

Unit 27: Out of the Grave

Unit Description:

The darkest moment of the gospel story became the brightest when Jesus rose from the dead to provide forgiveness for all of God's people. After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 more days proving that He is alive and preparing His followers to continue His mission after He returned to heaven to be with His Father.

Key Passage:

John 11:25

Big Picture Question:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Session 1:

Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28; John 20

Story Point: God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

Session 3:

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24; John 20

Story Point: Jesus proved He is alive.

Session 2:

The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24

Story Point: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

Session 4:

Jesus Returned to Heaven

Matthew 28; Acts 1

Story Point: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.



Jesus' Resurrection

God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

The Emmaus Disciples

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.



Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Jesus proved He is alive.

Jesus Returned to Heaven

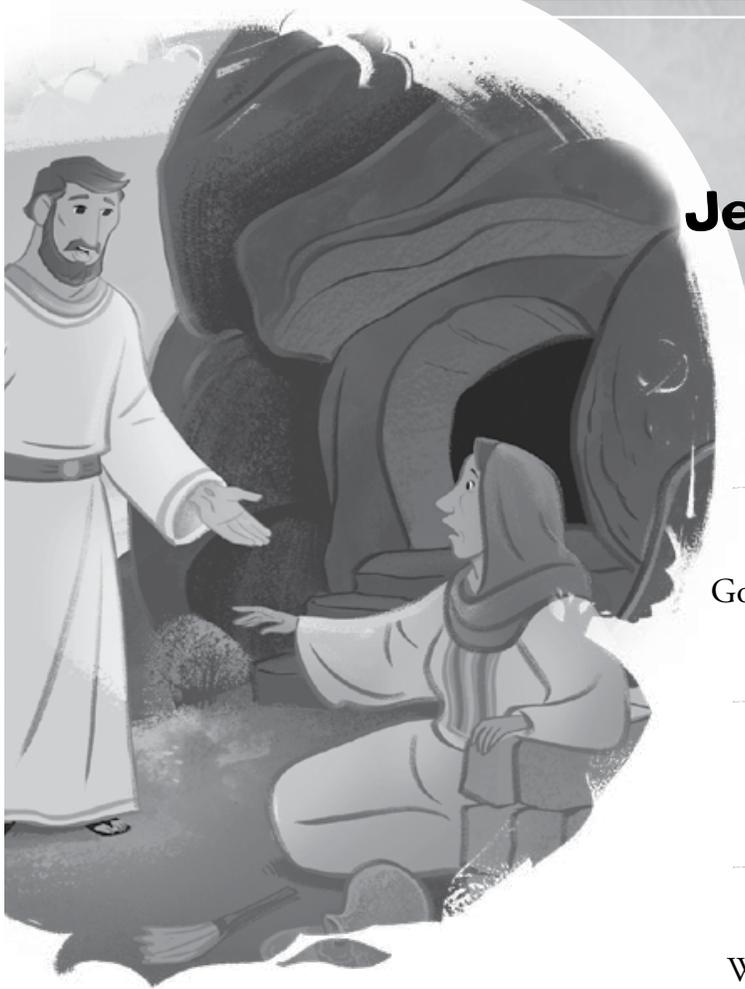
Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.



Use Week of: **November 8**

Unit 27 • Session 1

Jesus' Resurrection



BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 28; John 20

STORY POINT:

God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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LEADER Bible Study

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus *did* rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciples stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom. 6:5; 8:11.)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:17 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil. 2:9-10)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28; John 20

On the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. It was still dark, and she saw that the large stone at the entrance had been moved away.

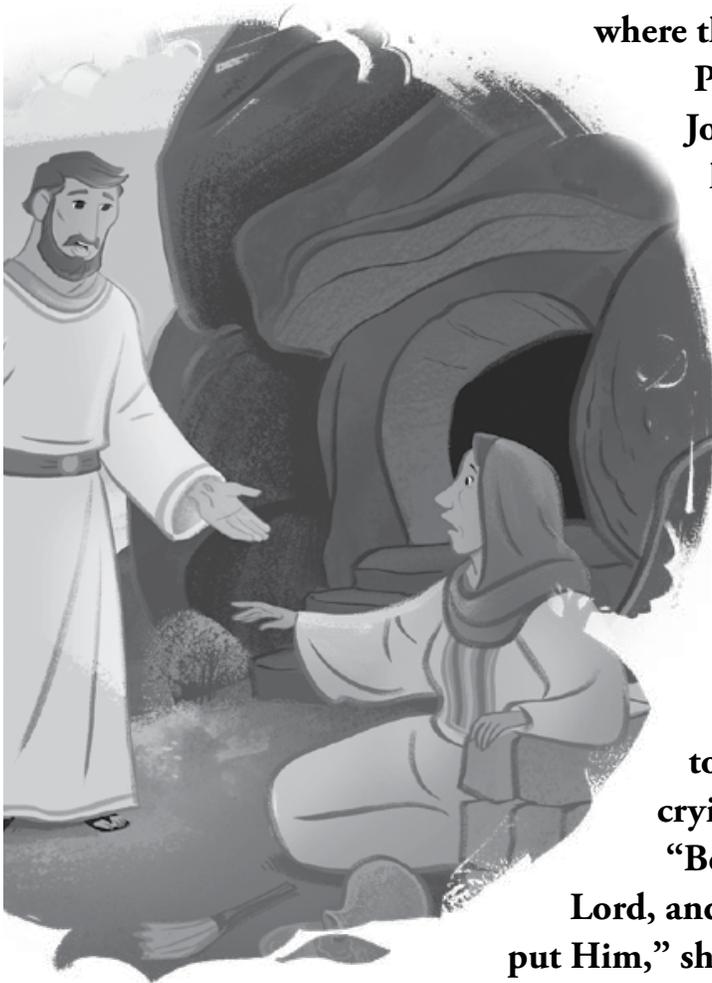
Mary ran to Simon Peter and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw the linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then Peter and John went back home.

Mary went back to the tomb and cried. When she looked inside, she saw two angels sitting there. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put Him," she said. Then Mary turned around. Jesus stood in front of her, but she did not recognize Him. Jesus said, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought Jesus might be the gardener. She replied, "Sir, if



you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you've put Him and I will go get Him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary realized who He was and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

Meanwhile, some of the guards from Jesus' tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders everything that had happened. The leaders got together and made a plan. They gave the soldiers a lot of money and told them to lie about what they saw.

"Say that Jesus' disciples came in the night and stole His body while you were sleeping," they said. The guards took the money and lied about Jesus' resurrection.

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use models:**

Display a small tomb and stone made of play dough. Remove the stone for kids to look inside the empty tomb.

