

LOWER ELEM Flight Plan April 26th



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| <p>Lesson</p> | <p>Jesus Returned to Heaven</p> |
| <p>Bible Passage</p> | <p>Matthew 28, Acts 1</p> |
| <p>Story Point</p> | <p>Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.</p> |
| <p>Key Passage</p> | <p>He said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” John 11:25</p> |
| <p>Big Picture Q & A</p> | <p>Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.</p> |



How Long?

INSTRUCTIONS: For the clock provided, an answer box long enough to write in each answer.

TOPIC: Jesus' return to heaven
LEVEL: 2nd - Stations 4
Jesus Returned to Heaven

WEEKLY STORY QUESTIONS

- How would the disciples go about an evangelism plan?
- How was Paul so brave to be with God the Father?
- How will Jesus come today for all who are his children?

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

WEEKLY STORY QUESTIONS

- Why did Jesus say Jesus would be back when He would be at the right hand of the Father?

PRAYER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can we be so bold?
- How can God answer our prayers?

ANSWER KEY:

• How can I be so bold?
• How can I answer our prayers?
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• How can I be so bold?
• How can I answer our prayers?

leader bible study

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a 40-day period. At one point, He appeared to more than 500 people. During that time, Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. Some of them wondered if Jesus was finally going to overthrow the Roman government and set up His kingdom on earth.

Jesus had a different plan for the disciples. He directed the Eleven to go to a mountain, where He appeared to them again. They worshiped Him, but some still doubted. (Matt. 28:17) On the mountain, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission. He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel, the good news about Him.

The Great Commission is not just for missionaries far from home. All believers are called to share the gospel with others, teach them to obey God's commands, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus finished His commission with a profound promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Father's promise—the Holy Spirit. Those who repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus' death and resurrection would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would give them power to live holy lives and take the gospel to the ends of the earth. After Jesus told the disciples these things, Jesus was taken up into the sky—right in front of their eyes!

Jesus is alive in heaven, waiting to return for His people. Jesus told the disciples He was going to prepare a place for them, and when we die, we will be with the Lord. (John 14:1-3) In the meantime, Jesus has not left us alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God's work. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

April Focus: Jesus Out of the Grave



APR 5th: Easter!

APR 12th: The Emmaus Disciples *Luke 24*

Story Point: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.



APR 19th: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24, John 20

Story Point: Jesus proved He is alive.



APR 26th: Jesus Returned to Heaven

Matthew 28, Acts 1

Story Point: Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?
- How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?
- What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?
- In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to share about a time they were asked to do something that felt impossible. Sometimes the chores we have to do might feel too difficult for us. A tough job may feel like it would take so long to complete that it is impossible. Today we will learn about a job Jesus commanded His disciples to do. It may have seemed like an impossible task, but God would give them the power to do it and fill them with joy as they worked!

Big Picture Question

After Jesus rose from the dead, He stayed on earth for 40 days. However, we know that Jesus isn't on earth today. That brings us to our big picture question: ***Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father. Jesus' position is one of honor, glory, and power. His work is complete; He fully paid for sin and defeated death by His resurrection.***

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Today we will hear how Jesus commissioned His disciples to share this rescue, He doesn't want us to just receive His forgiveness, He wants us to share the great news of His kingdom with everyone we meet!

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Before we get to today's story, let's review what we've been talking about by looking at our timeline. We know that Jesus died on the cross and was buried, but on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death. Then He appeared to two of His followers as they were walking to Emmaus. Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him. But they weren't the only ones who doubted the reports that Jesus was alive. It was time for Jesus to prove Himself to more of His disciples. That's where our Bible story picks up today

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Matthew 28 & Acts 1** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Jesus' story didn't end when He returned to heaven because He sent the Holy Spirit to live within His disciples. Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission. The story of God's loving plan for the world is still going on, even today! Now, when I think about Jesus' ascension, I don't feel sad. Instead, I feel excited and overjoyed to know that I get to be a part of the story!

God's love for the world is incredible. He did not send Jesus to save only people from Israel, but from every nation, tribe, and people group in the entire world.



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.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES THE GREAT COMMISSION.

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples over 40 days. Jesus told them even more about God's kingdom. 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 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. All of a sudden, two angels appeared. These angels asked, "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.*

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Acts 1. Explain that Acts was written by the same man who wrote Luke, and it is a continuation of the events in Luke. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **Where did Jesus tell the disciples to wait?** (*Jerusalem, Acts 1:4*)
2. **What did Jesus say the disciples would receive?** (*power from the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8*)
3. **How will Jesus return?** (*in the same way He went to heaven, Acts 1:11*)
4. **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, 1. but they are important signs that help show a person has put her faith in Jesus.*
5. **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.*
6. **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.*



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Holy -In Control

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- **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.

The Domino Effect

Challenge kids to stand dominoes on end in a line, leaving only about an inch between the dominoes. Allow kids to work for several minutes.

Choose a volunteer to push over the domino at the end of the line so that a chain reaction occurs—one domino knocks over the next, which knocks over the next, and so forth. Kids may reset or rearrange the dominoes and play again as time allows.

- Awesome! That's what we call a *chain reaction*: when one event causes a bunch of other things to happen. In today's Bible story, **Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission**. He told them to make disciples—to tell others about Jesus and teach them to obey His commands.

The disciples obeyed the Great Commission, and when those who heard believed, they told others. Everyone who follows Jesus is His disciple. The gospel is still spreading today because of the faithfulness and obedience of Jesus' disciples!

Clear Instructions Needed

Distribute paper and instruct kids to list the steps needed to make a sandwich. Call on a volunteer to give you the steps he wrote. Follow them word-for-word, only following the instructions given.

For example, do not put the bread on the plate unless the instructions specify to do so. Only unwrap the cheese or meat if instructed. If the instructions say to put the mayonnaise or ketchup on the bread, pick up the whole bottle or jar and put it on the bread. Make it obvious anywhere the instructions were not specific.

- Most of us have made a sandwich before, so we should have understood the instructions. But how important is it to have specific instructions if you are doing something for the first time? Jesus knew His disciples would need special instructions for the task ahead of them. Let's learn today what Jesus told them to do.

(non-food option: use a simple lego build instructions and legos. Do the above method of having a volunteer give you the steps)



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



