



TEACHER'S GUIDE

PREKINDERGARTEN-KINDERGARTEN
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)



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Jesus' Ascension

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Looking Back at Lesson 12

The Empty Tomb

Matthew 27:57–28:8; Mark 15:42–16:8; Luke 23:50–24:8; John 19:31-42

Aim: What good news did an angel tell some women early Easter morning?

Truth: An angel told the women the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Application: Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.

Response: We trust Jesus' promise to give us life in heaven.

Lesson Summary: On Good Friday, Jesus died for the sins of all people. Later that day, Joseph and Nicodemus asked Pilate for Jesus' body so they could bury it. That same day, to please Jesus' enemies, Pilate sent soldiers to guard the grave. On Easter morning, some women came to the grave and heard an angel's good news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Memory Treasure: John 11:25



What did Jesus do 40 days after Easter?



Jesus ascended into heaven.

Application: Jesus promises that he is always with us.

Response: We rejoice in knowing that Jesus is always with us.

Lesson Summary: During the 40 days after Easter, Jesus spent time with his disciples and showed them that he was alive. He taught them to witness about all the things they had seen and heard. He assured them he would always be with them. Finally, Jesus ascended into heaven as his disciples stood watching. After two angels told them that someday Jesus would return, the disciples went to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit's coming.



Matthew 28:20

Note: The words of the memory treasure are *not* part of the ascension account. Jesus spoke them sometime *before* the ascension.



ascend—to go up



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 1067–1087; The People's Bible: Prange, *Luke*, pages 265 and 266; Balge, *Acts*, pages 8–15.



O Lord, help me trust that you are always with me, even though I cannot see you. Remind me that you are in control of all things. Help me teach my students that you are always watching over them and will take them to be with you in heaven. I pray in your dear name. Amen.



WORSHIP

Explain that we can trust Jesus to lead us and give (supply) us with what we need. Then sing “I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus” (hymn 446:4) for the children. If the children know stanza 1, first sing that stanza with them.

I am trusting you to guide me;
You alone shall lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying
All my need.



You need an empty tomb picture made from **Copy Master 3S** (at the beginning of the copy master set) and **student lesson pictures** of Jesus walking to Emmaus with the two disciples (Year 3, Spring, Lesson 3) and Jesus appearing to Thomas and the other disciples (Year 3, Spring, Lesson 5).

Show the picture indicated and ask the accompanying question.

Note: If your students are not familiar with some of the stories, explain each picture.

- Empty tomb: What did Jesus do early Easter morning? [*Rose from the dead.*]
- Emmaus disciples: What did Jesus do on the evening of the first Easter? [*Taught two disciples while walking to Emmaus.*]
- Thomas: What did Jesus do the week after Easter? [*Appeared to Thomas and the other disciples.*]



Jesus appeared to people on Easter Sunday and the days afterward to show he really was alive. Forty days went by. **In our Bible lesson, we will learn what Jesus did 40 days after Easter.**

Alternate Lesson Plan



Ask the children how they feel to know Jesus loves them.

[*Happy!*] Then sing

the refrain of Psalm 34 (hymnal, page 80).

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.



Open a calendar to Easter Sunday.

Mark the date of Easter Sunday, and ask what happened on the very first Easter. [*Jesus rose from the dead.*] Beginning at Easter, lead the children in counting to the 40th day after Easter. Mark that date.



Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter. (*Point to that date. Then point to*

day 40.) **Today we will learn what Jesus did 40 days after Easter.**

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Color and cut out pictures made from **Copy Master 1**. Attach each one to a

paper cloud. Show those clouds at appropriate times as you tell the story. *Variation:* Draw four clouds on the **board** and attach the pictures to them.