- **Vary facial expressions:**

Emphasize various facial expressions to reflect the emotions of people in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; John 20

STORY POINT: God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss a time they were given great news. What was the news?

SAY • It's always fun to get good news. Whether you got a good grade on a difficult project or found out your family would take a vacation to a place you've always wanted to visit, good news just feels ... well, good! Today we will learn about the best news in the world and a woman who got to tell others about it.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Best Day Ever" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Best Day Ever" activity page. In the space provided, kids will draw a picture to show what they did or would do to have the best day ever.

SAY • We could do a lot of fun things to have a great day. Maybe visiting a theme park or favorite restaurant would make your day feel special. Today we will talk about the best day in the history of the whole world. What do you think happened that made that day so wonderful?

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: One foot wobblers

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. When you say “go,” kids will lift one foot. Whoever is able to stand on one foot the longest wins the game.

SAY • It was really difficult to stay standing on one foot for long. Eventually, you had to put your other foot down. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus rose from the dead. He couldn’t stay dead and had to rise again.

OPTION 2: Alive or not?

Print a copy of the “Alive or Not?” printable. Display each picture one at a time. Instruct the kids to move to one side of the room or the other depending on whether the item pictured is alive or not. You may choose to hang signs that read *Alive* and *Not Alive* to help the kids remember which side of the room represents each option.

SAY • It’s usually pretty easy to tell if something is alive or not. Some things—like plants or fungi—might be a little tricky because they are alive even though they can’t move, make sounds, or do other things that we often think of when we think of life. Today we will learn about a time someone who was not alive became alive again. Can you guess who? That’s right—Jesus!

**LOW
PREP**

- “Alive or Not?” printable
- paper (optional)
- pen (optional)
- tape (optional)

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; John 20

STORY POINT: God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Decorate the room to look like a farm. Position hay bales around the stage and lean tools such as a hoe and pitchfork against them. Consider using foam board to make a backdrop that looks like a field of grain, an orchard, or a barn and silo.

- countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

- leader attire

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Howdy! Welcome to my farm. We're getting pretty close to harvest time, so things are quite busy around here. Though, to be fair, things are always busy on the farm! If you aren't harvesting crops, you're tending them or planting them or tilling the soil to be ready to plant them. The work never really stops.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

We grow all kinds of crops here, but the big ones for me are corn and soybeans. One of my favorite things about being a farmer is when a new year of crops just begins to sprout. Corn grows into huge,

tall stalks, but when it's just starting out, the green sprouts are actually quite small.

Before sprouting, kernels of corn look dry, hard, and dead. But when they buried and watered correctly, they split open and the evidence of new life shoots out. It makes me think of our Bible story. Jesus had died and been buried, but He didn't stay dead for long! Let me tell you about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we learn about what happened after Jesus' death on the cross, we can focus on a big picture question to help guide our learning: *Where is Jesus now?* Think about that question while we get into the story. You might already know the answer, but see if anything in this story can help you explain the answer to someone else.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

·Giant Timeline

LEADER • Jesus had grown very popular among the people, but the religious leaders hated Him. They worked out a plan to have Jesus killed. As the people began to see that Jesus didn't intend to overthrow the Romans, they also turned against Jesus. One of Jesus' disciples betrayed Jesus, and the religious leaders convinced the Roman governor to crucify Jesus. It was the saddest day in history, but we call it Good Friday because it was the day Jesus paid for our sin. Thankfully, that brings us to our story today. It's called "Jesus' Resurrection!"

- Bibles
- “Jesus’ Resurrection” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 28; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Resurrection.”

LEADER • Everything about the world changed when Jesus rose from the dead. For the first time since Adam and Eve, it was possible for people to be truly reunited with God. The first Easter Sunday is the foundation of our entire faith. It is the most important event in all of history.

Jesus’ birth was miraculous and wonderful, but without the resurrection it would not have mattered. Jesus’ living a sinless life was vital to His payment for sin, but His perfection wasn’t enough to pay for sins. Jesus’ death on the cross covered the cost of our sin, but without the resurrection, His victory wouldn’t be complete. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.**

Without faith in Jesus, people are slaves to sin. They have no choice but to act in sinful ways that go against God and His perfect plan. Jesus’ victory over sin and death provides us with victory as well. God did not just forgive all our past sins, leaving our future sins unforgiven. God forgives all our sins for all time. Those in Christ are promised new life with God forever.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn’t stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

promise of eternal life.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how we can know if someone has forgiven us. Guide them to discuss the difference between feeling repentant and feeling consistently guilty.

• “Unit 27, Session 1”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the “Gospel on the Move” missions video. Ask the kids in your group about any experiences they have camping.

• “Gospel on the Move”
missions video

LEADER • Missionaries have to go camping sometimes just to reach people with Jesus’ love. They are willing to go to hard places and into difficult situations because they have an important message—the same one we’re learning: **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.**

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus is the resurrection and the life. That means that His resurrection from the dead proved His victory over all sin and death. Everyone who has faith in Him will live forever with God.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Jesus is our risen King. He lives forever, and because of His victory over sin and death, we can live forever too. Let’s praise Him together.

• “Jesus, Our Savior”
song

Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Father, thank You that Jesus did not stay dead.

Thank You that we get to live in victory over sin and death because of Jesus' victorious resurrection. Help us trust You and walk in loving obedience to Your Word. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; John 20

STORY POINT: God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- marker
- paper plates

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate paper plate. Provide a plate to each kid. Allow the kids to take turns tossing their plates like discs to land them in the correct order. Say the key passage multiple times together, and encourage the kids to memorize the passage over the next few weeks.

SAY • Jesus spoke these words right before He raised Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus Himself rose from the dead, He proved just how true His words were! Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin, and His resurrection proved His payment was enough. Because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we can be certain we will live forever with God too, if we have faith in Jesus.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 28. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to point out where Jerusalem is. (H4) Explain that most of the stories over the next few weeks took place in or around Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified and buried.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Which woman was among the first people to learn of Jesus' resurrection? (*Mary Magdalene, Matt. 28:1*)
2. When Mary met Jesus, what did He tell her to do? (*go and tell the other disciples about His resurrection, Matt. 28:10*)
3. How did the religious leaders try to prevent people from learning about Jesus' resurrection? (*They bribed the soldiers to lie, saying the disciples stole the body; Matt. 28:12-15*)
4. Why is it important to know Jesus rose from the dead? *Guide kids to think about what Jesus' resurrection proved about His power over death. Had Jesus remained dead, it would show that His sacrifice was not perfect and did not fully pay for sin.*
5. What does it mean that Jesus defeated sin and death? *Guide kids to think about the control sin has over the lives of those who are lost. Discuss the phrase "dead in sin" and the implication that we are powerless against sin. Remind kids that sin leads to death, both physical (we all die eventually) and spiritual (we are separated from God). Jesus' victory over sin and death means we will rise again to live forever with God in a perfectly restored world.*
6. How do you feel when you think about Jesus' resurrection? *Guide kids to think through and process their emotions. Do they feel happy? Excited? Unsure? Remind kids that our feelings do not define what is true, but they can help us understand the truth of the gospel.*

SAY • God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death. Everyone who has faith in Jesus will live forever with God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- chairs
- tablecloths, 2
- clothespins (optional)

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- jump ropes, 4
- coins, 4
- tennis balls, 4

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Tentmakers

Form two groups of kids. Instruct the groups to set up tents using chairs and tablecloths. You may choose to provide clothespins to help the kids construct their tents.

