FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 5: Jesus Sends Me

Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost

Bible story	The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)
Memory verse (NKJV)	And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)
Takeaway	Jesus sends His followers to tell the good news, and everyone who hears can obey it the way people did in Acts 2.
Daily call	Leader: "Go" Kids: "And tell!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41).
- Say Mark 16:15-16 from memory.
- Name one way to tell someone about Jesus this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a globe or world map
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Footprint cutouts (5 per child); Long paper strip; Markers, glue

Teacher preparation

- Read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 31: The Ascension (Empowered to Go); Day 29: Breakfast with Jesus (Restoration and Purpose); Conclusion: The Journey Continues.
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Pentecost ("fiftieth") was a Jewish feast held fifty days after Passover. Jews from many nations were in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5-11).
- Jesus was seen for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3), so Pentecost came about ten days after the ascension.
- "Remission" (Acts 2:38) means forgiveness, the sending away of sins.
- Conversions in Acts include hearing the gospel and being baptized (for example Acts 8:12, 35-38; 16:30-34; 22:16).
- Before He went back to heaven, Jesus sent His followers into all the world with the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).
- Jesus ascended to heaven and will come again (Acts 1:9-11).
- On Pentecost people heard the gospel, believed, repented, and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-41).
- Every follower of Jesus has good news to share and a life of faithfulness to live (Acts 1:8; Revelation 2:10).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a globe or world map. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you tell someone about Jesus this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a globe or world map. Ask: If you had the best news in the world, who would you tell first?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was seen by His disciples for forty days (Acts 1:3). He taught them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus gave them a big job. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

Then, while they watched, Jesus was taken up into heaven, and a cloud hid Him from their eyes (Acts 1:9). Two men in white clothes said that Jesus will come back the same way they saw Him go (Acts 1:11).

A few days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood up in Jerusalem and preached to a huge crowd. He told them that Jesus was crucified, but God raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:23-24, 32). The people heard this and believed it, and their hearts hurt. They asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Repent means to turn away from sin. Remission means forgiveness.

That day about three thousand people gladly received the word and were baptized (Acts 2:41). They heard, believed, repented, and were baptized, and the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). Today Jesus still sends His followers to go and tell!

Presenting the gospel response

Step	What it means	Scripture
Hear	Listen to and learn God's word about Jesus	Romans 10:17; Matthew 7:24
Believe	Trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God	John 8:24; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6
Repent	Turn away from sin and turn to God	Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3
Confess	Say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord	Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32
Be baptized	Be buried with Christ in water for the remission of sins	Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16
Live faithfully	Keep following Jesus every day	Acts 2:42; Revelation 2:10

Guidance for teachers

- Teach these steps straight from the open Bible (Acts 2:36-41), as the people on Pentecost obeyed.
- Do not lead a "sinner's prayer." The Bible's answer to "What shall we do?" is Acts 2:38.
- If a student expresses a desire to be baptized, affirm them, pray with them, and connect them with their parents and with [PLACEHOLDER: minister or elder contact]. Never pressure a child.
- Record any questions or interest on the follow-up card for the VBS director.

Discussion questions

1. What job did Jesus give His followers?
2. Where did Jesus go when the cloud hid Him?
3. What did the people ask Peter? What did Peter tell them?
4. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?

Review

- Jesus said, "Go into all the _____." (Answer: World)
- A _____ hid Jesus as He went up to heaven. (Answer: Cloud)
- _____ preached on the Day of Pentecost. (Answer: Peter)
- Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be _____." (Answer: Baptized)

- I can _____ others about Jesus! (Answer: Tell)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Footsteps Path

Materials: Footprint cutouts (5 per child); Long paper strip; Markers, glue

1. Write one step on each footprint: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized.
2. Glue the footprints along the paper path toward a picture of the church or a Bible at the end.
3. Add the reference under each step (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38).
4. Take it home and explain the steps from Acts 2 to your family.

Recreation and snack

Game: Go and Tell Relay: each child runs to the far end, picks up a card with one word of the memory verse, and "tells" it to the next runner. When finished, the team says the verse in order. For little ones, play "Pass the Good News" by passing a ball while singing.

Snack: "All the World" snack: round crackers or cookies with blue and green icing (globes), or a nut-free "Go and Tell" trail mix. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

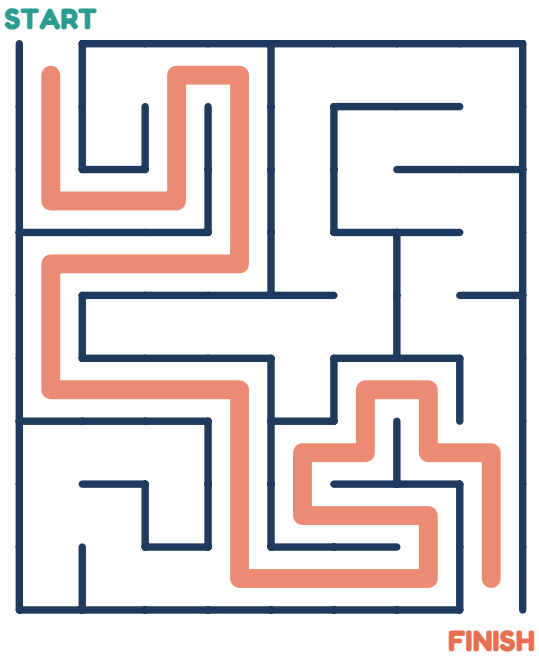
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Go Ye Into All the World; I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; He Is Lord; Jesus Loves the Little Children; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Word search



Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus said, “Go into all the WORLD.”
2. A CLOUD hid Jesus as He went up to heaven.
3. PETER preached on the Day of Pentecost.
4. Peter said, “Repent, and let every one of you be BAPTIZED.”
5. I can TELL others about Jesus!

Matching

- Hear: listen to God's word (Romans 10:17)
- Believe: trust that Jesus is God's Son (Mark 16:16)
- Repent: turn away from sin (Acts 2:38)
- Confess: say Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)
- Be baptized: for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

Sources for this lesson

- "31 Days with Jesus" by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher's Pen: Day 31: The Ascension (Empowered to Go); Day 29: Breakfast with Jesus (Restoration and Purpose); Conclusion: The Journey Continues (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Jesus the Teacher (Jesus taught about hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, baptism, and being faithful); Jesus' Burial and Ours (Romans 6:3-11)
- Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).