



Jesus Returns to Heaven

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

First- and second-graders are beginning to enjoy reality-based activities more than fantasy-based activities. When learning to “make disciples,” then, it’s important that your kids comprehend that disciples are not just people in Bible times but are Jesus’ followers today as well. Use this lesson to help your kids practice the task of making disciples. As they teach others about Jesus, the concept of making disciples in their real world will develop.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Can I Get a Witness? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Witness a skit and then report what they saw to experience what it means to be witnesses.	Bibles, 2 volunteers (youth or adults), crumpled ball of paper	Arrange for 2 volunteers to perform a simple skit. One volunteer should be able to teach the other a skill, such as pitching a ball or tying a knot. A sample skit is at the end of the lesson, but you can substitute any skill for pitching.
2 Bible Exploration	Jesus Gives the Great Commission <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share with other kids the Great Commission given by Jesus.	Bible	
	Jesus Returns to Heaven <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out Jesus’ return to heaven.	Bible, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: “Jesus Returns to Heaven” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), “Farewell” cards	Tape the “Jesus Returns to Heaven” poster to a wall high enough where all kids can see it and look up at it. Cut apart “Farewell” cards. 



► 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).
.....

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn that they can tell others about Jesus.
.....





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Making Disciples <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make “disciples” by teaching about Jesus.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, old magazines, tape, scissors, crayons</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
	<p>Do as I Say and as I Do <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Teach each other parts of the Key Verse.</p>	<p>CD player, adult or youth volunteer, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Ask an adult or youth volunteer to help kids learn a song and motions.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Can I Get a Witness? Supplies

Bibles
2 volunteers (youth or adults)
crumpled ball of paper

Can I Get a Witness? Easy Prep

Arrange for 2 volunteers to perform a simple skit. One volunteer should be able to teach the other a skill, such as pitching a ball or tying a knot. A sample skit is at the end of the lesson, but you can substitute any skill for pitching.

Jesus Gives the Great Commission Supplies

Bible

1 GETTING STARTED

Can I Get a Witness?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids form a circle.

Have your two volunteers move into the middle of the circle. Don't introduce the skit; simply allow the volunteers to perform the skit they prepared beforehand. The volunteers should speak loudly and excitedly enough to get kids' attention.

When the skit is finished and the volunteers have left, ask kids to turn to a partner and tell one thing he or she remembers from the skit. After each child shares, ask for pairs to share what they witnessed with the whole group. After all who want to have shared, congratulate the whole group for what they witnessed.

Say: **A witness is someone who sees something happen and then tells others what he or she saw.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- As a witness, how would you describe what you just saw to someone who wasn't here?
- In what ways are we witnesses to our friends about the things we really like?
- How are we witnesses to what we believe about God?

Say: Today we're going to learn that God wants us to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS, like a witness. Just as Jesus made disciples, we can make disciples, too, by telling others about Jesus. It's something we all can do for Jesus. Let's find out how!**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Jesus Gives the Great Commission

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Matthew 28:16-20, and show kids the passage.





Say: **Today’s first Bible passage comes from Matthew 28:16-20. That’s at the very end of the Gospel of Matthew. Not long after Jesus came back to life, he gathered the disciples on a mountain to talk with them. He gave them a big, important job to do. He told them to tell the whole world about him. All of us who believe in Jesus have the same job. God wants us to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. In fact, Jesus wants us to tell the *whole world* about him.**

Let’s hear about the big and important job that he gave to his disciples, including us. And when I say “hear,” I really mean it.

Gather everyone in a big circle.

Say: **We’re going to play a version of Telephone to hear and tell each other about the Great Commission of Jesus. But in this version, it’s important that you understand what you’ve been told, so it’s okay to ask the person who told you the information to repeat it if you didn’t understand what was said.**

Start by whispering the first part of Matthew 28:16 to a child on one side of you. Give the Bible passage in small portions as written below, so that kids can better repeat it to another child. When the message gets to the last child, ask him or her to say aloud the Bible passage that you started.

Here are the paraphrases of the Bible passage from Matthew 28:16-20:

After Jesus came back to life, he met the disciples on a mountain.

When the disciples saw him, they worshipped him.

But some doubted.

Jesus said, “I’ve been given all authority on earth.”

“Go and make disciples of all nations.”

“Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

“Tell them to obey everything I commanded you.”

“I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

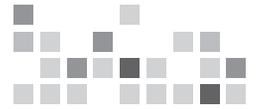
When you’ve finished going through Matthew 28:16-20, congratulate the kids on telling each other the Great Commission of Jesus.

