

Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- large paper plates
- scissors
- crayons and markers
- construction paper
- fasteners or brads



Scriptures

Mk 16:20; Lk 24:49-53; Acts 1:4-14, 2

Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus went back to heaven and poured His Holy Spirit down to those who prayed sincerely for His Spirit

Behavioral Objective(s)

To pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit



Memory Verse

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4)



Bible Knowledge

Jesus' Ascension

Jesus spent forty days teaching His disciples, and they were forever changed. When Jesus Christ was still on earth, they argued with each other, and ultimately deserted their Lord. Now, in a series of meetings with the resurrected Christ (see Bible Knowledge section in Lesson 3), the disciples had many questions answered. They became convinced about the resurrection, learned about the kingdom of God, and about the Holy Spirit.

Jesus also gave them the great commission: to preach the news of salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus is coming back to judge the world. He wants all of His followers to share God's blessings with others.

After forty days, Jesus ascended into heaven. As the disciples looked on, two angels proclaimed that one day Jesus would return in the same way He ascended: visible and in the clouds.

The Downpouring of the Holy Spirit

When the Holy Spirit came down on the day of

Pentecost, it was a fulfillment of John the Baptist's words (Lk 3:16) about the Holy Spirit baptizing with fire. This was also a fulfillment of Joel 2:28, 29 about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible uses words such as wind (Jn 3:8; Acts 2:2), fire (Isa 4:4; Acts 2:3), rain (Zech 10:1), water (Jn 7:37-39), and dove (Mt 3:16) to symbolize the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament can be summarized as follows:

- *He gives people spiritual power (Lk 24:49; Acts 4:13, 13:9-12).
- *He convicts people of the consciousness of sin (Jn 16:8; Acts 2:36).
- *He guides people to know the Lord Jesus (Jn 15:26; Acts 16:14; 1 Cor 12:3).
- *He reveals the truth (Jn 16:12, 13; 1 Cor 2:11; Eph 1:17-19).
- *He prays for the believers (Zech 12:10; Rom 8:26, 27; Eph 6:18).
- *He sanctifies the believers (Rom 15:16; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2).
- *He makes the believers bring forth the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22; Rev 22:1).
- *He gives various spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4-12).



Understanding Your Students

The concept of the Holy Spirit is probably a difficult concept for your students to understand. Many of them know brothers and sisters who have received the Holy Spirit during prayers, but they may not understand the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit for themselves.

Begin by explaining why we need the Holy Spirit. The two words that can be used (and posted around the room) are Comforter and Counselor. Say the following sentence to the students, and then ask if any of them can tell you what the word "comfort" means:

"I was so sad when my best friend moved away, but my mother hugged me and comforted me. Then I felt better."

After the students have an idea of what comfort means, clarify by giving the true definition. Explain that the Holy Spirit is called the "Comforter" because it's like having a good friend with us all the time to make us feel better. Our parents comfort us with hugs and kisses when we real-

ly need them. God is our heavenly Father and He wants us to be happy. Since God is no longer in body form, we can't see Him with our eyes or feel His hugs, so He gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us. It's His way of being with us all the time.

Also explain that the Holy Spirit is like a counselor that lives inside us. Say the following sentence, and ask what the word "counselor" means:

"I was so confused about how to finish my homework, so I asked my counselor, and she told me what I should do."

When the students have come up with the meaning of the word "counselor," explain that the Holy Spirit also acts as a counselor. The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's words much better, and it also helps us make decisions that God will be pleased with. Only the Holy Spirit knows exactly what we should do in our lives, so we have to pray to God to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Because the concept of receiving the Holy Spirit is not something the students will grasp instantly, it is critical to review its importance periodically. That way, the students will be reminded and be encouraged to pray for His presence.



Vocabulary

Disciple

Jesus' student; someone who followed Jesus and learned from Him

Holy Spirit

the Spirit of God; Jesus promised to fill us with His Spirit

Preach

to tell others about Jesus and His salvation



Before You Teach

"Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Lk 24:46-49)

These were Jesus Christ's last words before He ascended to heaven. We could imagine what that

moment might have been like. It would have been a majestic and inspiring scene. Yet, instead of just leaving like a King going to His heavenly home, Jesus Christ made sure His followers understood the great commission they had before them. His ascension signaled the end of Jesus' time on earth, but it also pointed to the beginning of the apostles' ministry. They were instructed to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem so that they would have power to preach this wonderful news to all who would be willing to hear.

Today, as His followers, we have been given the same commission. Let us pray for power from God to obey His command and preach the good news.