SAY • In the missions video, we saw how this East Asian people group lives in a round shelter called a *ger* (GHER) that can be put up and taken down pretty quickly because they move around so much. How would you feel if you had to live in a shelter like a tent all the time? Would you choose to be a missionary if you knew you would have to live in a tent and move around a lot?

God may not call all of us to go somewhere like East Asia, but He has called each of us to live on mission no matter where we go. We can live on mission by showing love to everyone we meet and telling others about Jesus. Jesus died for our sins, and **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** Everyone with faith in Jesus will live forever.

OPTION 2: Trade backs

Form four groups of kids. Instruct each group to complete a series of tasks:

- Each team member must jump rope twice.
- Flip a coin until it lands on heads five times (total, not in a row).
- Roll a tennis ball under each player's legs.

Set aside the items needed for each team to complete the tasks: four jump ropes, four coins, and four tennis balls. Inform the teams that in order to use each item, they must trade one shoe to get their first item and must trade back

each item to get the next. After completing all three tasks, each team will return its tennis ball to retrieve the player's shoe.

SAY • Each time you needed an item, you had to trade something to get it. At the end, you traded back the tennis ball to get your shoe again. This can help us think about our story today.

Jesus paid for our sin by laying down His life. After He died on the cross, He took His life up again. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** He traded His perfect life for our sinful ones, and as a result, we can live forever with God through faith in Jesus.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Use Week of: **November 15**

Unit 27 • Session 2

The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24

STORY POINT:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.



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LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

2

On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Jesus. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind kids that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

The BIBLE Story

The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus. The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came and began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him.

Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

The disciples stopped walking. They looked sad. One of the disciples, Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened?"

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

So **they told Him**, "Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet. He was powerful when He acted and spoke before God and all the people. **The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.**

"**We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free.** Besides, it's the third day since these things happened. **Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive.** Some of our friends went to the tomb, and they too saw that the tomb was empty."



Jesus said, “You are foolish to not believe what the prophets said! Isn’t this what had to happen to the Messiah?” Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what all the Scriptures said about Him.

Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus joined them at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the disciples recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples thought about their walk to Emmaus. They said, “When Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures, didn’t our hearts burn with excitement?”

The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus’ eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened. They said, “Simon saw Jesus too! Jesus is alive!”

Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Go for a walk:** Walk across the front of the room as you tell the story, as Jesus and the disciples walked to Emmaus.
- **Wear a costume:** Dress in Bible times clothes like Jesus or the disciples might have worn.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24

STORY POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about a time they took a long walk. Where were they going?

SAY • Nowadays, if we have a long way to travel, we usually drive a car or ride in a plane, train, or bus. In Jesus' day you had to walk just about anywhere you wanted to go! Today we will learn about a time two disciples met Jesus while traveling from one city to another.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Secret Code" activity page. Kids will use the picture code to decipher the story point:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

SAY • Great job figuring out the coded message. Today we will learn about a time Jesus helped two disciples understand a message that God had written into the Old Testament Scriptures. Once the disciples understood it, they were excited to share the message with other people.

- "Secret Code" activity page,
1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Whose voice?

Select a kid to stand at one end of the room and face away from the other kids. You may display the key passage for kids to read. Silently select kids to read or recite the key passage. Challenge the kid facing away from the group to guess who read it based only on the reader's voice. Play multiple rounds, choosing different kids to be the guesser and the reader.

SAY • Today we will hear about a time two disciples talked with Jesus for a long time but didn't realize who He was! What do you think those two did when God revealed whom they were speaking with? We'll learn more soon.

OPTION 2: Blind toss

Instruct the kids to form a line. Place an empty basket opposite the kids. Blindfold the first kid in line and give her a tennis ball. Invite her to toss the ball into the basket. Allow each kid to take a turn. Consider awarding points to kids who successfully land the ball in the basket. You may play additional rounds without the blindfold for comparison.

SAY • After Jesus rose from the dead, different people saw Him at different times, but some of them were still spiritually blind to the truth about Him found in God's Word. Today we will learn about a time Jesus helped two disciples better understand the full truth about Himself.

LOW PREP

• Key Passage Poster
(optional)

• basket
• tennis ball
• blindfolds

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24

STORY POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Hey, friends! Welcome back to my farm. You arrived just in time. I was about to leave to head into town to buy some supplies. Living on a farm is nice, but sometimes I do miss the convenience of being only a 5- or 10-minute drive from the grocery store. It takes me nearly 45 minutes on the back country roads to get to the nearest town.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

Even so, I like being a farmer, and if I lived in a city I wouldn't have enough space to plant my crops! So even with some mild inconveniences, I'm still thankful to live where I live and do the work I do. Plus, the drives into town give me a great chance to let my mind wander and think about what I'm learning in the Bible.

You know, that actually reminds me of a story. Two disciples were journeying from Jerusalem to a city

called Emmaus. In a car with modern roads, that trip wouldn't take too long. But these two were on foot! Thankfully, they had a wonderful conversation with Jesus as they walked. Let's learn what they talked about.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Who can remember our big picture question?

[*Allow responses.*] Great job! ***Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.*** Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. We don't see Jesus on earth because He went back to heaven. His position—seated at the Father's right hand—shows us that He is honored and glorified, and His work is complete. By dying and rising again, Jesus completely paid for sin and defeated death.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

·Giant Timeline

LEADER • Though Jesus had been crucified by the Romans to please the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus did not remain dead for long. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** Though Jesus is alive, it took a bit of time before word got around. They didn't have text messages, email, or social media back then, so news had to travel with people. Speaking of which, in our story today, two disciples traveling to Emmaus were speaking about all the things that had been happening when Jesus came and helped them understand it all. Let's get to it!

- Bibles
- “The Emmaus Disciples” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Emmaus Disciples.”

LEADER • This story helps guide everything we have talked about and learned each week. The reason we have gone through the Bible pointing to Jesus each week is that Jesus Himself said that’s the main point of Scripture!

