2 Peter 3:9)
- **How can we make disciples?** Guide kids to think through the parts of the Great Commission. Part of the command helps explain how to make disciples: teach them to obey Jesus and baptize them. Help the kids remember that baptism and obedience do not save us, but they are important signs that help show a person has put their faith in Jesus.
- **How do you feel knowing that Jesus will come back?** Help the kids focus on the hope we have for the future. The world is still broken by sin, but as we obey Jesus and make disciples, there will be more and more people trying to do God's will and bring justice and peace to the world. Someday, Jesus will come and bring perfect, everlasting peace and justice.