FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 7-8

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

- Study Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41 in context.
- Walk through the Acts 2 response to the gospel using Scripture (hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized).
- Memorize Mark 16:15-16.
- Write a specific, personal application.

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: Invitation cards; Pens; Church information slips [PLACEHOLDER: service times and address]

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	Opener	Discussion starter (below).
0:05-0:20	Bible study	Read the passages together and teach the lesson (script below).
0:20-0:30	Discussion	Small groups of 3 to 4 work through the discussion questions.
0:30-0:33	Memory verse	Write it from memory; discuss key words.
0:33-0:38	Study sheet	Begin the study sheet in pairs; finish the journal page at home.
0:38-0:40	Application and prayer	Each student names one action step. Prayer.

Discussion starter

If you could send one message to every person on earth, what would it say? Jesus actually gave His followers that job.

Bible study

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.

Jesus did not leave His followers with a nice memory. He left them with a mission. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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" (Matthew 28:18-20). Mark records the same charge: "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).

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus ascended (Acts 1:3, 9). The ascension was not the end of His work but the beginning of theirs. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8). The question from the two men in white still fits: "why do you stand gazing up into heaven?" (Acts 1:11). There was work to do, and Jesus will return.

Acts 2 shows the Great Commission carried out for the first time. Peter preached Jesus crucified and raised (Acts 2:22-36). The crowd heard, believed, and were cut to the heart. Their question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), received an inspired answer: "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). About three thousand obeyed (Acts 2:41).

Jesus Himself taught every step of this response: hearing (Matthew 7:24; Romans 10:17), believing (John 8:24; Mark 16:16), repenting (Luke 13:3; Luke 24:47), confessing (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16). Paul does not describe baptism as a symbol of something that already happened; he describes it as the point where we are buried with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16). Then Jesus calls us to be faithful until death (Revelation 2:10).

Following Jesus always ends in going for Jesus. You do not need a pulpit to be a witness. Philip simply said, "Come and see" (John 1:46). The journey does not end at VBS. Keep seeking Jesus daily, obey Him fully, and share Him with the people He places in your life.

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. Why do you think Jesus gave His followers a mission instead of just a memory?
2. Trace each step in Acts 2: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized. Where is each one taught by Jesus?
3. What does Romans 6:3-4 teach happens in baptism?
4. What would "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth" look like for you?

Review

- What is the big idea of today's lesson? (Jesus sends His followers to tell the good news, and everyone who hears can obey it the way people did in Acts 2.)
- Quote Mark 16:15-16.

- 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).

Memory verse activity

Have students write the verse from memory, then discuss its key words and how it connects to today's text.

Craft (Craft Time): Go and Tell Invitation

Materials: Invitation cards; Pens; Church information slips [PLACEHOLDER: service times and address]

1. Each student writes a personal invitation to worship for a friend.
2. List three people you will pray for by name (journal page).
3. Practice in pairs: open your Bible to Acts 2:36-41 and explain it in two minutes.
4. Close with Matthew 28:18-20.

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.

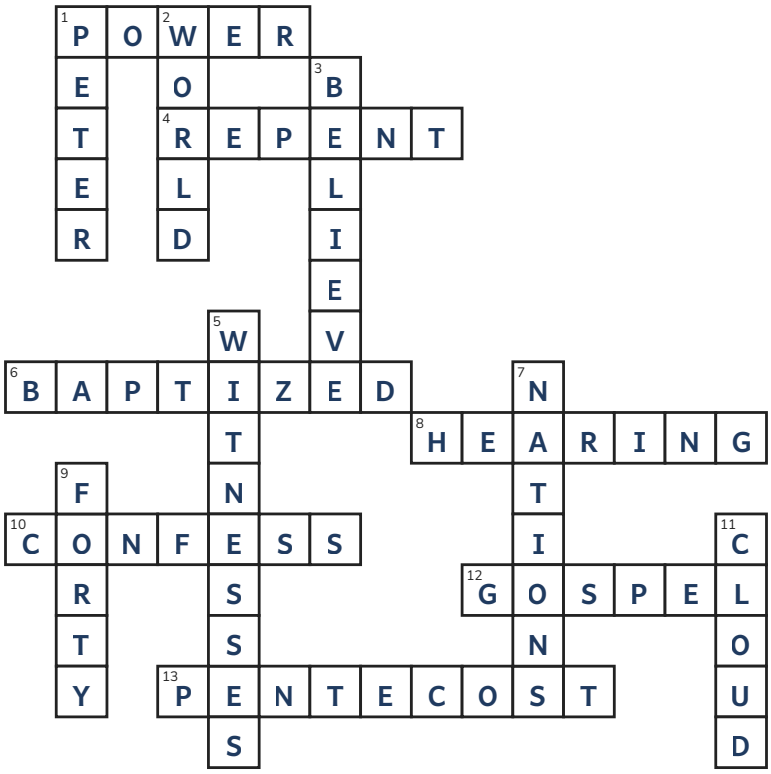
Snack: "All the World" snack: round crackers or cookies with blue and green icing (globes), or a nut-free "Go and Tell" trail mix. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

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

Crossword



Across: 1 POWER; 4 REPENT; 6 BAPTIZED; 8 HEARING; 10 CONFESS; 12 GOSPEL; 13 PENTECOST

Down: 1 PETER; 2 WORLD; 3 BELIEVE; 5 WITNESSES; 7 NATIONS; 9 FORTY; 11 CLOUD

Word search



Study sheet

Answers come straight from the passages listed. Let students read the text aloud and answer in their own words; guide them back to the verse when needed.

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).