



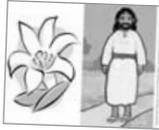
# Jesus Returns to Heaven

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

Preschoolers are beginning to develop habits of relating and communicating that'll be with them for the rest of their lives. Now's a good time to help them learn good communication skills. When children learn appropriate communication skills, they'll be able to share the good news of Jesus much more effectively. Use this lesson to help your children learn to tell others about Jesus with confidence and grace!



► **Bible Point**  
Tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Come to Jesus</b> Take a picture of Jesus to a friend, and tell him or her about Jesus.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Jesus" picture	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Theo brings a sticker because he's heard about Jesus from the leader.	CD player, Theo puppet <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Jesus" stickers	Place a "Jesus" sticker on Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Up, Up, Up</b> Act out Jesus' return to heaven.	Bible <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jesus Returns to Heaven" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	

**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**  
Children will tell people about Jesus.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: Up With Jesus</b> Pull Jesus up into the clouds.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, scissors, glue, cotton balls, tape, and one 8-inch piece of string per child</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out the Jesus figure on each page, and make a cut on the dotted line in the cloud.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Into the Clouds</b> Re-create Jesus' ascension into heaven with food items.</p>	<p>small paper plates, plastic spoons, blue gelatin powder, whipped topping, elf-shaped cookies, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p><b>Center 3: Tell the World</b> Find pictures of children from around the world, and "tell" them about Jesus.</p>	<p>CD player, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Kids Around the World" pictures</p> 	<p>Cut out pictures from the "Kids Around the World" page, and hide them around the room</p>
	<p><b>Center 4: Tell the World Megaphone</b> Make megaphones and practice telling others about Jesus.</p>	<p>construction paper, tape, crayons</p>	
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Pray for the children in their pictures.</p>	<p>scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Kids Around the World" pictures</p> 	<p>If you haven't already done so, cut out the pictures from the "Kids Around the World" page.</p>
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		







## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Happy Song" (track 10), "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate



**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "The Happy Song" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



**Hello, my friends—are you happy?** (*put index fingers to cheeks and smile*)

**Hello, my friends—let's have some fun!** (*clap hands*)

**We'll sing and play games and praise our God!** (*hold hands out and wiggle your fingers*)

**Hello, my friends—are you happy?** (*put index fingers to cheeks and smile*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Praising God makes me happy! Let's sing another song to Jesus.**

Sing "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



**Jesus, Jesus, I love you,** (*cross arms over chest*)

**And I know you love me, too.** (*point up*)

**You have died for all my sin,** (*hold arms out as if hanging on a cross*)

**And you came to life again.** (*clap twice*)

**Jesus, Jesus, I love you,** (*cross arms over chest*)

**And I know you love me, too.** (*point up*)

(Repeat.)

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: I sure am happy. Do you know why? Because Jesus loves me and he's my friend. I just want to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**





2

KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

# Come to Jesus

## What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Place the “Jesus” picture in front of you. Open your Bible to Matthew 28:19-20, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “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.” That means we can teach the world about Jesus. Let’s say that together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **We can teach the world about Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).**

Say: **Jesus isn’t just for you and me—he’s for everyone from everywhere! Jesus wants us to tell everyone—the whole world—about him. Let’s sing a song about telling the whole world about Jesus.** Hold up the picture of Jesus. **As we sing, you’ll each get to take this picture of Jesus to a friend in our group and tell him or her something about Jesus.**

Have the children stand in a large circle as they sing. Choose one child to take the picture of Jesus to a friend in the circle and say one thing about Jesus. Then have that child take the picture to another child. Continue having the children “share” Jesus until everyone has had a turn to bring Jesus to a friend. Help kids as necessary. Keep the music going as kids pass Jesus along, and re-cue the CD if needed.

Play “Go Tell” (track 13 on the CD). Encourage children to sing along to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”



### Go tell the world

**That Jesus cares,  
That Jesus died and rose again.  
Don’t be afraid ’cause he is with you.  
So go tell the world today.**  
*(Repeat.)*

After the game, have children sit down.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell how you told about Jesus in this game.
- How is that like or unlike how you tell your friends about Jesus?



## Come to Jesus Supplies

- .....
- Bible
  - CD player
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: “Go Tell”  
(track 13)
  - “Jesus” picture





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
"Jesus" stickers

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Place a "Jesus" sticker  
on Theo's paw.

