



TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADES 5-6
YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School



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*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)



Project Coordinators: Owen Dorn, Raymond Schumacher
Editorial Team: Debera Fellers, Lynn Groth, Emily Kratz, Jane Mose,
Raymond Schumacher, Jennifer Werre
Art Director: Karen Knutson
Design Team: Pamela Dunn, Scott Meyer, Sarah Oberhofer, Lynda Williams
Illustrators (line art): Dan Grossmann, Nan Pollard

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Jesus' Ascension

Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12

Looking Back at Lesson 12

Jesus' Burial and Resurrection

Mt 27:51-60; Mk 15:42-45; 16:1-3,6-8; Lk 23:47-52,55,56; 24:2-8; Jn 19:31-42

Aim: What did the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection prove?

Truth: The events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection proved that he is God's Son and the Savior.

Application: Because Jesus is God's Son and our Savior, our redemption is sure.

Response: We praise and worship the Savior for redeeming us.

Lesson Summary: Three miraculous signs accompanied Jesus' death: the tearing of the temple curtain, an earthquake, and the resurrection of dead believers. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea hurriedly buried Jesus' body. Early Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb and entered it because the stone already had been rolled away. Inside the tomb an angel announced that Jesus was not there: he had risen.

Memory Treasures: John 11:25,26a; Romans 8:1;
*The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed



How did Jesus guide and bless his disciples as he left the earth?



Jesus told his disciples to continue his work and promised to send the Holy Spirit to them.

Application: Our ascended Lord guides and blesses us as we continue his work.

Response: We recognize that we are part of Christ's church and eagerly continue his work.

Lesson Summary: During the 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times and talked about the kingdom of God. He also promised they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses. As the disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven, two angels appeared with the message that Jesus would come again.



- * **Matthew 28:19,20**
- 1 John 2:1b,2**
- * **The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed**
- Hymn 173:1**



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 1067-1087; The People's Bible: Wicke, *Mark*, pages 240 and 241; Prange, *Luke*, pages 265 and 266; Balge, *Acts*, pages 8-16.



Lord, enable me to teach the truths of your ascension to the students. Give them joy and comfort in knowing that you continually guide and bless your church as it spreads your gospel message. Amen.



WORSHIP

Sing: Sing “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” (hymn 173:1) to proclaim that our faith is founded on our ascended Savior.

Pray: Dearest Jesus, today as we study your ascension, open our hearts to understand your great love and the blessings you have given to your church here on earth. May we always be your witnesses here on earth and spread your gospel message. Amen.



Perhaps there are people you love who live far away. If they come to visit you, there will be a time when they say,

“It’s time to leave.”

When they leave, what are some things they might say or do as they say good-bye? *[Give hugs and kisses; tell us they will miss us and love us; say they enjoyed their visit; promise they will come again soon; cry or wave as they leave.]*

Explain that Jesus had lived his life on earth and had fulfilled what he was sent to do—to live, suffer, and die for the sins of all people. His resurrection gave the assurance that his work was complete and pleased God the Father. Today we will learn about when Jesus left this earth. As he was about to leave, he had some very important things to tell his believers who would remain here on earth.



Let’s answer the question, **How did Jesus guide and bless his disciples as he left the earth?**

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Sing “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (hymn 171:1,4,6) to praise our ascended Lord.

Pray: Dear Lord, you deserve all glory and honor. As we study your ascension today, increase our desire to praise you. Amen.



Have the students open their Bibles to Ecclesiastes chapter 3 and name some of the activities that the Bible says there are times for. *[Times to be born, die, plant, etc.]*

Explain that Jesus also had a time schedule. At a certain *time* in history, Jesus was born on earth, lived a holy life, taught God’s Word, and did miracles. Then came the *time* for him to suffer and die for the sins of all people. As prophesied, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. After 40 days, it was *time* for Jesus to leave earth and return to heaven.



Today as we study Jesus’ ascension into heaven, let’s answer this question: **How did Jesus guide and bless his disciples as he left the earth?**



Give the explanation before **God's Word 1**, item 1.

1. Have the students find in verse 3 three reasons why Jesus remained on earth for 40 days after his resurrection. [To appear to his followers; to give convincing proofs he was alive; to speak about the kingdom of God.]
2. Why were Jesus' disciples to remain in Jerusalem? [To wait for the gift God the Father promised to them.]
3. Ask the students to identify Jesus' promise from verse 5 and what the promise meant from verse 8a. [Verse 5: The disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Verse 8a: They would receive power when the Holy Spirit would come to them.]



Visible and Invisible

Show two **photographs**: one of your church building and one of a group of its members. Ask, "Which of these pictures shows a church?" [The students will probably indicate the building photograph.] Explain that both photographs show churches. The building is a *visible* church—one we can see with our eyes. The people are part of the *invisible* church—all people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Ask why we call this church *invisible*. [Because we can't tell just by



Acts 1:1-5

Explain: Luke is the inspired writer of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Both were written to a man named Theophilus. The

book of Acts tells about what happened after Jesus' ascension into heaven. As we study the events recorded in Acts, we will see that it was written for our benefit also.