Bible Story

Remembering Jesus

Do you remember the stories of Jesus we learned about? How about the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and all the people sang, "Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest"? So many people were praising Jesus. What an exciting time it was. Peter, James, and the other disciples of Jesus remembered how exciting it was. Do you also remember how Jesus healed many people who were sick and performed many wonderful miracles? Miracles are amazing and great things that only God can do. For example, Jesus fed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. He also made the blind see again. How about Jesus and Peter walking on water? There were many great things that Jesus did, and His disciples and friends would have remembered them.

But then one day Jesus was put on the cross to die. Jesus was so kind and did so many good things, so why did He have to die? Jesus did not die because He did anything bad. Jesus died so that we could be saved. If He did not die for us, then we would not have the chance to go to heaven one day. Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Jesus' friends must have felt very sad as they remembered how Jesus was put on the cross to die.

Jesus' Last Command

But on the third day after He died, Jesus came back to life again. He was not in the tomb anymore. He had risen. He showed Himself to Mary Magdalene and to His disciples. They were so happy and excited. Jesus spent many days talking to them about God and His kingdom.

Even though Jesus was alive and could never die again, He had to go back to heaven. He needed to go there to prepare that wonderful place for us. So when it was time for Jesus to leave His disciples and go back to heaven, He knew they would be sad and afraid. What would they do without Jesus? So He talked to His disciples and told them what to do.

"Stay in the city of Jerusalem," said Jesus. "Do not leave but wait for the Holy Spirit to come. The Holy Spirit will help you be strong and not be afraid. You will have to wait for Him."

Next Jesus said, "Remember, the Holy Spirit will comfort you. Although you can't see Me, I am always with you. Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved."

Jesus was telling His followers to tell everyone in the world about Him. Jesus wants everyone to be baptized and saved. The disciples listened very carefully.

When Jesus finished talking, suddenly, right before their eyes, He began to go up into the sky. Can you guess what was happening? The disciples watched Jesus go up, up, up. Then a cloud appeared in the sky and took Jesus away to heaven. The disciples stood there and stared at the sky. Jesus was gone. They were surprised and wondered where Jesus went. Then two men dressed in white robes stood beside the disciples.

The two men said to the disciples, "Why are you looking up at the sky? Jesus went up to heaven. But someday Jesus will come back to earth again, just like the way you saw Him go up."

The Disciples Go Back to Jerusalem

After that the disciples remembered Jesus' words. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do? (Allow students to respond.) He wanted them to wait in Jerusalem for His Holy Spirit. So they went back to the city of Jerusalem. They waited for the Holy Spirit to come. Peter waited. John waited. All the other disciples waited. The women waited. Jesus' mother and brothers waited. While everyone waited, they talked about Jesus and His words. They prayed together too. They knew Jesus would not forget His promise. They did not give up hope, and prayed each day for the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Pours Down

Then one day, while some of Jesus' followers were praying together in a house, suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven. It filled the whole house where they were praying. Everyone who prayed for the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues. God had sent His Holy Spirit down on them. How wonderful. As they prayed, it looked like there were tongues of fire resting on each of the followers. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They were not afraid anymore. Jesus had kept His promise.

Peter Preaches to Everyone

After Peter received the Holy Spirit, he became very brave and wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. So he stood up and told everyone how much Jesus loved them and why Jesus came to die for them. He explained that they just saw the power of the Holy Spirit. The people listened carefully to what Peter was saying about Jesus.

When Peter finished speaking, many people felt sad about the bad things they had done. But they were glad that Jesus had come to save them and to forgive them for those bad things.

They were so thankful to Jesus, so they asked Peter and the disciples, "We have done many bad things, but now we are sorry. What should we do?"

Peter told them to ask God to forgive them and be baptized to be saved. And they listened to Peter. So 3,000 people got baptized on that day. Can you believe that 3,000 people believed and were baptized in one day? The power of the Holy

Spirit was great.

The Disciples Preach the Good News

Because they had the power from the Holy Spirit, the disciples were no longer afraid. They knew Jesus was still with them, even though He had returned to heaven. They were happy and wanted to share the good news. So the disciples went everywhere to tell people how to be saved, just as Jesus had told them to.

Today, we are saved when we believe in Jesus and are baptized in His name. Jesus always keeps His promises. Just as He promised to give His disciples the Holy Spirit, He also promises to give the Holy Spirit to us. We should pray for His Spirit to live inside us so that we can have strength and courage just as the disciples did. That is why it is important to always ask God to fill us with His Spirit each time we pray. When God knows it is the right time, He will give us His precious Spirit.



