FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · NURSERY (AGES 0-2)

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)	“Go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15) (full verse for helpers: 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.”)
Takeaway	I can tell others about Jesus!
Daily call	Leader: “Go” Kids: “And tell!”

Objectives

- Hear the story of the great commission, the ascension, and the day of pentecost in simple words.
- Say the memory phrase: “I can tell others about Jesus!”
- Experience God’s love through a caring teacher, songs, and play.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher
- An enlarged copy of today’s coloring page to use as the story picture
- 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: Blue paper circles (globe); Green paper shapes or green crayons; Heart stickers; Marker

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
0:00-0:08	Welcome and free play	Greet each child by name. Offer soft toys that match today's story (a globe or world map).
0:08-0:15	Bible time	Sit in a circle. Hold up the picture and the Bible. Tell the short story with props.
0:15-0:20	Songs and finger play	Sing softly (a cappella) and do today's finger play together.
0:20-0:32	Activity time	Coloring page and the "Find the Picture" sheet with a helper beside each child.
0:32-0:37	Craft	Simple craft (see Craft section). Teachers do any gluing or cutting.
0:37-0:40	Prayer and goodbye	Say the memory phrase, pray a short prayer, and send the take-home story card.

Attention getter

Show a globe or world map. Let children touch and explore it while you say a simple sentence about today's story.

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.

- Jesus is alive! He spent time with His friends.
- Jesus said, "Go into all the world and tell everyone about Me."
- Then Jesus went up, up, up into heaven. A cloud hid Him.
- Two men in white said, "Jesus will come back again!"
- Jesus' friends told many people about Jesus.
- Lots of people listened and obeyed. They were baptized!

- Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him.
- I can tell others about Jesus!

> **Gospel note for little ones**
>
> Keep it simple: “Jesus loves everyone in the whole world. Jesus went back to heaven and will come again. We can tell others about Jesus!”

Discussion questions

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. Who can you tell about Jesus?
3. Does Jesus love the whole world?

Review

- Who was in our story today? (Jesus and His friends)
- Say our phrase: “I can tell others about Jesus!”

Memory verse activity

Say the short verse slowly and have children echo it. Add a motion for each phrase. Repeat it at the start and end of class.

> **Finger play: Go and Tell**
>
> - Jesus said to go and tell, (point outward)
> - Tell the world He loves them well! (make a big circle with arms)
> - Up to heaven Jesus went, (point up high)
> - Now I’m one of the friends He sent! (point to self, then march)
> - I will tell my mom and dad, (count on fingers)
> - Jesus loves us, I’m so glad! (clap and cheer)

Craft (Craft Time): Jesus Loves the World

Materials: Blue paper circles (globe); Green paper shapes or green crayons; Heart stickers; Marker

1. Help children color or stick green “land” on the blue globe.
2. Add heart stickers all around.
3. Say, “Jesus loves the whole world! I can tell about Jesus!”
4. Write the child’s name and Mark 16:15.

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

Find the Picture: the world.

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).