1. Imagine you are one of Jesus' followers. Fill in the blanks with something you might have said.

"When we first heard that Jesus had [risen] from the dead, it seemed unbelievable. But then for [40] days Jesus [appeared] many times to various believers. We [saw] him with our own eyes. He gave us [many] convincing [proofs] that he was alive. Jesus also [spoke/taught] many wonderful truths about God's [kingdom]."

2. Jesus wanted his disciples to remain in Jerusalem. Verse 5 tells for how long and what was promised.

For how long? [Not too many days.]

Promised? [To be baptized with the Holy Spirit.]

3. What did Jesus mean when he said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit? (See verse 8a.) [They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came to them.]



KEY POINT What promise did Jesus give his disciples?

Jesus promised to send the [Holy] [Spirit] to them.



Sketch the Truth

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to us as well.

Read each of the three passages below. Then complete the sentence by sketching pictures in the boxes, using the picture key at the bottom as a guide.

2 Thessalonians 2:13b,14a

1 Corinthians 12:13a

Ephesians 5:23b

The works through and to make us members
of one , which is the Christian .



[Pictures for boxes: Holy Spirit; Baptism, God's Word (may be switched); body; church.]

WORD

Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:6-12

4. Jesus promised the disciples that the power of the Holy Spirit would enable them to witness.

- The verb *witness* means “to tell about something one has seen or knows.” About what would Jesus’ disciples tell? [About Jesus and what they had heard and seen concerning him.]
- The noun *witness* means “someone who saw an event.” To what areas would these witnesses go? [Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and all parts of the earth.]

5. What kind of kingdom would Jesus use his disciples to expand here on earth? Put a check mark before each correct answer.

- a. His spiritual kingdom
- b. A kingdom of only Jews
- c. A powerful earthly kingdom
- d. God’s kingdom of believers

6. Jesus ascended to the “right hand of God.” That phrase pictures Jesus’ almighty power to rule over all things. Why is it comforting to know Jesus is at the right hand of God? [Because it proves that what he did to save sinners was acceptable payment for all sins, and because Jesus can and will use his power for our good and the good of his church.]

looking at people whether or not they have faith in Jesus.] Ask to which church the Holy Spirit gives us membership. [The invisible church, because the Holy Spirit gives us faith. People could ask to be members of a visible church without actually having faith in Jesus.]



4,5. Have the students complete **God’s Word 2**, items 4 and 5.

6. Tell students to raise their right arm, bend arm upward at the elbow, clench their right fist, and flex their biceps. Ask what that action symbolizes. [Strength.] Then have them answer aloud the question in **God’s Word 2**, item 6.

7. Ask, "What were the disciples' reactions to Jesus' ascension?"

[They worshiped Jesus, joyfully obeyed (returned to Jerusalem), went to the temple, praised God, and preached everywhere.]



I Want to Tell

Explain that as God blesses our sharing the good news of salvation, others become believers and God's church on earth grows. Read together Acts 4:20. Say, "Peter spoke these words only a short time after Jesus' ascension. We have not seen Jesus in person or heard his voice. Yet how does Acts 4:20 apply to us also?" *[Through God's Word we "see" and "hear" what Jesus' disciples saw and heard. We too believe and eagerly tell God's good news to others. God blesses the telling of his Word and his church of believers expands.]*

7. Mark each of these statements true (T) or false (F):

- [T] The disciples worshiped Jesus because they believed he is true God.
- [F] Jesus' disciples stayed on the mountain for three days.
- [F] Jesus' followers were sad as they returned to Jerusalem.
- [T] The disciples continued Jesus' work by preaching about him everywhere.

KEY POINT What did Jesus tell his disciples to do after his ascension?

Jesus told his disciples to continue his **[work]**.

WORD TODAY Do the Math

No one can become a believer unless he or she hears God's Word. That is why it is important for us believers to tell others about God and his Word. God has promised that as his Word is spread, he will expand his church of believers. Therefore we eagerly tell others the good news about Jesus.

Do the math progression below to show how God's Word can be spread from you to others.

If I tell 2 people about Jesus = 2 more people hearing God's Word.

Then if those 2 people each tell 2 others = **[4]** new people hearing God's Word.

Then those **[4]** people each tell 2 people about Jesus = **[8]** new people hearing the Word.

Those **[8]** people each tell 2 people the Good News = **[16]** new people hearing.

Those **[16]** people each tell another 2 about God's Word = **[32]** new people hearing.

Each of the **[32]** people tells 2 more about Jesus = **[64]** new people hearing.

And those **[64]** people each tell 2 people = **[128]** more people hearing about God's saving Word.

Altogether **[254]** more people would hear God's Word.

Spread the Word eagerly!

Aim: How did Jesus guide and bless his disciples as he left the earth?

Truth: Jesus told his disciples to continue his [work] and promised to send the [Holy] [Spirit] to them.

Application: Our ascended Lord guides and [blesses] us as we continue his work.

Response: We recognize that we are part of Christ's [church] and eagerly [continue] his work.



at Home

Read Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 and the Matthew 28:19,20 memory treasure. Then with your parents finish these sentences.