Say: **It was really fun sharing Jesus with our friends in this group. And when Jesus went back to heaven, he told his disciples to tell the whole world about him. That way, everyone who hears about him and believes in him can be friends with him. We can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS just as the disciples did.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Puppy Pointers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What are you doing with that sticker of Jesus?

**Theo:** I found this sticker and I wanted to give it to you because I know you love Jesus.

**Teacher:** I'm glad you know that, Theo. That means I'm doing my job.

**Theo:** What do you mean you're doing your job?

**Teacher:** I mean I want everyone to know that Jesus is my friend.

**Theo:** I sure am glad to hear that Jesus is your friend.

**Teacher:** Jesus is a great friend, Theo. I want to tell everyone about him.

**Theo:** Well, you told me about him.

**Teacher:** Friends, let's tell our Bible Point to Theo. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.*)

**Teacher:** Theo, thanks for bringing me this sticker of Jesus and reminding me what a great thing it is to tell others about Jesus.

**Theo:** You're welcome! It's time for me to go now.

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like to tell others about Jesus?**
- **Tell about a time you told someone about Jesus.**



Say: **Theo knew that we love Jesus, and he'd heard how wonderful Jesus is. That's why he brought us that sticker of Jesus. We want to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS so people can learn how wonderful Jesus is, too, and so they can have a friendship with Jesus.**

## Bible Time: Up, Up, Up

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Matthew 28, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **God tells us in the Bible to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Let's learn about a wonderful thing we can tell others. We're going to learn about Jesus going back to heaven. I'll need you to help me tell what happened. You'll use your bodies, so let's warm up first.** Lead children in wiggling around and stretching.

**Jesus died on a cross and came back to life.** Have kids stand up and hold their arms out from their sides. **When God brought Jesus back to life, Jesus spent time with his disciples. But soon it was time for Jesus to go back to heaven to be with God.**

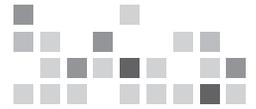
**Jesus went to the top of a high mountain. Jesus' friends climbed up the mountain.** Have children pretend to climb up a mountain. **When they got to the top of the mountain, Jesus said to his friends, "While I'm gone, I want you to go and tell the whole world about me."** Have children cup their hands around their mouths, turn to each other, and pretend to tell each other about Jesus. Show the "Jesus Returns to Heaven" poster to the children.

Say: **Then an amazing thing happened. Jesus went up, up, up into the sky. He went up into a cloud and back into heaven without wings or a plane or anything! That was a miracle! It was amazing!** Have children point to the sky.

**Suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside Jesus' friends. They were angels. The angels said, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? Jesus will come back someday."** Have children look at each other and say, "Tell everybody!"

**Jesus' friends were so surprised at what they saw! They wanted to tell the world about Jesus and his love.** Have children run to three people and say, "Jesus loves you!"

**The very last thing Jesus said before he went to heaven was, "Tell the world the good news about me."** There are lots of ways we can tell other people about Jesus.



### Bible Time: Up, Up, Up Supplies

Bible

#### Teacher Pack

"Jesus Returns to Heaven" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





### Center 1: Up With Jesus Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
scissors  
glue  
cotton balls  
tape  
one 8-inch piece of  
string per child

### Center 1: Up With Jesus Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out the Jesus figure on each page, and make a cut on the dotted line in the cloud.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What surprised you about what we learned from the Bible today?**
- **What's one thing you learned about Jesus that you want to tell someone this week?**

Say: **Before Jesus died and came back to life, Jesus' friends already knew he was amazing, but when he visited them after he died and came back to life, they were sure he was God. They wanted to tell the world about Jesus. And we can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS, too.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## Up With Jesus

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs page, a Jesus figure, a piece of string, and a cotton ball. Have each child tape the Jesus figure to one end of the string and then make the cloud fluffy by stretching and gluing the cotton ball onto it. Then show children how to thread the end of the string through the slit and pull Jesus up into the clouds. Allow time for kids to play with their creations.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was cool about this activity?**
- **What's cool about Jesus going to heaven?**
- **What do you want to tell others about Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus went up, up, up and away in a cloud to heaven. He'll come back this way, too, and everyone on earth will see it. Let's ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS so they can be friends with Jesus, too!**





**CENTER 2:**

# Into the Clouds

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Give each child a plate. Have kids spoon a small dollop of whipped topping onto the plate and then sprinkle one spoonful of gelatin powder over the whipped topping to make it look like a cloud. Then give each child an elf-shaped cookie to represent Jesus. Encourage kids to stand their cookies up in the "clouds." Invite one child to pray and thank God for the snacks. As kids are eating, remind them that they can ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