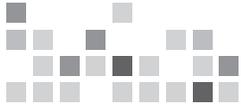
Talk With Kids ■ ■ ■ ■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was the way we spread the Great Commission effective or not?**
- **What would’ve been a better way to spread the message?**





Jesus Returns to Heaven Supplies

Bible
scissors
tape

Teacher Pack

“Jesus Returns to Heaven” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
“Farewell” cards

Jesus Returns to Heaven Easy Prep

Tape the “Jesus Returns to Heaven” poster to a wall high enough where all kids can see it and look up at it. Cut apart “Farewell” cards.

- How can knowing that Jesus is with you help you tell others about him?

Say: **Whether we whisper the good news of Jesus to just one person or shout it from a mountaintop to the whole world, Jesus has commissioned us. A commission is like an assignment that we receive from someone in authority. Our commission is to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

Jesus Returns to Heaven

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 1:1-11 and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today’s second Bible passage comes from Acts 1:1-11. The book of Acts tells about many of the amazing actions of the disciples after Jesus returned to heaven.**

I’m going to need your help in telling about the day Jesus went back to heaven, as illustrated by our poster here. Point to the poster and have everyone stand up.

We’re going to tell each other about what happened using silent motions to learn about Jesus’ farewell and instructions. Here we go.

Divide into five groups (a group can be one child). Pass out the five “Farewell” cards to the five groups.

Say: **In your groups, come up with a way to share your part of the Bible passage in motions only. You’ll practice them and then show the rest of the groups how to do the motions.**

Give kids a few minutes to prepare. Circulate to help groups if they need ideas. Then start with the first group. The text of the cards is below for your reference.

Say: **We’ll start with the group with card number one. I’ll read the card, and then the group will teach us how to do the motions. Then I’ll read the card again and we’ll all do the motions together.**

1. After Jesus was killed on a cross, he came back to life. Jesus appeared to the disciples and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) Have Group 1 show the rest of the group the motions. Read the passage again, and have the whole group do the motions.

2. While eating with his disciples one day, Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4) Have Group 2 show the rest of the group the motions. Read the passage again, and have the whole group do the motions.

3. Jesus made a promise that the Holy Spirit would soon come to them and give them power to be his witnesses wherever they were, to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) Have Group 3 show the rest of the group the motions. Read the passage again, and have the whole group do the motions.





4. Jesus was taken up into the sky before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (Acts 1:9) Have Group 4 show the rest of the group the motions. Read the passage again, and have the whole group do the motions.

5. As the disciples were staring at the sky, two men dressed in white stood beside them. The men told the disciples that someday Jesus would come back from heaven. (Acts 1:10-11) Have Group 5 show the rest of the group the motions. Read the passage again, and have the whole group do the motions.

When all groups have shared, gather everyone’s attention.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to tell others your part of the Bible passage without speaking?
- What are ways we can tell others about Jesus as shown in our Bible passage?
- Why is it important for others to know about Jesus?

Say: **As our poster shows, the disciples watched Jesus as God lifted him into the sky and brought him back to heaven. The disciples were sad to see Jesus go, but Jesus promised that he’d always be with them and he promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. The disciples went on to spread the message about Jesus, just as you spread the message about what happened in your part of the passage.**

Today, Jesus is alive and is always with us, too. That great news is the reason why we need to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS!**



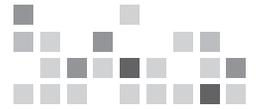
3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Making Disciples

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jesus gave us the job of making disciples. A disciple is a person who learns about Jesus. God wants us to tell the world about Jesus. So our job is to tell others about Jesus and about what Jesus taught. Let’s practice making disciples.**

Have kids form groups of three. Distribute this week’s My Bible Fun pages. Set out old magazines or pictures of people downloaded from the Internet, tape, and scissors for kids to share. Ask kids to go to the “Make a Disciple” section of the student page. Explain that kids will make disciples by teaching others about Jesus. (Make sure they don’t cover the “I Can Tell About Jesus To:” part of the page.)



**Making Disciples
Supplies**

- My Bible Fun
- old magazines
- tape
- scissors
- crayons

**Making Disciples
Supplies**

Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





First, kids will each look through the magazines or Internet pictures and cut out a right arm, a left arm, a body, a head, a right leg, and a left leg. Then each person will take a turn teaching one thing he or she knows about Jesus. For example, kids might say that Jesus taught us to love each other or that Jesus taught us to treat others as we want to be treated. Each time kids teach the other children in their trio about Jesus, they'll tape one body part to the page. They'll continue until they've made a whole "disciple."

When everyone understands what to do, have kids begin. As kids work, circulate to help as needed. Be ready to give suggestions of things to share about Jesus. After several minutes, have everyone gather together. Ask each person to say one thing he or she taught about Jesus. Then have kids draw something on their pages to represent the Holy Spirit, such as a dove or fire. Tell kids that God sends the Holy Spirit because he loves us and wants to help us make disciples.