As a disciple of Jesus, I am eager to tell _____.

Although I cannot go to foreign countries now, I can _____.

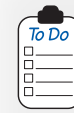
Student's initials: _____ Parent's initials: _____



Ask, "When a stone is dropped into a body of water, what does it produce?" [Ripples; circles going out from the center.] Draw an illustration on the board.

Explain that as disciples of Jesus, we are like the stone. (*Write "me" in the center.*) Whenever we tell others about Jesus and they believe in him, they will tell others. Then they too will tell others and so on. (*Draw arrows outward from the circle's center.*) "We eagerly continue Jesus' work because the Holy Spirit expands the church on earth as others hear God's Word."

Pray: Ascended Lord, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us eagerly tell others about you, their Savior. We praise you for blessing your church and causing it to grow here on earth. Amen.



Look at the Matthew 28:19,20 memory treasure with your parents. Together write what that passage means to you. As you write, consider what it is to be a disciple and what Jesus says disciples will do. Also comment on the last line of the passage.



Draw a very large church shape on the board. Ask, "Which of you belong to Jesus' invisible church because you have faith in him?" As the students hold up their hands, have each come up and write his or her name inside the church shape. Ask whether Jesus' church has room for more people. [Definitely yes!] Explain that Jesus will never say his church is too full. That's why he sends the Holy Spirit to us and gives us a faith that leads us to tell others about their Savior.

Pray: Dearest Jesus, thank you for ascending into heaven. Give us joy and comfort in knowing that you rule over all things for the good of your church and that you are with us always. Amen.



Memory Treasure Choices

★ **Matthew 28:19,20**

on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

1 **John 2:1b,2**

Hymn 173:1

For hymn texts, use the hymnal or the electronic memory treasure files for your grade level.

★ **The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed**

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church

Memory Treasures Exercises

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed explains that Jesus has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit too. Circle the phrases that tell what the Holy Spirit has done, still does, and will do for *all believers* (God's church on earth).

[Circle: "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith"; "daily and fully forgives all sins . . . all believers"; "will raise . . . all the dead and give eternal life to . . . all believers in Christ."]

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Hidden in the Clouds

Purpose: Students will review the facts of the lesson as they complete the puzzle.

Procedure: Have each student complete **Copy Master 1**. The answers are as follows:

[Part One:

1. Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days.
2. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give the disciples power.
4. Jesus rose up into heaven.
5. A cloud hid Jesus from sight.
6. Angels told the disciples that Jesus would come back someday.

Part Two: Answers will vary. Examples: Tell others about Jesus, pray for missionaries, help at vacation Bible school.]

Your Choice

Purpose: Each student will select an activity to express what he or she learned from this Bible lesson.

Procedure: Have each student select one of these ways to review today's Bible lesson.

- Draw a picture of a scene.
- Make a poster of words, symbols, and/or graphics.
- Create a ten-question quiz (with answer key) about the lesson.
- Write a poem.
- Compose lyrics about this lesson to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me" (four lines of seven syllables each).

2. Application

Go and Tell

Purpose: Students will analyze how one of today's memory treasures is related to today's lesson and express the importance of telling others about Jesus.

Procedure: Have each student complete **Copy Master 2**. The answers are as follows:

[Part One: 1. Go; make disciples. 2. All nations.

3. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.

Part Two: Wordings will vary. Example: tell others about the Savior and God's Word so that they too may believe.]

Get the Word Out!

Purpose: Students will create a television commercial to share the good news about Jesus.

Procedure: Have the students prepare and record on video a television commercial (or an online video) about Jesus. Questions they should consider as they write the script:

- Should our commercial be directed to kids or adults?
- How can we get the attention of our audience members so that they want to watch our commercial?
- What kind of backdrop, scenery, or props should we use?
- What should we say?
- What should we encourage the viewers to do (come to our church, attend vacation Bible school, read a certain Bible passage, call for a free packet of information, etc.)?

Note: Radio commercials (audio only), newspaper ads, or poster ads are less time-consuming alternatives to the TV commercial.

3. Music

There Is a Redeemer

Purpose: Students will learn a hymn that reminds us that the Holy Spirit is with us so that we can continue Jesus' work on earth.

Procedure: Teach the students to sing “There Is a Redeemer” (*Christian Worship: Supplement*, Northwestern Publishing House). *Optional:* Have half the class sing the alto line for the refrain.

4. Art

Puzzles

Purpose: Students will make puzzles depicting the lesson.

Procedure: Have each student follow these directions:

- Draw and color a picture of Jesus ascending into heaven. Make the picture fill most of the page, and color every part of the paper.
- Glue your picture onto a piece of cardboard exactly the same size as the paper. Use a glue stick to cover every inch of the paper with glue. (*Option:* Laminate the pictures.)
- Use scissors to cut the picture apart to make a puzzle. (*Option:* Lines may first be drawn on the back side to indicate where to cut.)

Keep the puzzles in separate boxes. Exchange them and race to put them together—or let the lower-grade classes use them when they study the ascension lesson.