Place the following items in a large **box**: a **Bible**, a **cross**, a **globe**, and as

many **happy-face stickers** as you have students. Then do the following as you tell the story:

- Have the children count to 40 with you. *Suggestion:* Have four children each hold up ten fingers. Point to each finger as you and the class count to 40.
- Show the Bible. (Jesus teaching)
- Show the cross. (Jesus telling what he did)
- Explain that the disciples couldn't see God the Holy Spirit but that through God's Word, he enters hearts and strengthens faith in Jesus. Point to your heart and flex your arm muscles.
- Show the globe. (Believers going into the world)



Color an ascension picture made from **Copy Master 4S**. Cut out a **poster board** cloud the same shape as the one pictured. Glue **cotton** to the cutout. When telling about Jesus ascending, show the picture. When telling about a cloud covering Jesus, use the cottony cloud to cover Jesus on the picture.

After **Jesus** came **back to life** on the first **Easter** Sunday morning, he spent **40 more days on earth**. During that time, Jesus **showed himself** to his disciples **many times** so that they would **know he was alive**. The disciples were able to **see** Jesus, **touch** him, and **eat** with him. Jesus also **taught** his disciples **more of God's Word** and his **plan to save the world**. He told them that **God had sent him** to earth to **suffer** and **die** to **take away all people's sins**.

One time when Jesus met with his disciples, he **told them**, "**Wait** in the city of **Jerusalem**. You will receive a **special gift**. I will **send** you **God the Holy Spirit**." The Holy Spirit would **strengthen** the disciples' **faith**. He would make them **more ready to tell others** about Jesus, their **risen Savior**.

At the **end of the 40 days**, Jesus **met** with his disciples on a **hill** near the town of Bethany. There he told them, "**God the Holy Spirit** will **come** to you and **make you strong**. Then you **will go out into all the world** and **tell others** about me."

When Jesus had finished speaking, he **raised his hands** to **bless** his disciples. As he was doing this, something **very special** happened. Jesus **began moving up**, up, up into the sky. After a while a **cloud covered Jesus**, and the disciples could **no longer see him**. Jesus had gone **back to heaven**.

Suddenly **two angels** dressed in white **stood near** the disciples. The angels asked, "**Why** are you standing here, **looking up** into the sky? **Jesus** has **gone into heaven**, but **someday** he **will come back**, just as you have seen him go."

Then the **disciples** went **back to Jerusalem** with **great joy** in their hearts. They **waited** there for **God the Holy Spirit to come**, just as **Jesus had promised**. While they waited, they **spent much of their time** at the **temple, praising God**.



discuss

Use a **self-stick note** to mark your location on a **globe**. You need a **Bible**, a **flashlight**, and a **picture** of Jesus.

- Do** Call upon enough children to have eight hands each show five fingers to make 40. Count the fingers.
- Ask** Why did Jesus show himself to the disciples during the 40 days (*point to fingers*) after Easter? [*To show that he was alive again.*]
- Do** Show a Bible.
- Ask** What did Jesus teach the disciples during those days? [*God's Word; about God's plan to save the world.*]
- Say** Jesus told them that God had sent him to earth to suffer and die to take away all [*sins*]. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
- Do** Have the children flex their arm muscles.
- Ask** What would the Holy Spirit do for the disciples' faith? [*Strengthen it.*]
- Say** The Holy Spirit would also help the disciples be ready to tell others about Jesus, the risen Savior.
- Do** Have the children walk in place, pretending to be the disciples walking with Jesus.
- Say** While they were on a hill, Jesus told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to them.
- Do** Hold your hands as though you are blessing the class.
- Ask** What happened as Jesus was blessing his disciples? [*He rose into the sky, and a cloud covered him.*]
- Where did Jesus go? [*Back to heaven.*]
- Say** We can't see Jesus, but he promises that he is always with us.
- Do** Have the children say the memory treasure with you. Then show a globe.
- Say** This globe shows what our world looks like. We live here. (*Point to location.*) People live all over the world. (*Point to various locations.*)
- Do** Turn off the classroom lights. Turn on a flashlight.
- Say** Let's pretend this flashlight is the sun. When the sun shines on our part of the world (*shine the flashlight on the self-stick note*), we have daytime.

- Raise your hands as though blessing someone.
- Move one hand higher and higher (Jesus ascending). Then cover it with the other hand.
- Show two fingers to represent two angels.
- Give each child a sticker. (Happy disciples going to Jerusalem)



You need a set of **cloud pictures** made as directed in the first

option under **Learn (Alternate)**.

