FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · PRE-K (AGES 3-5)

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.
- Say the short verse: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15)

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: Construction paper; Crayons or washable paint; 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
0:00-0:04	Welcome	Greet children, take attendance, put on name tags.
0:04-0:08	Attention getter	Show a globe or world map. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:16	Bible story	Tell the story with the picture and props. Let children do the actions.
0:16-0:22	Memory verse	Teach the short verse with motions. Pass a beanbag; whoever holds it says the verse with you.
0:22-0:27	Action rhyme and song	Do today's action rhyme. Sing one of today's songs a cappella.
0:27-0:37	Activity sheets	Coloring, tracing, and matching. Walk around and talk about the story.
0:37-0:40	Review and prayer	Ask the review questions. Pray together.

Attention getter

Show a globe or world map. 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.

- 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!

Five Steps for little ones

In Acts 2 people heard about Jesus and obeyed. Teach the steps with motions, framed as “when I am older, I can obey Jesus too”:

- Hear (hand to ear), Romans 10:17
- Believe (hand on heart), Mark 16:16
- Repent, turn from wrong (turn around), Acts 2:38
- Confess, “Jesus is God’s Son” (point up), Romans 10:9
- Be baptized (cross arms and dip down), Acts 2:38

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): Five Steps Handprint

Materials: Construction paper; Crayons or washable paint; Marker

1. Trace each child’s hand.
2. Label the fingers: Hear (Romans 10:17), Believe (Mark 16:16), Repent (Acts 2:38), Confess (Romans 10:9), Be Baptized (Acts 2:38).
3. Practice the motions: hand to ear, hand on heart, turn around, point up and say “Jesus is God’s Son,” arms crossed and dip down.
4. Say: “When I am older, I can obey Jesus just like the people in the Bible.”

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

Matching: each picture matches the same picture on the right.

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).