

3-6 | April 19

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 (NirV)*

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Inflated latex-free or mylar balloon

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Toss the balloon into the air.
- Tell the kids the goal is to keep the balloon off the ground like in the game, "Keepy Uppy."
- They can use their hands, heads, or elbows to tap it up.
- Challenge them to see how long they can keep it in the air.
- Count the taps together!

What You Say:

"You did a great job keeping that balloon up! It stayed right there with us in the circle. Today, we're going to learn that even though Jesus went up to heaven, He promised to still be with us, just like that balloon stayed with us. Let's go hear the story!"

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Megaphone Makers

What You Need:

- Bible
- Paper cups with handles (one per child)
- Colorful tape
- Stickers
- Washable markers

What You Do:

- Before the activity, cut the bottom out of each cup to create a hole so it looks like a megaphone.
- Read Matthew 28:16–20 and Acts 1:4–11 out loud to the group. Explain that they are two separate, but important, events!
- Give each child a cup.
- Set out markers, stickers, and colorful tape.
- Invite children to decorate their megaphones however they like.
- Ask, “What was the special job Jesus gave His friends?” (to tell everyone about Him!)
- Ask, “What is the message we are supposed to share?” (Jesus is alive, and Jesus loves you!)
- When finished, show the children how to gently hold their megaphone up to their mouth and pretend to announce good news.
- Encourage them to say together through their megaphones: “Jesus is alive!” and “Jesus loves you!”

What You Say:

“Wow! Look at all your megaphones! A megaphone helps people hear a message loud and clear. Jesus told His friends to go into all the world and tell people everywhere about Him. That’s a really big job! But He promised them something special — that He would be with them always through His Holy Spirit.

Guess what? Jesus wants YOU to tell everyone, everywhere about Him too! When you use your megaphone today, remember you can share the best news ever — Jesus is alive and He loves everyone! And you are never alone because Jesus is always with you through His Holy Spirit.

[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.”

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- Bible
- “Bible Story Pictures” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20, and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Remind children that these are two separate, but very important events!
- Pair kids up and have them sit facing the same direction—one behind the other.
- Give the kid in the back a card from the “Bible Story Pictures” Activity Page. Tell them to study the picture quietly.
- Then instruct them to use their finger to “draw” the picture on their partner’s back, without saying what the picture is.
- Give examples like:
 - “Draw a tall shape with a point at the top.”
 - “Make a circle, then draw smaller circles inside it.”
- The front partner tries to guess what part of the Bible Story the drawing represents.
- After a minute, let them turn around, compare the card with what they guessed, and explain what that picture represents in the story.
- Then have partners switch roles and repeat with a new picture.

What You Say:

“Great job reviewing the Bible Story with pictures! Jesus gave us all a very important job to do! We are to go into all the world to share the message of Jesus! That’s an epic job! You worked very hard to decipher what your partner was drawing on your back. The disciples couldn’t see Jesus anymore after He went to heaven, but they still trusted His promise—that He would always be with them. Even though we can’t see Him with our eyes, Jesus is guiding us every day through His Word and His Spirit. He will help us to know what to say or do when we are sharing God’s great love with others! **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.**”

4. Pray

“God, thank You that You are with us at school, at home, and everywhere we go. Please help us follow Jesus and share with everyone the truth about You and Your great love. When we do this, we can help people see how good and true and beautiful Jesus is, so they want to follow Him too. Thank You for giving us joy and being with us as we tell others about You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”