

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11

Tip for Children's Ministry Directors

If you're sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you're recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken aloud.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Let's Praise God!	Worship God along with music videos.	Go & Make Disciples https://vimeo.com/showcase/5682049/video/311273434 This Little Light of Mine https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA	
Bible Exploration	Around the World Learn how big the world is and that they have an important part in telling the world about Jesus.	Bible, paper, pencils, world map with countries	Go online to find a map of the world with the names of countries.
Weaving Faith Into Life	Go! Make traffic lights as reminders to go and make disciples of all nations.	Bible, paper, glue, crayons or markers, scissors, pencil, small circular object to trace (such as a cup or plastic lid)	

► **Bible Point**

Tell others about Jesus.
.....

Key Verse

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).
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Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn they can tell others about Jesus.
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Let's Praise God!

Play these music videos and have kids sing and do the motions along with the videos.

Go & Make Disciples

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/5682049/video/311273434>

This Little Light of Mine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA>

BIBLE

EXPLORATION

Around the World

What You'll Do

Open Bibles to Matthew 28:16-20.

Say: This event happened just before Jesus returned to heaven. This passage is often called the Great Commission because of who gave it and because it is great in its goal. Let's learn it together. I'll read a sentence and then we'll do some motions to it.

Lead everyone through the paraphrases from Matthew 28:16-20 and the corresponding motions:

After Jesus came back to life, he met the disciples on a mountain. *(make climbing motions)*

When the disciples saw him, they worshipped him. *(bow down; then raise arms up high)*

But some doubted. *(make a grumpy face)*

Jesus said, "I've been given all authority on earth." *(raise arms in praise and respect)*

"Go and make disciples of all nations." *(move right arm widely from the left to the right)*

"Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." *(hold up three fingers)*

"Tell them to obey everything I commanded you." *(do a salute)*

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *(everyone hug themselves)*

Say: In this passage, Jesus tells his disciples to tell the whole world about him. That's a lot of places! Let's see how many countries we can name.

Have family members name as many countries as they can think of. A parent will write countries as family members name them. Everyone will look at the world map for a few countries they hadn't named. Nonreaders can point at countries, and parents can read the names and add them to the list. Everyone can also point out states where people they know, such as family, friends, or neighbors who moved away live.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- Looking at how big the world is, what do you think about Jesus call?
- What do you think it means for you personally that Jesus said “Go and make disciples of all nations”?
- What are ways you can show Jesus’ love right now, even if you are staying home because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Say: **God wants us to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** And Jesus, in the Great Commission, told us to make disciples of all nations. The world is a big place—and people in lots of countries need to hear about Jesus. But Jesus’ command didn’t mean you personally have to go to every single country! Even though we may not be able to go to every country, we can do our part and tell the people we know about Jesus. Let’s explore how we can do that.

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Go!

What You'll Do

Everyone will use a circular object to trace and cut out three circles from paper, and then write "Go!" on one of the circles. Older kids or adults write for younger children.

Say: **You wrote "Go!" on one of your circles. That makes me think of today's Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20. Let's read that together.**

Read the verses aloud as everyone follows along: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).**

Say: **Jesus told his disciples to go tell the whole world about him!**

Everyone will color their "GO!" circles to look like the world. Then they'll each cut a sheet of paper in half lengthwise to make a full traffic signal. They'll color the other two circles, one yellow and one red, and glue the three circles to the half-sheet of paper in the order they appear on a traffic light. (The "Go!" circle will go where the green light goes.)

Say: **Keep your light as a reminder to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. On the back of your traffic light, write or draw some ways you can show Jesus' love right now.** (These can be the ideas shared in the Bible time activity.)

Say: **God wants us to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Thanks for coming up with great ideas to do that!**

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What can motivate us to get up and "go" to share Jesus with others?**
- **A traffic light turns green so you know when to go. How can you tell when it's a good time to talk to a friend or family member about Jesus?**
- **Tell about a time you told someone about Jesus. How did it go?**

Say: **Before he returned to heaven, Jesus gave us a huge job to do: to go and tell the whole world about Jesus. Fortunately, we were also promised his power and presence to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. May you go now and do that in your world!**