You will draw on the **board**.

Optional: Melody.

- Do** Show the cloud pictures while leading the following discussion:
- Show the Bible: What did Jesus teach his disciples during the time on earth after Easter? [*God's Word; more about God's plan to save the world.*] Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to strengthen his disciples' faith and help them tell others about him.
 - Show the ascension picture: Tell what this picture reminds you of. [*Jesus going back to heaven.*]
 - Show the angels: Tell what two angels said. [*Jesus has gone back to heaven and will return someday.*]
 - Show the disciples: Were the disciples happy or sad as they

went back to Jerusalem to wait for Jesus to send them the Holy Spirit? [Happy.]

Say You and I were not with the disciples. We haven't seen Jesus live, die, or go up to heaven. We cannot see Jesus, but we know he is always with us. He promises that he is always with us.

Do Say the memory treasure. Then have the children say the passage with you. Then draw a large clock face with numerals. Near the numeral 7, draw a shirt.

Ask Who is with us when we are at home getting ready for the day? [Jesus.]

Do Draw a piece of paper and some crayons next to the 10.

Say Jesus is with you when you are making a picture at school.

Do Continue a similar discussion for other times of the day, and add appropriate drawings next to other numerals. Possibilities include a car near the 3 (riding to the store with Mom) and a plate and glass near the 6 (eating dinner at home).

Ask Who is always with us, no matter what time it is (*point to clock numbers*) or where we are? (*Point to drawings.*) [Jesus.]

Say Show with your face how you feel to know that Jesus is always with you. [All will likely smile.] Let's sing a song about being happy that Jesus is always with us.

Ask But what does it look like on the other side of the world? [Dark.]

Say When we have daytime, the people on the other side of the world have night.

Do Have the children tell what they think will happen when the people on the other side of the world have daytime. [We have night.] Then rotate the globe and show what happens.

Ask Did our flashlight sun turn off when we had night? [No.]

Did it turn off when the other side of the world had night? [No.]

Say The sun is always shining somewhere, even when we cannot see it.

Do Show a picture of Jesus.

Say Jesus is far more powerful than the sun. (*Set flashlight off to side.*) He made the sun! Jesus is everywhere (*move hand all around the globe*) all the time. He is with us here (*point to self-stick note*) at the same time he is with someone there. (*Point to different location.*) He is with us during the day (*shine flashlight on note*), and he is with us during the night. (*Rotate note away from flashlight.*) Jesus is always with us.

Do Have the children say the memory treasure.

Ask Do we feel happy or sad to know that Jesus, our risen Savior, is always with us? [Happy.]

Say Let's use happy voices to say, "Jesus is always with us."

Do Lead the children in saying those words.

CLOSE

Show a **student lesson picture**.

Ask What did Jesus do 40 days after Easter? [*Jesus ascended; he went up to heaven.*]

Who promises that he is always with us? [*Jesus.*]

Do Have the children say the memory treasure. Then have the children name four times or places Jesus is with us. [*Various responses.*]

Ask How does it feel to know Jesus is with you all the time, no matter what you are doing or where you are? [*Great!*]

Do Teach the following rhyme and actions. Encourage the children to let their voices and their facial expressions show their joy in knowing that Jesus is always with them.

The sun always shines (*form a circle with arms*)
 Somewhere in the sky. (*move arm circle back and forth*)
 Jesus, God's Son, (*make cross with index fingers*)
 Is always close by. (*hug self*)



at Home

Parent Idea: As you do the first student lesson activity, give your child a facial tissue to use as a cloud and show what happened to Jesus as he ascended into heaven. Then sing the song about Jesus' ascension. We look forward to learning any actions that children made up to go with the song!



Matthew 28:20

Do Sing the following words to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Sing the first half of each line. Have the children sing the echo. *Optional:* Have Melody sing each first line.

I am happy! I am happy!

Yes, I am! Yes, I am!

Jesus is always, Jesus is always

With me, with me.



Say To *ascend* means to "go up."