Distribute crayons, and ask kids to go to the "I Can Tell About Jesus To:" activity on their My Bible Fun pages. Ask kids to write the names of two people they're willing to tell about Jesus. Be ready to help kids with spelling, if needed.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things did you share with your group that you'd be willing to share outside of church?
- What can we do to get more comfortable telling others about Jesus?
- What help do we need in telling others about Jesus?

Say: **We can all make disciples, because Jesus asked us to when he asked his disciples before he returned to heaven. All we have to do is ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. God wants us to tell the world about Jesus, but he didn't leave us to do that job alone. The Holy Spirit can help us by teaching us more about Jesus, helping us remember what we've learned, and giving us the courage to tell others about Jesus.**

Do as I Say and as I Do

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have your volunteer (adult or youth) help you with this activity.

Say: **God wants us to tell the world about Jesus. Let's learn more about that job Jesus gave to his disciples—and to us!**

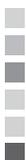
Explain that to help kids remember what Jesus said, kids will have the job of teaching part of a song to someone else. Have kids form two groups. One group will gather with you, and the other group will gather with your volunteer.

Do as I Say and as I Do
Do
Supplies

CD player
adult or youth volunteer
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

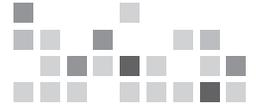
Teacher Pack

CD: "Go and Make
Disciples" (Matthew
28:19) (track 11)





The volunteer will use the CD, cued to “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 11), to teach kids the Key Verse song. Have the volunteer explain that kids are learning the words Jesus said to his disciples. Give your volunteer a copy of the lyrics.



Meanwhile, you will teach kids the words and the following motions to the first part of the Key Verse, explaining that kids are learning Jesus’ words to the disciples.

Say: **The Bible says, “Therefore go** (*point forward*) **and make disciples of all nations** (*circle arms overhead as a globe*), **baptizing them in the name of the Father** (*hold up one finger*) **and of the Son** (*hold up two fingers*) **and of the Holy Spirit** (*hold up three fingers*).”

After about five minutes, have kids from your group form pairs with kids from the other group. Explain that kids from the volunteer’s group will teach the kids from your group the Key Verse song while kids from your group will teach the motions. Explain that you’ll help by playing the song once phrase by phrase, and then all the way through.

Play “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 11) and pause the CD after each phrase. Continue in this manner until partners have taught each other the song and motions. Then have the whole group stand in a circle and sing the song with the motions. Here are the lyrics:

 **The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When it appears kids have learned the Key Verse and the song, ask them to sit down and gather their attention.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was the job I gave to you like or unlike the job Jesus gave to the disciples?
- What did you do to teach your partner the song or the motions?
- What helped you do your job?
- How is the help you received like the help Jesus promised in our Bible passages?

Say: God wants us to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** You can tell others about Jesus, just as you taught your partner our Key Verse song. Jesus knows that we need help doing the big job he gave us. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will help us teach others about him, just as you were helped during our activity.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS** this week.

Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge this week, your challenge is to tell about Jesus to the two people whose names you wrote down in the "I Can Tell About Jesus To:" part of your My Bible Fun.

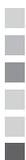
Make sure you make a commitment to telling two others about Jesus as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your commitment? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: We have a big job: to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** But we're never alone. Jesus gave us the job and is there to help us when we feel afraid or shy. And Jesus promised to be with us always and forever. That's great news!



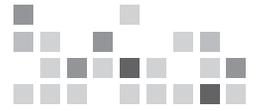


Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about their Daily Challenge and what they learned about telling others about Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for sending Jesus to tell us of God’s love for us and for the strength to tell others about Jesus.



Can I Get a Witness?

Volunteer 1: **Hey, guess what! I made the baseball team!**

Volunteer 2: **Wow, that's awesome! Congratulations!**

Volunteer 1: **You should've seen me at tryouts. I think my best move was the curveball I pitched.**

(Uses a paper ball to perform a sidearm curveball pitch.)

Volunteer 2: **Great move! How do you do that?**

Volunteer 1: **Here, I'll show you.**

(Using the paper ball again, Volunteer 1 explains to Volunteer 2 how to hold the ball and throw the pitch. Volunteer 2 then throws the pitch.)

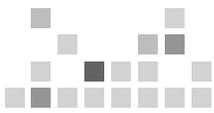
Volunteer 2: **Cool! Hey, let's go show some more of our friends!**

(Volunteers 1 and 2 exit.)



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Lyrics ■■■■

Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

The Bible says: "Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations" now.
The Bible says: "Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations" now.

Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: "Therefore, go
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The Bible says: "Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations" now.
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And make disciples of all the nations" now.

"Go and Make Disciples" (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