We don’t just want to understand the stories of the Bible, we want to understand them in the context of what God has been doing in the world all along. Even before sin entered the world with Adam and Eve’s first act of disobedience, God has been working out His perfect plan.

God reveals Himself to us in His Word. Without the Bible, we could not know God personally or come to faith in Jesus. To understand the Bible, we must understand that everything God does is part of His plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus.

When we are lost, we have no way of understanding how far away from God we really are. The good news is that God sent Jesus to rescue us just as He had promised. When we have faith in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God forgives all our sin and gives us life that lasts forever. That means that even after our physical lives end, we will live forever with Jesus.

Christ connection

LEADER • The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we need the Old Testament. Guide them to discuss how they can read God's Word each day.

· “Unit 27, Session 2”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Print a copy of “The Gospel on the Move” printable. Display the photos or pass them around for the kids to see. Read Peter Station's story aloud.

· “Gospel on the Move”
printable

LEADER • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to

Him. This is something that Christian workers teach to people groups all over the world. Peter Station wants the nomadic people of East Asia to know that they can learn about Jesus in the Bible. The area he lives in can be very dangerous for people who believe in Jesus, so he is very careful about how and when he shares. In fact, Peter Station isn't even his real name! We often use pretend names to help keep Peter and missionaries like him safe.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

· Key Passage Poster
· “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus said He is the resurrection and the life.

Then, Jesus proved it by rising from the dead. Jesus' resurrection defeated sin and death for all time. We

can be certain we will live with God forever if we have faith that Jesus died for our sin and rose again.

• “Jesus, Our Savior”
song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • All of Scripture tells one big story about Jesus. Let’s glorify God together because Jesus, our Savior, is alive.

Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help us trust You. Give us wisdom to understand Scripture and the ways it teaches us about You, Your Son, and ourselves. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24

STORY POINT: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- tape

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Use tape to mark a spot under one of the kids. Challenge the kids to begin walking in a circle as they say the key passage. Count how many times they can say the key passage before the kid who started on the tape gets back to that spot on the floor.

SAY • Jesus said He is the resurrection and the life. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved this was the truth. Everyone who has faith in Jesus is forgiven of sin and receives eternal life. That means that even when our bodies die, we know that our souls will be with God. And when Jesus comes back, we will gain new, heavenly bodies and live in Jesus' perfect kingdom forever.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 24. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to point out Jerusalem and Emmaus. (*H4 and H3, respectively*) Explain that the two cities are about 7 miles apart (a bit over 11 kilometers), and it would likely take more than 2 hours to walk the distance. The Bible is about real people and places.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Did the two disciples know Jesus was talking with them? (*no, Luke 24:16*)
2. What had the people hoped Jesus would do? (*redeem Israel, Luke 24:21*)
3. What did Jesus use to teach about Himself? (*all of the Scriptures, Luke 24:27*)
4. What is your favorite Old Testament story, and how does it point to Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss stories they enjoyed learning about from the Old Testament. Consider using the Small Group Timeline to point out specific stories your group has covered. Help the kids remember how those stories connect to the one big story of Jesus.*
5. When do you feel most excited about Jesus and the gospel? *Encourage the kids to be honest about their feelings. Some kids may feel most excited when learning new things about the Bible. Other kids may feel most excited when doing good deeds to honor Jesus with their lives. And still others may feel most excited when they are singing praises or praying to Him. Help kids see that all three are normal, good responses to the truth of Jesus.*
6. How can we be a part of the story of Jesus? *Guide kids to think about the ways we can live on mission and allow God's power to work through us. Discuss the importance of using our time, talents, and resources to glorify Jesus in the world.*

SAY • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

When we study the Old Testament, it helps us understand much more about God when we look at it the way Jesus did. Knowing the truth about Jesus helps us worship and obey Him out of love.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- plastic cup
- paper wads

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- “Through All Scripture” printable
- scissors
- yarn
- markers
- hole punch
- glitter glue, stickers, or other craft supplies

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Moving targets

Select a kid to hold a plastic cup in front of himself and sidestep back and forth at one end of the room. Allow the other kids to take turns tossing paper wads into the cup as it moves. Every few minutes, stop the game and allow another kid to carry the cup.

SAY • It is much harder to hit a moving target than it is to hit a target that isn't moving. In a way, this reminds us of missionary Peter Station. He wants to reach a people group in East Asia who live a nomadic life. *Nomadic* means “often moving to new places.” Peter might think that he knows where to find them, but when he arrives, they have moved to another place. This is a challenge for sure, but it won't stop him or other missionaries. What challenges might we face when living on mission? [*Allow responses.*] How might we overcome those challenges? [*Allow responses.*]

OPTION 2: Through all Scripture

Print enough copies of the “Through All Scripture” printable so that each kid has a set of cards. Help the kids cut out their cards and punch a hole in a corner of each. Allow each kid to decorate her set of cards using glitter glue, markers, stickers, or other craft supplies. Then, help the kids cut a 3- to 4-inch length of yarn, string it through the set of cards, and tie the ends to make a loop.

SAY • Just as that bit of yarn holds all the cards in your craft together, Jesus is the “thread” that ties all of Scripture together. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Every story in the Bible is really telling one

big story, and that story is all about Jesus. Whom can you share the story with? Use these cards to help you share the whole story of Scripture.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Use Week of: **November 22**

Unit 27 • Session 3

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT:

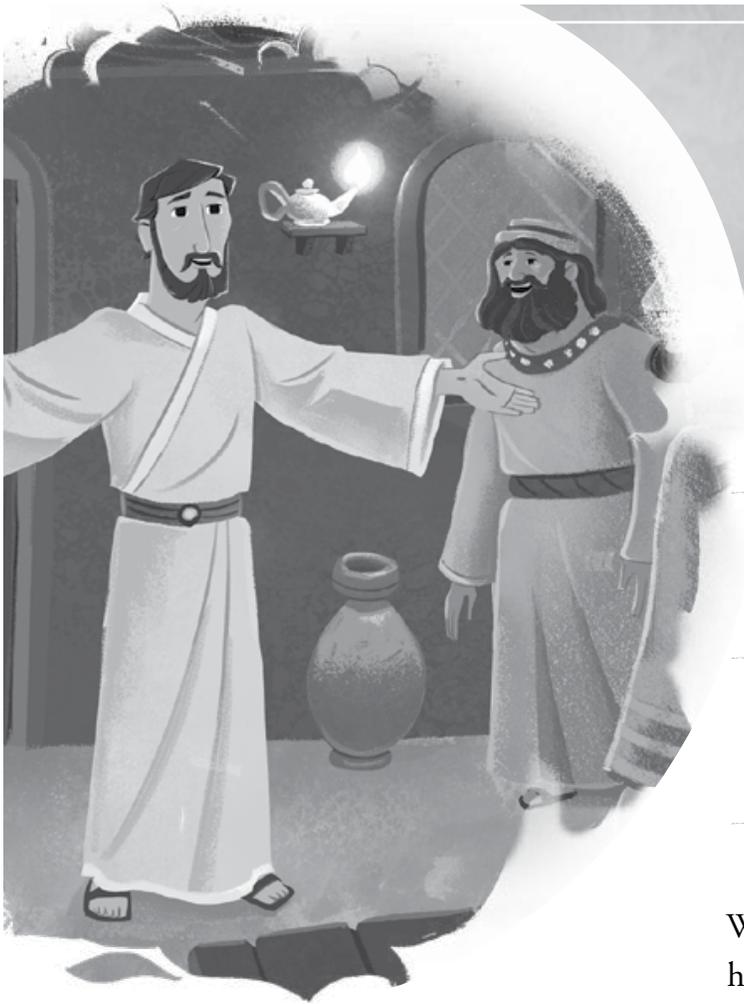
Jesus proved He is alive.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 190



TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 198



Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or LifeWay's Digital Pass:
ministrygrid.com/gospelproject | gospelproject.com/podcasts

LEADER Bible Study

The disciples were devastated that Jesus had died. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead? But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Was it true?

The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. “Peace to you!” He said. Imagine how Jesus’ words might have calmed the disciples’ anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn’t show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Thomas, who was not with the disciples when Jesus came, had a hard time believing. Thomas wanted physical proof. A week later, Jesus showed Thomas His hands and His side. Thomas immediately believed, and Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (John 20:29).

With His resurrection, Jesus’ mission was accomplished, but the disciples’ work was just beginning. Jesus gave His followers a job to do: “As the Father has sent me, I also send you” (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospel of John’s version of the Great Commission.

Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done—to the world.

Emphasize to kids that Jesus is alive today. We haven’t seen Him for ourselves, but we believe by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24; John 20

On the first day of the week, in the evening, **the disciples gathered together in a house.** They locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. They didn't want to be killed like Jesus had been killed. But **some of Jesus' disciples had reported seeing Him alive.**

Was it true?

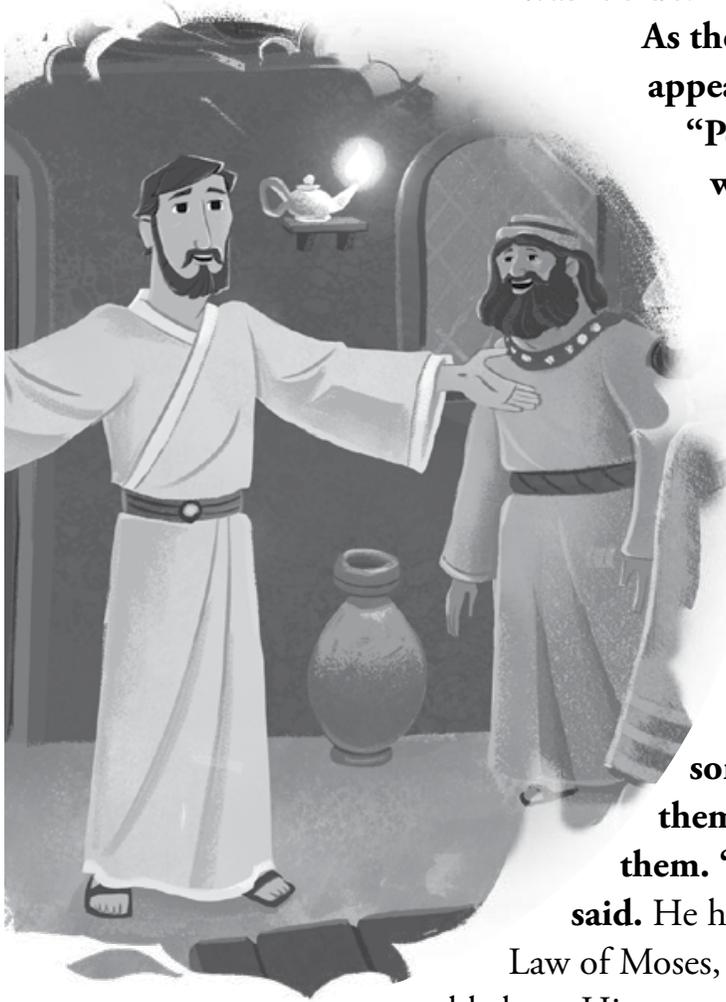
As the disciples talked, Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace to you!" The disciples were afraid! They thought they were seeing a ghost.

"It's Me!" Jesus said. "Look at Me and touch Me. A ghost does not have flesh and bones, but I do." Jesus showed His disciples His hands and His side. They saw His wounds. **The disciples rejoiced because they were so happy to see Jesus!**

The disciples gave Jesus some fish to eat. Jesus talked to them and explained the Bible to them. "The Bible is about Me," Jesus said. He helped them understand how the

Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms told about Him.

Then Jesus told the disciples that they had a job to do. Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. The disciples needed to tell other people to repent



from their sins and be forgiven.

Jesus said, “God sent Me to earth, and in the same way, I am sending you.”

One of Jesus’ disciples, Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus visited them. He did not believe that Jesus was alive. Thomas said, “I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!”

A week later, Thomas was with the disciples when Jesus appeared again. Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at My hands. Reach out and touch My side. Don’t be an unbeliever; believe!”

Thomas did believe. “My Lord and my God!” he said.

Jesus said, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe in Me without seeing Me are blessed.”

Christ Connection: For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to more than 500 people and proved that He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Emphasize feelings:** As you tell the story, pause to talk about the emotions the disciples experienced: fear, excitement, doubt, relief, and so on. Draw emotion pictures on a dry erase board.
- **Use invisible ink:** Prior to the session, write key phrases from the Bible story in invisible ink (search online for an invisible ink pen or recipe using lemon juice). Reveal the messages as you get to them in the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT: Jesus proved He is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about a time they were surprised by something.

SAY • We feel surprised when something we don't expect happens suddenly. Some surprises may be scary or sad, but often we think of happy surprises—like surprise birthday parties. Today we will learn about a time Jesus' disciples were surprised. At first they thought it was a scary surprise, but soon they realized it was the happiest surprise ever!

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Find the Pictures" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Find the Pictures" activity page. Kids will look at the images in the key and search to find them hidden in the details of the Bible story picture.

SAY • Great job finding these hidden images. Today we will learn about a time Jesus appeared in a room. His presence was unexpected for the disciples, but He certainly wasn't hidden!