Say: **Before Jesus went back to heaven in the clouds, he told his friends to tell the world about him. He wanted everyone to know that they can be his friend and live in heaven with him forever. Let's ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS so they can be Jesus' friend, too.**

**CENTER 3:**

# Tell the World

## What You'll Do

Have kids search for the pictures. When they find a picture, have them each say to the person in the picture, "Jesus loves you!" Play "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 3 on the CD) while children search. After the children find their pictures, gather kids together. Then re-cue the CD and lead kids in singing. Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **God loves us.** *(cross arms over chest)*  
**God sent his Son to die for us** *(raise both arms high and lower them slowly)*  
**Because of his great love.** *(cross arms over chest and sway)*  
*(Repeat.)*

**His great love,** *(point up)*  
**God showed his great big love** *(move hands side to side)*  
**By sending Christ to die for us** *(lower arms and march in place)*  
**While we were still sinners.**  
*(Repeat.)*

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**His great love. His great love.** *(point up)*  
**His great love.** *(point up)*

"His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



## Center 2: Into the Clouds Supplies

- small paper plates
- plastic spoons
- blue gelatin powder
- whipped topping
- elf-shaped cookies
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

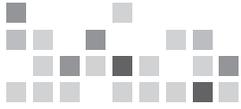
## Center 3: Tell the World Supplies

- CD player
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 3)
- "Kids Around the World" pictures

## Center 3: Tell the World Easy Prep

Cut out the pictures from the "Kids Around the World" page, and hide them around the room.





### Center 4: Tell the World Megaphone Supplies

construction paper  
tape  
crayons

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's your favorite part of the song?
- What are different ways you could tell others about Jesus?

Say: Like our song says, Jesus loved us so much that he died for us! I definitely want to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS because he's my friend and I want others to be his friend, too.

## ■ CENTER 4:

# Tell the World Megaphone

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Before Jesus went up to heaven, he told his friends to tell everyone about him. He wants everyone to be his friend. We can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS, too. Pretend to hold a telephone to your ear. We can tell our friends and family who live far away. Pretend with me that you're telling someone about Jesus on the phone. Lead kids in pretending.

Then pretend to write, and say: We can write people a letter or draw them a picture to tell them about Jesus. Think of someone you'd like to tell about Jesus. What would you tell him or her? Help kids think of ideas, like Jesus loves you, Jesus forgives you, Jesus wants to be your friend, and so on. Then pretend to type, and say: We can also send people a message on a computer. Pretend to type with me. Lead kids. Then pretend to flip the pages of a book, and say: We can also read the Bible with someone we want to tell about Jesus. Pretend to read the Bible. Lead kids.

Pass out the paper and crayons. Say: Draw a picture on your paper that shows a way you'd like to tell someone about Jesus. Allow time. Then show kids how to roll and tape the construction paper to make megaphones. Say: Jesus wants us to tell everyone in the world about him! A megaphone is loud, so it can help us tell more people at once. Let's tell about Jesus through our megaphones. Encourage kids to talk through their megaphones and say, "Jesus loves you," or "Jesus wants to be your friend."

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell us about the picture you drew.
- What's easy or hard about telling about Jesus?

Say: This week, try to find as many different ways as you can to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS and how much he loves everyone.





5

LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

# Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that the Bible says to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. I would like each of you to choose a way that you can tell someone about Jesus this week.**

Read the three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

- **Tell someone in your family your favorite thing about Jesus.**
- **Have your mom or dad help you send a postcard or a letter to a family member who lives far away. Draw a picture of Jesus on your postcard or letter.**
- **Sing "Jesus Loves Me" for your family or friends.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

# Action Prayer

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Jesus told his friends to tell the whole world about him. He wants us to tell everyone about him, too. Let's pray and use these pictures of children from other countries to help us remember to tell everyone about Jesus.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending us Jesus. Have kids pass the pictures around the circle. Be with these children in our pictures. Please send someone to tell them that Jesus loves them, too. Help us tell everyone we know that Jesus loves them. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **This week, let's ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS whenever we get the chance!**



## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

## Action Prayer Supplies

scissors

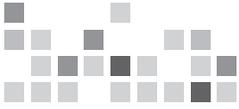
### Teacher Pack

"Kids Around the World"  
pictures

## Action Prayer Easy Prep

If you haven't done so already, cut out the pictures from the "Kids Around the World" page.





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

