

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.

Review Questions

Where did Jesus tell the disciples to wait? (*Jerusalem, Acts 1:4*)

What did Jesus say the disciples would receive? (*power from the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8*)

How will Jesus return? (*in the same way He went to heaven, Acts 1:11*)

How can we make disciples? *Guide the kids to think through the parts of the Great Commission. Part of the command helps explain how to make disciples: teach them to obey Jesus and baptize them. Help the kids remember that baptism and obedience do not save us, but they are important signs that help show a person has put her faith in Jesus.*

How is having the Holy Spirit with us more beneficial than having Jesus still on earth? *Point out that everything God does is always best. We know that the Holy Spirit with us is better because that's how God planned things to be. In addition, it is better for the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers everywhere, than for Jesus to be on earth in one place at a time.*

How do you feel knowing that Jesus will come back? *Help the kids focus on the hope we have for the future. The world is still broken by sin, but as we obey Jesus and make disciples, there will be more and more people trying to do God's will and bring justice and peace to the world. Someday, Jesus will come and bring perfect, everlasting peace and justice.*

Say • **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.** Each of us who has faith in Jesus is part of that same mission today! We live on mission to make disciples.

Activities

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!

Play dough disciples

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?

To the ends of the earth

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.