Session starter (10 minutes)**OPTION 1:** Jesus loves us

Teach the kids this new version of “Jesus Loves Me.” Sing it together. Consider teaching the kids how to sing it as a round by forming three groups of kids. Instruct the second group to begin singing when the first group reaches the end of the first line, and the third group to begin when the second group reaches the end of the first line.

“Jesus loves us—This we know.

Gave His life to tell us so,

On the third day rose again,

Then appeared to all His friends.”

SAY • Jesus’ death and resurrection showed His incredible love for us. Then, Jesus appeared to His friends, the disciples. Today we will learn more about that!

OPTION 2: Prove it!

Write a different animal on each of five different index cards. Make one set for every three kids. Kids will play in groups of three by each drawing one card from the set of five. Kids will take turns making animal noises. They can choose to make the noise of the animal on their card or any noise they want. If any kids in the group think the kid is making the wrong animal noise, they can say, “Prove you are a ____.” If the kid was bluffing, he must swap his card for one of the two leftover cards. If not, the challenger must swap cards. Play as time allows.

• index cards
• pen

SAY • In that game, you often had to prove what animal you really had on your card. Today we will learn how **Jesus proved He is alive.**

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT: Jesus proved He is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Hi there, friends. Glad you could make it back to my farm. I grow mostly corn and soybeans here, and we are coming up on my favorite time of the year. It's time to make our annual corn maze!

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

Because corn grows so tall, we can cut a pathway right into the field. The corn stalks become like walls, and tourists come from all over the area to see if they can make it from one end to the other. One year, we had a family go in and get separated.

The mom and two kids made it through OK, but the dad got so mixed up that he had to call out to us until someone could find him and lead him back out the way he came! I'm just thankful he didn't plow through and try to make his own path out. People have tried that before, believe it or not.

There are few things more surprising than having

a person stumble out of a wall of corn when you aren't expecting him to. Plus, it damages the stalks and messes up the maze for everyone else. Anyway, all that to say, the man was happy to be out. He said that when he was lost in the maze, he was convinced there was no way in or out!

You know, it kind of makes me think about Jesus' disciples after He rose from the dead. Before He met with them, they were afraid and had locked themselves inside a house. There was no way in, but if the grave didn't stop Jesus, you can be sure doors and locks didn't either!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • After Jesus rose from the dead, He stayed on earth for 40 days. However, we know that Jesus isn't on earth today. That brings us to our big picture question: *Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.* Jesus' position is one of honor, glory, and power. His work is complete; He fully paid for sin and defeated death by His resurrection.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

LEADER • Before Jesus died, He told His disciples that He would die and rise again. On the third day after His death, **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** Soon after His resurrection, Jesus met two disciples on the way to Emmaus. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.**

- Bibles
- “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples.”

LEADER • Have you ever heard news so good you didn’t believe it at first? That’s probably how some of Jesus’ disciples felt. They may have remembered that Jesus said He would die and rise again, but coming back from the dead is easier said than done!

Jesus proved He is alive by appearing to His disciples. He didn’t just show up either. He spoke to them, allowed them to feel the marks the nails left, and ate with them. Thomas, who wasn’t with the others at the time, did not believe. Thomas even said that he would never believe unless he saw and felt Jesus for himself.

It was foolish of Thomas to refuse to believe, but in many ways, we are similar. We may say we believe the truth of Jesus, but often the way we live or the sinful choices we make show that we actually don’t fully believe Jesus. Full belief in Jesus means we worship Him as King of our lives. We lovingly obey Him and tell others about Him. When we choose sin, it suggests that somewhere in our hearts we think our ways are better than God’s ways. Thankfully, Jesus has already defeated sin and death. Even when we doubt, we can ask God to give us more faith to help us believe.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Christ connection

LEADER • For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to more

than 500 people and proved that He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about times they doubt God. Guide them to discuss the difference between doubt and disbelief.

· “Unit 27, Session 3”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the “East Asian Peoples” missions video. Ask the kids how they think missionaries might be reaching different kinds of people all over the world.

· “East Asian Peoples”
missions video

LEADER • We’ve been learning about a people group in East Asia. Missionaries have different ways to reach different people, but the message is the same—Jesus died and rose again. **Jesus proved He is alive.**

Pray for missionaries serving in East Asia as well as other dangerous places. Pray also for missionaries your church supports.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

· Key Passage Poster
· “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again to prove that His sacrifice defeated sin and death. We have hope for a future spent with God in His perfect kingdom because of Jesus. Our physical bodies will die, but those who have faith in Jesus will gain new bodies that never die. Believers will reign

with Jesus forever in God's kingdom.

• "Jesus, Our Savior"
song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • **Jesus proved He is alive.** We praise Him because
He is the risen Lord of all heaven and earth.
Sing together "Jesus, Our Savior."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You that Jesus is alive. Thank You
that we can be sure we have eternal life through Your
Son. Give us wisdom and courage to obey You and
live for Your glory. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT: Jesus proved He is alive.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Select a volunteer to say the key passage from memory. Then, allow other kids to prove their knowledge by saying it from memory as well. If any kid gets stuck while saying the verse, allow him to “tag in” a friend to help him finish. Thank each kid for his or her efforts and encourage all kids to continue working on the passage.

SAY • **Jesus proved He is alive** by appearing to His disciples. Even before appearing to them, He proved He is the resurrection and the life by defeating death. Because Jesus is alive, we have hope for eternal life with God. Jesus took our punishment when He died on the cross and showed that His sacrifice was perfect by defeating sin and death to rise again. Everyone who has faith in Jesus will also rise again when Jesus returns to earth to fix everything sin broke.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Story Point Poster
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set
(005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find John 20. Ask the kids which other books are in the same division, the Gospels. (*Matthew–Luke*) Remind the kids that the Gospels contain records of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did the disciples lock themselves indoors? (*They feared those who had killed Jesus, John 20:19*)
2. Which disciple wasn't there? (*Thomas, John 20:24*)
3. What evidence did Thomas say he would need to believe Jesus rose? (*to see and touch Jesus' wounds, John 20:25*)
4. Was it sinful for Thomas to demand proof? *Discuss Thomas' reaction. Scripture isn't clear on whether Thomas' reaction was sinful or not, but he wasn't just doubtful—he refused to believe. Additionally, Thomas was ignoring the evidence that had already been presented: Jesus told them He would rise again, and when the other disciples told Thomas they'd seen Jesus, he still refused to believe.*
5. Is it wrong to want evidence before believing something? *Ensure the kids understand that having doubts isn't wrong. Remind them that we shouldn't believe something on blind faith—that is, with no evidence at all. Help them see that we have lots of evidence that the Bible is true, and the Bible itself is evidence that Jesus is who He said He is.*
6. What should we do when we doubt? *Guide kids to think through whom they can talk to if they have doubts about their faith or the Bible. Remind them that they are not alone. Pray for them to have faith despite occasional doubt.*

SAY • Jesus proved He is alive. The death and resurrection of Jesus is one of the most well-documented historical events of the ancient world. The Bible provides enough evidence to show that all Jesus' claims are true.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

- dry erase board or chalkboard
- dry erase markers or chalk

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

**LOW
PREP**

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: People groups

Draw two slightly overlapping circles on a dry erase or chalkboard. Label the first circle *Us* and use one of the suggested labels below or allow the kids to come up with a label for the second circle. Then, work with the kids to come up with ways the two groups are alike and different. Write ways the groups are alike in the overlapping portion of the diagram.

