FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41).
- Explain the big idea: Jesus sends His followers to tell the good news, and everyone who hears can obey it the way people did in Acts 2.
- Say Mark 16:15-16 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Cord or pipe cleaners; Pony beads in 6 colors; Key card (printed)

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a globe or world map. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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 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.

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 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?

Review

- Where did Jesus say to go? (Mark 16:15) Answer: into all the world

- How many days was Jesus seen after He rose? (Acts 1:3) Answer: forty
- What received Jesus out of their sight? (Acts 1:9) Answer: a cloud
- What did the people ask? (Acts 2:37) Answer: Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- What two things did Peter tell them to do? (Acts 2:38) Answer: repent and be baptized
- About how many were baptized that day? (Acts 2:41) Answer: about three thousand

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Acts 2 Bracelet

Materials: Cord or pipe cleaners; Pony beads in 6 colors; Key card (printed)

1. Assign a bead to each step: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized, Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10).
2. String the beads in order.
3. On the key card, write the reference for each step.
4. Practice explaining Acts 2:36-41 to a partner using the bracelet.

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)

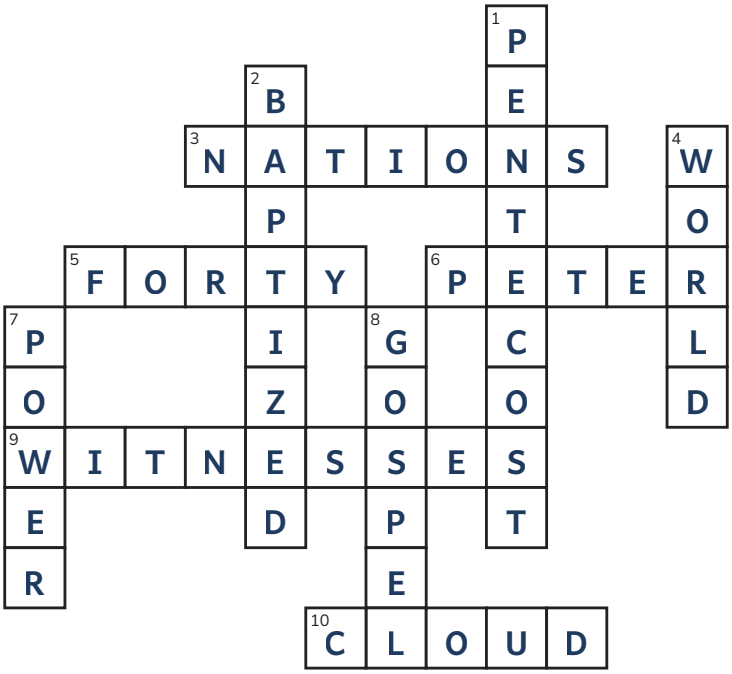
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Go Ye Into All the World; I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; He Is Lord; Jesus Loves the Little Children; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Mark 16:15	into all the world
Acts 1:3	forty
Acts 1:9	a cloud
Acts 2:37	Men and brethren, what shall we do?
Acts 2:38	repent and be baptized
Acts 2:41	about three thousand

Crossword



Across: 3 NATIONS; 5 FORTY; 6 PETER; 9 WITNESSES; 10 CLOUD

Down: 1 PENTECOST; 2 BAPTIZED; 4 WORLD; 7 POWER; 8 GOSPEL

Word search



Word scramble

1. GOSPEL, 2. WORLD, 3. BAPTIZED, 4. REPENT, 5. BELIEVE, 6. CONFESS, 7. WITNESS, 8. HEAVEN

Secret code

Answer: GO AND TELL

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).