



Jesus Returned to Heaven

April 25, 2021- 3 year olds and 4 year olds

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.

Social Activity: What's Missing

What You Need: 6 items, tray, towel

What You Do:

Lay all 6 items on the tray. Show kids the items. Then cover the items and remove one of them. Tell children to close their eyes while you remove an item. The children open their eyes when you say "Open", then tell you as a group what's missing. Do this same thing with another item, until they are all missing. When you are finished, place all the items in a ziploc bag. **Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Small Group Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

Introduce the Story

"Jesus was alive! Jesus spent many days teaching His friends about God's plan. Jesus told His friends to go to a mountain in Galilee. When they saw Jesus there, they worshipped Him. Jesus told them to wait for God to send the Holy Spirit. "I am in charge of everything in heaven and on earth," Jesus said. "Go and teach people everywhere about Me. Baptize them in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I taught you. I am always with you, until the very end of time." After Jesus said these words, a cloud took Him to heaven! Two men in white clothes stood next to Jesus' friends. "Why are you looking at the sky? Jesus will come back the same way."

Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku
Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku



Application Activity: Speak Boldly Megaphone

What You Need: 1 Megaphone per kid, crayons

What You Do:

- Have kids decorate their megaphone.
- Then using the sticky tape, put the megaphone together for each kid.
- Encourage them to repeat after you into their megaphone. "Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin."

What You Say "Jesus gave His disciples a mission. He told them to go and make followers of Him in every place on earth. That is still our mission today as people who love and follow Jesus. We can tell everyone everywhere we do the good news that Jesus died and came back to life to save people from sin."

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.