

Unit 27 • Session 4  
**Jesus Returned to Heaven**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:**

Matthew 28; Acts 1

**STORY POINT:**

Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

John 11:25

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

## The **BIBLE STORY**

**Bible Storytelling Tips**

**Call for active listening:** Distribute key words on index cards. Kids should hold up their cards when they hear their words in the story.

**Use figures:** Use people figures or play dough models to represent Jesus and His disciples. Move around the figures as you tell the story.

## **JESUS RETURNED TO HEAVEN**

*Matthew 28; Acts 1*

**After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples over 40 days.** During that time, **Jesus told them even more about God's kingdom.** Then Jesus told His disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee. They saw Jesus

there, and they worshiped Him.

Jesus gave His disciples important instructions. **Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation.”**

Jesus also said, **“Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”** Then Jesus said, **“Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age.”**

Jesus told His disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem until God kept His promise to give them the Holy Spirit. **Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**After Jesus said these things, He went up into heaven.** The disciples watched Jesus until a cloud hid Him from their sight. **All of a sudden, two angels appeared.** They were wearing white clothes. **These angels asked, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will return in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.”**

*Christ Connection: Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God’s work—to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.*

# INTRODUCE THE STORY

**Session Title:** Jesus Returned to Heaven

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 28; Acts 1

**Story Point:** Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.

**Key Passage:** John 11:25

**Big Picture Question:** Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

“How Long?” activity page, 1 per kid  
pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “How Long?” activity page. Help kids use the clocks provided to determine how long until the time indicated.

Say • Sometimes we have to wait for things we want to happen.

Perhaps you have waited hours, days, or even months for certain things. Today we will learn about Jesus’ return to heaven and how we are to live while waiting for Him to return to earth.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Follow-the-leader

Select a kid to be the leader. Instruct the kids to line up behind the leader. The kids must follow the leader around the room mimicking any movements and behaviors the leader chooses to do. Play multiple rounds, selecting a new kid to be the leader in each round.

SAY • Great job following the leader! Today we will learn about the mission Jesus gave His followers. If we say Jesus is our King, that means we follow His lead!

## Option 2: Play dough disciples

play dough

Provide each kid with a lump of play dough. Instruct the kids to use their play dough to make a few people figures and set the figures in a line.

Say • Only God can make people. However, today we will learn about how we can be a part of God's plan to make ordinary people into disciples of Jesus. How do you think we can do that?

## ACTIVITIES TO APPLY THE STORY

### Activity: To the ends of the Earth

paper plates, 1 per kid  
blue and green markers  
pens

Distribute a paper plate to each kid. Help the kids decorate the plates to look like the earth by drawing continents in green and coloring the oceans blue. Help the kids write *Make disciples of all nations* on the back or around the rim of their plates.

Say • **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.** Jesus told those who followed Him to share the gospel with everyone they met until people from all over the world have heard. We are still working on that mission today!

We participate in the Great Commission in a lot of different ways. We show Jesus' love in the way we treat others and the

words we speak. We can give generously to missions projects. We can even share the gospel with our friends and invite them to gather with our church family. No matter how you participate in the Great Commission, it's great to know that God chooses to make us a part of His wonderful plans for the world.

pencils and crayons

paper

Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.