



Jesus Returns to Heaven

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

Third- and fourth-graders love faraway places. They can become enthralled with books and movies about adventures in distant lands. This lesson will help them see there are many faraway lands with people who need to hear about Jesus. They'll also learn that the best place to start telling others about Jesus is where they live right now!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Tell the World <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to a message in different languages and try to figure out what that message is.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Around the World <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn how big the world is and that they have an important part in telling the world about Jesus.	Bibles, index cards, pens, marker, large sheet of paper or whiteboard Teacher Pack: 1 copy per child of the "Countries of the World" handout 	



► 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 help tell the world about Jesus by beginning with three people.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Who Needs to Know? <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game and think about people to tell about Jesus.</p>	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, basket, treats, pens	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<p>Go! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make traffic lights as reminders to go and make disciples of all nations.</p>	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, glue, crayons or markers, scissors, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "GO!" circles	<p>Cut out 1 "GO!" circle for each child.</p> 
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to telling three specific people about Jesus.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Tell the World Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Everybody Needs
to Hear" (track 7)

1

GETTING STARTED

Tell the World

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **I have some important messages for you here. You'll need to listen very carefully to hear what's being said.**

Play "Everybody Needs to Hear" (track 7 on the CD).

Ask:

- **What do you think these messages are telling you?**

Have kids tell the whole group what they think the messages mean.

Ask:

- **Did you understand everything you heard? Why or why not?**
- **What was it like to not be able to understand the message?**
- **What would help you understand this message?**

Say: **God wants people to hear a very simple message, no matter where they live or what language they speak. We're very fortunate we have people who can share this message so everyone can hear that Jesus loves them and died for them. Each one of the messages you heard was "Jesus loves you."**

Have kids find a partner.

Say: **With your partner, talk about two questions: What has helped you understand people in other cultures? Why is it important to be able to communicate well with other people?**

Give pairs a few minutes to talk, and then gather everyone's attention.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were some of the things you talked about in regard to other cultures?**
- **What's it like trying to communicate with someone from another culture?**
- **What happens when people communicate well?**
- **What gets in the way as a barrier to good communication?**





Say: In today’s lesson, we’ll learn that God has something he wants us to tell everyone about in a way that communicates well with other people. We’ll find out what that is and how we can communicate it to the world. We’ll learn how to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Around the World

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids open their Bibles to Matthew 28:16-20.

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

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. *(make climbing motions)*

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

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

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

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

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

“Tell them to obey everything I commanded you.” *(have everyone do a salute)*

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

Thank everyone for their participation in telling the Great Commission.

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

Around the World Supplies

- Bibles
- index cards
- pens
- marker
- large sheet of paper or whiteboard
- Teacher Pack**
- 1 copy per child of the “Countries of the World” handout





Have kids name as many countries as they can think of, and write them on a large sheet of paper or whiteboard as kids name them. When kids have named as many as they can, distribute index cards and pens and have them each choose a different country and write it on an index card. As each child chooses a specific country, cross the country's name off your list so that it's not chosen again.

Say: **We're going to play a game in which we'll go and tell the world about Jesus. First, I'll give each of you a list of all of the countries in the world.**

Give each child a copy of the "Countries of the World" handout.

Say: **Your goal is to go around the room and tell people that Jesus loves them. Refer to the country named on each person's index card, and after you've told that person about Jesus' love, check that country off your list.**

When everyone has finished, have kids sit down. Find out who had the most countries checked off, and give that person a big round of applause.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In our game, why couldn't you tell the whole world about Jesus?
- What would've helped you tell the whole world about Jesus?
- What do you think it means for you personally that Jesus said "Go and make disciples of all nations"?

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

**Who Needs to Know?
Supplies**

- Bibles
- Bible Truth Sleuth basket
- treats
- pens

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**

**Who Needs to Know?
Easy Prep**

Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Who Needs to Know?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle, and ask kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 28:19-20 and read the verses aloud: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).





Say: **Let's look at what happens when we don't take seriously the command by Jesus to make disciples of *all* nations.**

Take a basket of treats to a child on the other side of the circle from where you were sitting. Then return to your previous seat in the circle.

Say: **We're going to pass this basket around and take a treat as we tell others "Jesus loves you."**

Have the child with the basket pass it to the child on his or her right and say, "Jesus loves you." Then have that child take a treat and pass the basket to the next child and say, "Jesus loves you." Continue until the basket returns to you. Be sure that it returns to you before everyone has had a chance to take a treat and pass it on.

