FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

Student Lesson

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | 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)

Bible reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41

The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost

After His resurrection, Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days" (Acts 1:3). Before He returned to the Father, He gave His followers their mission, often called the Great Commission.

Matthew records it this way: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Mark adds, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus promised the apostles power when the Holy Spirit came, and said they would be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Then He was taken up and a cloud received Him. Two men in white said, "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

On the Day of Pentecost the apostles began preaching in Jerusalem. Peter proclaimed that Jesus was crucified and that God raised Him up (Acts 2:22-24, 32). He concluded, "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The crowd was "cut to the heart" and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter answered, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). About three thousand gladly received his word and were baptized that day (Acts 2:41), and "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Look at what happened: they heard the word (Romans 10:17), believed that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Mark 16:16), repented of their sins (Acts 2:38), confessed their faith (Romans 10:9-10), and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then they "continued steadfastly" (Acts 2:42). That same good news is for us today, and now it is our turn to go and tell.

> 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 (NKJV)**

Four points to remember

- 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).

How did people obey the gospel in Acts 2?

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

Think it through

1. What does "gospel" mean? What are the three main facts of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)?
2. What did the people on Pentecost do when they heard the gospel?
3. Why is it important to do what the Bible says about being saved?
4. What makes it hard to tell others about Jesus? How can we be brave?

Following Jesus this week: I will tell someone about Jesus by