Ask Who ascended into heaven 40 days after Easter? [*Jesus.*]

Say We do not see Jesus, but we know that he is always with us.

Do *Pray:*

Thank you, Jesus, for being
with me

When I sleep or eat or play,

When I work or draw or sing,

When it's night or when it's day.

Amen.



Parent Idea: On the attached paper cloud, write examples family members name while doing the second student lesson activity. Children may bring the clouds to our next class so we can use some of the examples in a class prayer.

Note: See **Activity 2** (Responsive Prayer) under **Lesson Activities**.

OPTIONAL

mid-
week
Lesson

- Use **Activity 3** (The Lord Is With Me) under **Lesson Activities** to begin.
 - Use **Activity 1** (Drawing Questions) under **Lesson Activities** to review the Bible story.
- Lead the children in saying Jesus' promise by reciting the memory treasure. Make a big book about that wonderful promise. First the teacher makes a cover from a 12" x 18" sheet of **construction paper**. Add a **picture** of Jesus and the disciples and the words "Jesus Is Always With Us." Then give each child an 11" x 17" sheet of **white paper**. Have each child name a person and name a place where Jesus is. (Examples: with Katie at the beach, with Amy's grandma in Florida, with Mike's mom at work.) Record each child's example on the paper, and have him or her illustrate what the words say. Add another 12" x 18" sheet of construction paper for the back cover. Bind all the pages into a book.

Read the book several times, and then leave it out for the children to use. Give them turns to take the book home to read with their families.

- *Pray:* Dear Jesus, thank you for taking away our sins. Thank you for promising that you will always be with us. We are happy to know that you are with us wherever we are! We pray in your dear name. Amen.
- Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Drawing Questions

Purpose: To use drawings to review the story.

Procedure: Write "40" on the board. Have a child tell whom Jesus spent time with during the 40 days after Easter. [Disciples.] Have a child draw a Bible, and then call on another child to answer this question: What did Jesus teach his disciples during the 40 days after Easter? [More of God's Word.] Then continue in the same manner with

the following pictures and questions. One child draws and then calls on another to answer the question read by the teacher.

- Hill: Who went with Jesus to a hill? [Disciples.]
- Jesus in the sky above a hill: What happened as Jesus blessed his disciples? [He ascended.]
- Erase Jesus; draw a cloud: What did a cloud do as Jesus ascended? [Covered him.]
- Two angels: What did two angels tell the disciples? [Jesus will someday come back to earth.]

Story Song

Purpose: To sing a song about the story.

Procedure: Sing the following words to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

One day Jesus told his friends,
Told his friends, told his friends:
“I’ll be with you all the time,
So put your trust in me.”

Later he went back to heav’n,
Back to heav’n, back to heav’n.
There he makes a place for us
So we can live with him.

2. Application

Responsive Prayer

Purpose: To say a prayer that thanks Jesus for his constant presence.

Procedure: Review Jesus’ promise to be with us always. Then have the children give examples of times and places Jesus is with us. Draw a picture of each example on the board. Point to the pictures as you say a litany such as the one that follows. Practice the children’s response before beginning.

Teacher: Jesus is with us *at school*.

Children: Thank you, Jesus!

T: Jesus is with us *when we are scared*.

C: Thank you, Jesus!

(Repeat pattern until all examples have been used. Then continue.)

T: Jesus is always with us.

C: Thank you, Jesus!

T: Amen.

Jesus Is Everywhere

Purpose: To act out situations in which Jesus is with us.

Procedure: Remind the children that Jesus is with them wherever they are. Then have a child act out

the following scenario, and ask the other children where Carly is and who is with her there.

Carly sat on her balloon. It would not break. Other balloons were breaking all around her, “Bang! Bang! Zip!” Then Carly bounced one more time. “Bang!” Finally her balloon popped. *[At a party; God is with us at parties.]*

Then have children act out other scenarios (a terrible storm, a dance or piano recital, riding in an airplane), and have other students guess what is happening. Remind the children that Jesus is with them at all times.

3. Music

The Lord Is With Me

Purpose: To sing about the Lord being with us.