Say: **You know, I don't think I want to tell anyone about Jesus, so I'm not going to continue passing the basket.**

Hold the basket on your lap for a moment.

Ask:

- **In what ways did my not wanting to tell others about Jesus affect the rest of the group?**
- **What was it like for those of you who didn't get a treat because of my not telling you about Jesus?**
- **What are some real consequences when we don't ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS?**

Pass the basket to the next child, and tell that child, "Jesus loves you." Continue until everyone has heard someone say, "Jesus loves you" and has received a treat.

Say: **After Jesus gave the command to his disciples, they watched him go into the sky and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

Have kids open their Bibles to Acts 1:4-8 and turn to the "Who Needs to Know?" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, you'll see a basket. Inside the basket, write a one-sentence summary of what Jesus told his disciples before he left them in Acts—in a way that applies to you today. Read Acts 1:4-8 so you know what he said. Then, write the names of three people you know who need to hear about Jesus and a way you can tell them. You can talk to them, call them on the phone, send a text or email, write them a letter, or think of another way that would be best.**

Give kids several minutes to write three names and how they will tell those people about Jesus.





Go! Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
CD player
glue
crayons or markers
scissors
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Go and Make
Disciples" (Matthew
28:19) (track 8)
"GO" circles

Go! Easy Prep

Cut out 1 "GO!" circle
for each child.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways was our passing of the basket of treats like or unlike sharing your faith in your world?
- What things can stop you from telling your friends about Jesus?
- In what ways do we benefit when we share Jesus with others?

Say: God wants us to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Our own neighborhoods and towns are good places to start! God doesn't want us to keep the "treat" to ourselves. He wants us to tell everyone we know! Take your Bible Truth Sleuth page home today, and keep it where you will see it and remember to tell the people whose names you wrote down about Jesus.

We're going to pray for the people we wrote about right now. I'll start the prayer; then we'll go to my right. When it's your turn, say the names of the people on your page.

During the following prayer, have kids fill in the blank with the names they wrote.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, we want to tell others about your amazing love! We pray for the hearts of these people who need you, including these specific people:** _____ . Thank you for loving us, Jesus. In your name, amen.

Go!

What You'll Do

Give each child a "GO!" circle. Have kids turn to the "Go!" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **You'll notice that your circles look like globes and have "GO!" written on them, along with the Scripture reference for today's Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20. Let's read that together.**

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

Instruct kids to color their "GO!" circles to look like the world. Give kids a few minutes to finish. Then have them cut out the traffic lights from their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and glue the globes to the bottom of the traffic lights where green lights would normally go.

Say: **You can take this home as a reminder to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. On the back of your traffic light is "The Word for the Week." So this week, each time**



you read “The Word for the Week,” think about people who need to hear about Jesus and pray for them.

Say: **God wants us to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Let’s sing a song about that job Jesus gave to his disciples—and to us!**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 8 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.

 (everyone stands in a large circle and freestyle moves to the beat)

Ohh, ohh, ohh, yeah.

The Bible says: “Therefore, go (join hands and walk in one direction in the circle)

And make disciples of all the nations” now. (keep walking)

The Bible says: “Therefore, go (walk the opposite direction)

And make disciples of all the nations” now. (keep walking)

Baptize them in the name of the Father, (walk in to the center of the circle, raise hands high)

The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. (walk out to the larger circle, lower hands)
(Repeat.)

Ohh, ohh, ohh, yeah.

The Bible says: “Therefore, go (repeat motions)

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.**

(Repeat.)

“Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations now.”

The Bible says: “Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations” now.

(Repeat.)

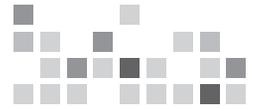
“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

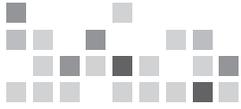
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

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

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

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 three people whose names you wrote down in the "Who Needs to Know" part of your Bible Truth Sleuth.

Make sure you make a commitment to telling three others about Jesus as well, and tell the kids what you'll do. 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 Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: **We've been commissioned to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. But we're never alone. Jesus promises 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 the commitment they made to tell three people about Jesus and what they learned about sharing their faith. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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 helping others to tell us about Jesus, and asking for strength to carry out the Great Commission in our world.





Lyrics ■■■■

Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

Ohh, ohh, ohh, yeah.

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.
(Repeat.)

Ohh, ohh, ohh, yeah.

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.
(Repeat.)

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

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