Suggested labels:

- *Missionaries*
- *East Asian nomadic people*
- *Professional athletes*
- *School teachers*
- *Ballet dancers*

SAY • At times, it may feel like you have nothing in common with certain groups of people. However, there are some things that are true of every single person in the whole world. For example, we are all made in God's image, and He loves each one of us. No matter which two groups of people we compare, God wants us to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus. No matter where we live or what groups of people we meet, we can share God's love and the truth of Jesus with everyone.

OPTION 2: Circle of trust

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Ask the kids to discuss people and facts they trust easily, and the people or things they may not trust. Be prepared to share about ways or times you struggle to trust God. Remind the kids that God is always 100 percent trustworthy. Close the time by

allowing the kids to pray for one another to trust God more each day.

SAY • Sometimes trusting God can be difficult. We cannot see God, and we may feel tempted to question Him at times. It's OK to feel doubt. When we do, we can pray to God about it. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us feel God's presence. We can read the Bible to remind ourselves what is true about God and about ourselves. If you are wondering about God, speaking to an adult you trust, like a pastor, your parents, or church leader, is a great way to learn more about God so you can trust Him more.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Use Week of: **November 29**

Unit 27 • Session 4

Jesus Returned to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 28; Acts 1

STORY POINT:

Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 214



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ministrygrid.com/gospelproject | gospelproject.com/podcasts

LEADER Bible Study

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 worshiped Him, but some still doubted. (Matt. 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. 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" (Matt. 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.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Returned to Heaven

Matthew 28; Acts 1

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples over 40 days. During that time, Jesus told them even more about God's kingdom. Then Jesus told His disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee. They saw Jesus there, and they worshiped Him.

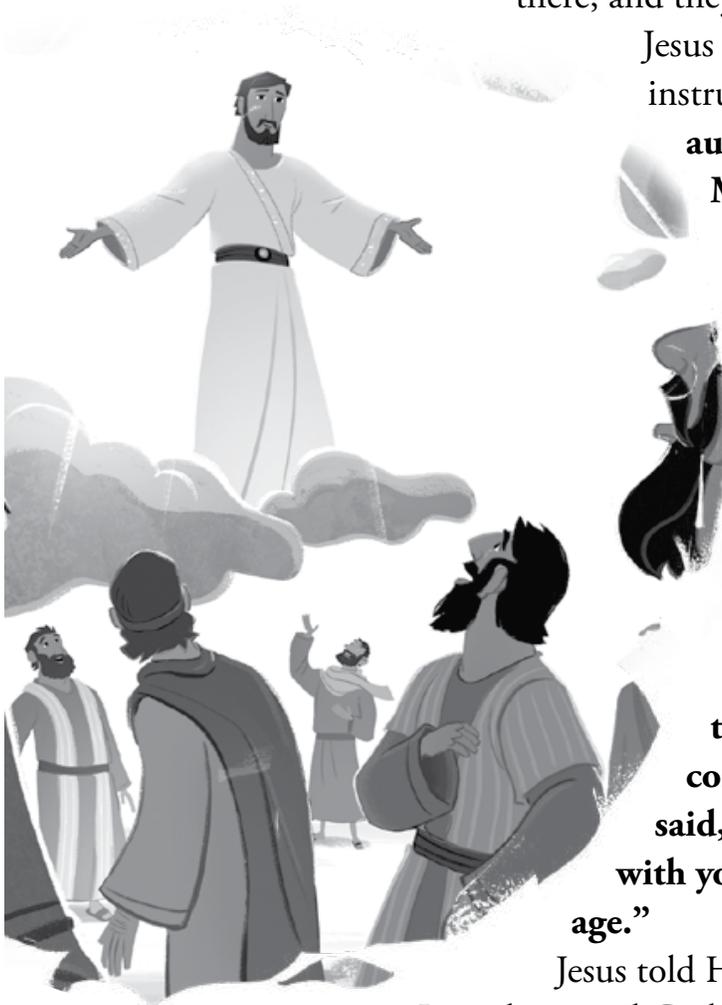
Jesus gave His disciples important instructions. **Jesus said, "All**

authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation."

Jesus also said, "Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Then Jesus said, "Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age."

Jesus told His disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem until God kept His promise to give them the Holy Spirit. **Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**



After Jesus said these things, He went up into heaven. The disciples watched Jesus until a cloud hid Him from their sight. **All of a sudden, two angels appeared.** They were wearing white clothes. **These angels asked,** “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? **This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will return in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.**”

Christ Connection: Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God’s work—to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Call for active listening:** Distribute key words on index cards. Kids should hold up their cards when they hear their words in the story.
- **Use figures:** Use people figures or play dough models to represent Jesus and His disciples. Move around the figures as you tell the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Returned to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; Acts 1

STORY POINT: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time they were asked to do something that felt impossible.

SAY • Sometimes the chores we have to do might feel too difficult for us. A tough job may feel like it would take so long to complete that it is impossible. Today we will learn about a job Jesus commanded His disciples to do. It may have seemed like an impossible task, but God would give them the power to do it and fill them with joy as they worked.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “How Long?” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “How Long?” activity page. Help kids use the clocks provided to determine how long until the time indicated.

SAY • Sometimes we have to wait for things we want to happen. Perhaps you have waited hours, days, or even months for certain things. Today we will learn about Jesus’ return to heaven and how we are to live while waiting for Him to return to earth.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Follow-the-leader

Select a kid to be the leader. Instruct the kids to line up behind the leader. The kids must follow the leader around the room mimicking any movements and behaviors the leader chooses to do. Play multiple rounds, selecting a new kid to be the leader in each round.

SAY • Great job following the leader! Today we will learn about the mission Jesus gave His followers. If we say Jesus is our King, that means we follow His lead!

OPTION 2: Play dough disciples

Provide each kid with a lump of play dough. Instruct the kids to use their play dough to make a few people figures and set the figures in a line.