Check For Understanding

1. **Why was Jesus put on the cross to die?** (He died so that we can be saved. This was the only way for us to go to heaven.)
2. **What did Jesus tell His disciples to wait for before He went back to heaven?** (He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit.)
3. **Why did Jesus want to give them the Holy Spirit?** (He was going to leave them and didn't want them to be afraid.)
4. **Where did Jesus go after He told them about the Holy Spirit?** (He went back to heaven in a cloud.)
5. **What did the disciples do after Jesus went back to heaven?** (They went to Jerusalem and prayed for the Holy Spirit.)
6. **What happened while they were praying for the Holy Spirit one day?** (The Holy Spirit came down on them and they spoke

in tongues.)

7. **What did Peter do after he received the Holy Spirit?** (He told the people how Jesus loved them and died to save them.)
8. **How many people were baptized that day after listening to Peter?** (3,000)
9. **How do we know Jesus is with us today?** (We have the Holy Spirit.)
10. **Why do we need the Holy Spirit?** (Allow students to respond. Reinforce the concepts of the Holy Spirit as a comforter and a counselor.)
11. **We learned that Jesus died but is now alive. Jesus is in heaven. Heaven is a very special place. We don't know where heaven is, but we know God is there. God wants us to live with Him in heaven someday. Those who love Jesus will someday live in heaven. What can we do so that all our family and friends can be with us in heaven one day?** (We can tell others Jesus is alive and lives in heaven.)



Life Application Story

Keeping Our Promises

Michelle ran to her mom's room excitedly. She was almost out of breath by the time she got there.

"Mom, I just got off the phone with Hilary. She is having her party this Friday afternoon, instead of next week. I told her that I could go. I can go, right? It's not on Saturday," Michelle pointed out.

"Michelle, slow down. I can barely hear what you are saying. Come here and sit next to me," Mrs. Marsh said, as she fluffed the pillows on the bed.

"So can I go?" Michelle asked again.

"Well, normally I would say that it's okay but I think you forgot about something," Mrs. Marsh said.

"What did I forget?" Michelle asked.

"You promised Nicole that you would go early to church tomorrow and help her clean up the classrooms. Remember that was the project all the students were going to be a part of? You were very excited when you told me about it two weeks ago."

"That's tomorrow?" Michelle asked in disbelief.

"Yes, I remember because Mrs. Lim called me this morning to ask me to drive some of the kids tomorrow," replied Mrs. Marsh.

"But I really want to go to the party. And I already told her I would go," Michelle pleaded.

"You know, Michelle, when you were younger, I would tell you what to do. But you are older now, and I think you need to think about what you need to do," Mrs. Marsh said.

Michelle frowned.

"I don't know, Mom. I know I promised to help at church. But I also want to go to the party. Oh, it's so hard," Michelle said, almost about to cry.

"Sometimes, things in life can be pretty hard. We want to have things our way but we know we should also obey God," Mrs. Marsh explained.

"So that means I have to obey God and go to church?" Michelle said softly.

"No, it doesn't mean you have to. It just means that if you decide to help, you are obeying God

because you are keeping your promise to help someone. You had agreed to the church project first."

"Yes, I know. I would feel bad if I didn't go to help. God teaches us be helpful and to keep our promises. But I also feel sad that I can't go to the party," Michelle answered.

"Yes, but I am proud of you for thinking like a grown-up. It is important to keep our promises, just as God does. He always does what He says He will do. That is why we believe in Him. Remember when Jesus was about to go back to heaven? He promised His followers that He would send the Holy Spirit down. And now, look at us. We have the Holy Spirit just as God promised," said Mrs. Marsh.

"So I guess I have to call Hilary back and tell her I can't go," Michelle said as she got off the bed.

"Well, maybe you could ask her if you could go over with a couple of your friends on another day. I am sure that would be fun," Mrs. Marsh offered.

Michelle's face lit up.

"Okay, that's a good idea, Mom. Thanks," said Michelle as she skipped out of the room.

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Michelle sad?** (She wanted to go to her friend's party but she also promised to go to church to help out.)
2. **How did Michelle obey God in the end?** (She decided to keep her promise and go to church to help.)
3. **What does God promise us?** (Allow students to answer. Some possibilities: His Spirit to live inside of us, to protect us, to take us to heaven one day, etc.)
4. **Do you have the Holy Spirit? Why do we need to pray for the Holy Spirit?** (Allow students to answer. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit because it is God's promise to us. He promised to send His Spirit to live inside us so that He can help us and take us to heaven one day.)



Activity 1

The Disciples Receive the Holy Spirit

Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet.

1. The disciples pray in a room.
2. Suddenly, there is wind and tongues of fire resting on their heads.
3. The believers receive the Holy Spirit.
4. Peter preaches bravely to the people.