SAY • Only God can make people. However, today we will learn about how we can be a part of God's plan to make ordinary people into disciples of Jesus. How do you think we can do that?

**LOW
PREP**

· play dough

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Returned to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; Acts 1

STORY POINT: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Hey, kids! Welcome back to the farm. Guess what I just did? *[Allow responses.]* Those are all good guesses. I just got back from the grain elevator. It's really interesting.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

As a farmer, once I harvest all my corn, I drive a truck full of it to large building called a grain elevator. There, we weigh my truck with all the grain, then I dump all the grain out and weigh my truck again. The difference in weight is how much grain I produced. Then the grain is examined for quality to see what the fair price per pound will be. That's basically the end of my job with the grain. But it's not the end of the grain's journey.

All the grain I dump out falls through a grate into an underground area where the actual elevator part is. Imagine a giant belt with buckets on it, moving

round and round. That's basically what a grain elevator is. The buckets move through the grain, scooping it up and carrying it to the top of the grain elevator. There, it's dumped off into different storage bins to wait. When enough farmers have all sold their grain and the bin is full, the grain from the bottom of the bin is transferred—by another elevator—into a railroad car to go wherever the grain is needed!

So the grain goes down from my truck, then up into the bin, then down again to the second elevator, then up into the train car! Up, down, up, down. Sounds exhausting! But it makes me think of Jesus. Jesus came down from heaven, then went up on a cross, then down into the grave, then up from the grave, and then up even more to heaven! Let's learn about that.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We've finally arrived at the story our big picture question has been hinting at. *Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.* Jesus' work to save sinners is complete, and His place in heaven is one of honor and glory.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

·Giant Timeline

LEADER • After **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death, Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Then, **Jesus proved He is alive by**

appearing to the disciples. Today we will learn the last thing Jesus commanded the disciples to do before He returned to heaven.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 28; Acts 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Returned to Heaven.”

- Bibles
- “Jesus Returned to Heaven” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

LEADER • When I was younger, I didn’t fully understand this story. If you are like I used to be, you may hear about Jesus’ going back to heaven and feel a bit sad—like when you reach the end of a book or movie series that you really enjoy. I used to think that Jesus’ going back to heaven was, in a way, like the end of Jesus’ story. That’s not the truth though!

Jesus’ story didn’t end when He returned to heaven because He sent the Holy Spirit to live within His disciples. **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.** The story of God’s loving plan for the world is still going on, even today! Now, when I think about Jesus’ ascension, I don’t feel sad. Instead, I feel excited and overjoyed to know that I get to be a part of the story!

God’s love for the world is incredible. He did not send Jesus to save only people from Israel, but from every nation, tribe, and people group in the entire world.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God’s work—to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why Jesus did not stay on earth. Guide them to discuss ways we can live on mission until Jesus returns.

• “Unit 27, Session 4”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Display the photos from the “Gospel on the Move” printable. Read the prayer update from the printable.

• “Gospel on the Move”
printable

LEADER • We support missionaries around the world because **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission**. Supporting missionaries is one way that we obey Jesus’ command to make disciples.

We can obey the Great Commission in many ways. We can give money to help missionaries pay for their travels. We can also pray for missionaries and the people they are trying to reach. We can even be a part of the Great Commission when we live on mission in our own communities.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus did more than just rise from the dead; He completely defeated sin and death so that we, too, can rise from the dead when Jesus returns. If anyone

has faith in Him, she will live even after her physical body dies.

• “Jesus, Our Savior”
song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Jesus is our Savior. He went back to heaven but will return someday to fix everything sin has broken. Let’s worship Him and live for His glory. Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You that Jesus did not leave us alone. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us obey Jesus and live on mission. Give us wisdom and courage to be a part of fulfilling the Great Commission. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Returned to Heaven

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28; Acts 1

STORY POINT: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards, 1 per kid
- pencils

Provide each kid with an index card and a pencil. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Each kid will write the first word of the key passage on his card and then pass that card to the left. Then each kid will write the second word of the key passage and pass the cards again. Continue in this way until each card has the entire key passage written out. Allow the kids to check the card they ended up with against the key passage poster. Then, invite the kids to find their original cards by looking for the ones which have the first word matching their handwriting.

SAY • Jesus said these words right before He brought Lazarus back from the dead. A few days later, Jesus had died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead. Jesus' resurrection proved that He had defeated sin and death. Everyone who has faith in Jesus has hope for eternal life.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Acts 1. Explain that Acts was written by the same man who wrote Luke, and it is a continuation of the events in Luke.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where did Jesus tell the disciples to wait? (*Jerusalem, Acts 1:4*)
2. What did Jesus say the disciples would receive? (*power from the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8*)
3. How will Jesus return? (*in the same way He went to heaven, Acts 1:11*)
4. How can we make disciples? *Guide the 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 her faith in Jesus.*
5. How is having the Holy Spirit with us more beneficial than having Jesus still on earth? *Point out that everything God does is always best. We know that the Holy Spirit with us is better because that's how God planned things to be. In addition, it is better for the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers everywhere, than for Jesus to be on earth in one place at a time.*
6. 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.*

SAY • Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

Each of us who has faith in Jesus is part of that same mission today! We live on mission to make disciples.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- “Missions Event Planning Guide” printable
- pencils

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- paper plates, 1 per kid
- blue and green markers
- pens

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Missions event planning

Print enough copies of the “Missions Event Planning Guide” printable for each kid to have one. Work together with the kids to fill out the sheet and plan a missions event. Encourage the kids to brainstorm ways they can include the whole church in the event. Collect the worksheets and enlist the help of your children’s ministry director and other church staff personnel to enact the ideas the kids have come up with.

SAY • We can live on mission even if we aren’t living far away from our homes and reaching nomadic peoples in East Asia. We live on mission by looking for ways to show Jesus’ love to everyone around us and by finding time to share the truth of Jesus with our friends, families, and neighbors.

We can take some of the great ideas you all have come up with today and turn it into a real missions project to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus. **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission**, and together we can live it out!

OPTION 2: To the ends of the earth

Distribute a paper plate to each kid. Help the kids decorate the plates to look like the earth by drawing continents in green and coloring the oceans blue. Help the kids write *Make disciples of all nations* on the back or around the rim of their plates.

SAY • **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.**

Jesus told those who followed Him to share the gospel with everyone they met until people from all over the world have heard. We are still working on

that mission today!

We participate in the Great Commission in a lot of different ways. We show Jesus' love in the way we treat others and the words we speak. We can give generously to missions projects. We can even share the gospel with our friends and invite them to gather with our church family. No matter how you participate in the Great Commission, it's great to know that God chooses to make us a part of His wonderful plans for the world.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.