Activity 2

How Do We Pray for the Holy Spirit?

1. We say, "Hallelujah " over and over again.
2. We close our eyes to help us think about God.
3. We think about the wonderful things God has done.
4. We have to ask God for His Spirit every time we pray.



Activity 3

Time to Pray for the Holy Spirit

Materials:

1. large paper plates
2. scissors
3. construction paper
4. fasteners or brads
5. markers or crayons

Directions:


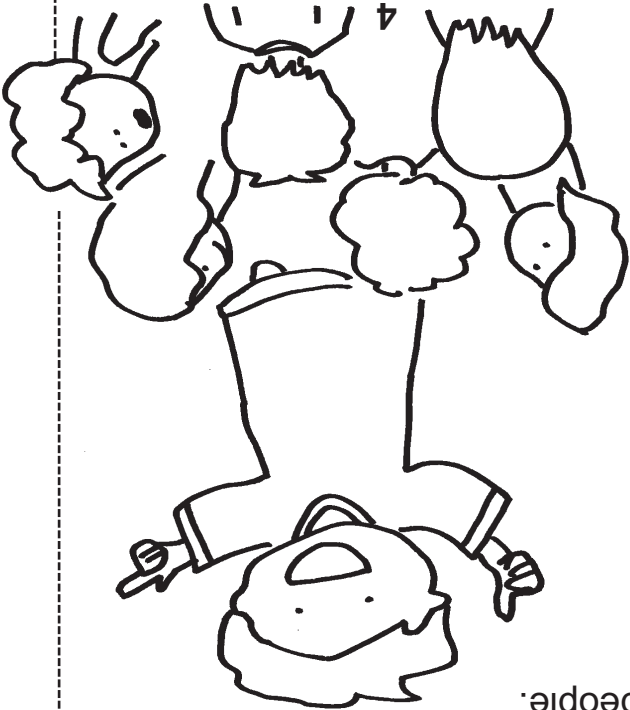
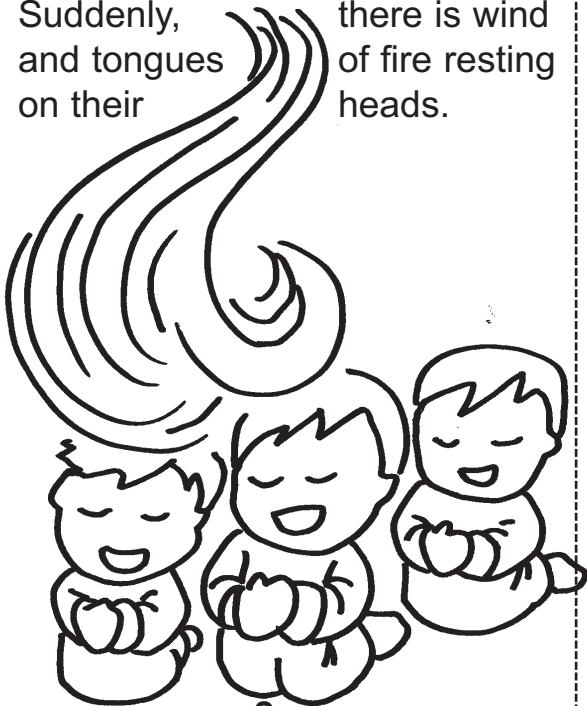

1. Give each student a paper plate. Guide them to write the numbers 1 to 12 on the edge of the plate, like a clock.
2. Cut the construction paper into the long and short hands of the clock. Give one set to each student.
3. Make a small hole with the scissors in the middle of the plate.
4. Using the fastener, attach the the two hands to the clock, so that the hands can swivel.
5. Allow the students to decorate the clock.

6. When the students are done with the project, talk about how to tell time. Keep it to the hour to make things simple for kindergartners (e.g. five o'clock, two o'clock).
7. Talk about the times of the day the students can pray (e.g. when they get up at seven o'clock or before they go to bed at eight o'clock).
8. Encourage the students to take their clocks home to remind them to pray for the Holy Spirit each time they pray to God.

Activity 4:1

The Disciples Receive the Holy Spirit

Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet .

<p>1</p>  <p>The disciples pray in a room.</p>	 <p>Peter preaches bravely to the people.</p>
<p>Suddenly, there is wind and tongues of fire resting on their heads.</p>  <p>2</p>	<p>The believers receive the Holy Spirit.</p>  <p>3</p>

How Do We Pray for the Holy Spirit?



1. We say, "Hallelujah!" over and over again.

2. We close our eyes to help us think about God.



3. We think about the wonderful things God has done.

4. We have to ask God for His Spirit every time we pray.