Procedure: Sing the following words to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.”

God is with me every day
When I work and when I play.
He will do what’s best for me.
I will follow happily.

The Lord is with me. *(point up; point to self)*
The Lord is with me. *(point up; point to self)*
The Lord is with me. *(point up; point to self)*
The Bible tells me so. *(make open book with hands)*

Other Songs

Purpose: To sing other songs related to the lesson.

Procedure: Teach either or both of the following songs:

- “I’m With You” from **Copy Master 2**. It is a reminder of Jesus’ promise to always be with us.
- “I Can’t See Jesus” from **Copy Masters 3.1** and **3.2**. This song reminds the children to live for Jesus and serve him even though they cannot see or touch him.

4. Art

Story Picture

Purpose: To illustrate part of the story.

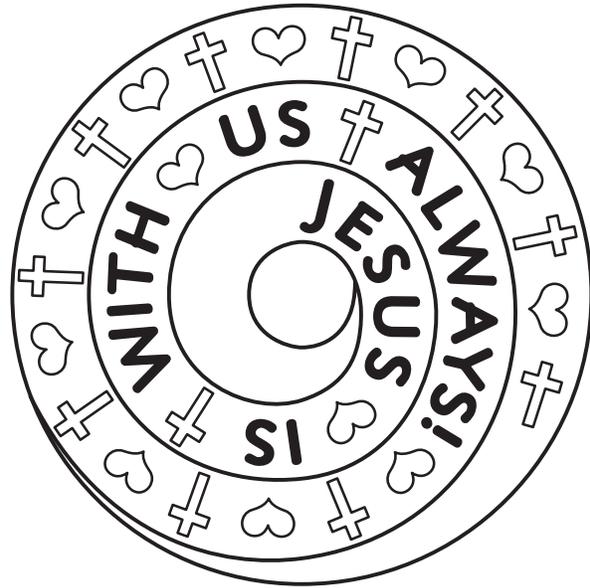
Procedure: Before class, duplicate **Copy Master 4** and prepare a 9" x 12" sheet of light blue paper for each child. Hold each sheet with the shorter side going horizontally, and make two 3/4-inch slits as follows: one slit is approximately 3 inches from the top of the page, and the other is approximately 4 inches from the bottom. The slits should be one above the other, at equal distances from the right and left sides. Demonstrate and then have the children:

- Color a green hill at the bottom.
- Color the picture of Jesus. Cut out the Jesus strip and the cloud.
- Glue the cloud to the paper, right above the top slit. *Suggestion:* Add cotton.
- Draw the disciples on the hill.
- Insert the strip through the slits so that Jesus shows. Move the strip up through the top slit to make Jesus ascend.

Spiral Message

Purpose: To make a reminder of Jesus' promise to be with us always.

Procedure: For each child, draw a spiral on a paper plate or on a craft foam circle of similar size, and write the message (see the diagram). Have the children decorate the spirals (draw hearts and crosses between the lines or provide heart and cross stickers to attach). Then have the children cut on the lines of the spiral. The spiral will fall to form a corkscrew. Punch a hole near the top of each spiral and add yarn for hanging. Encourage the children to hang these spirals in their homes as reminders that Jesus is always with them.



5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

Purpose: To move to a rhyme about Jesus always being with us.

Procedure: Say the following rhyme in rhythm as you and the children perform exercises such as the following: bending, jumping, arm circling, clapping, stamping, running in place.

When I'm 5 and when I'm 10,
Jesus will be with me then.
When I'm 20 or 83,
Jesus will be there with me.
However old I get to be,
He'll be there; he promised me.

Action Rhyme

Purpose: To use words and actions to reinforce the truth that Jesus is always with us.

Procedure: Say these words and have the children do the actions with you:

When I wake up in the morning,
(stretch)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

When I'm in my car or school bus,
(pretend to drive)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

When I'm busy at my school,
(pretend to write)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

When I'm playing on the playground,
(run in place or pretend to bounce a ball)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

When I'm at home with my family,
(hug self)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

When I go to bed at night,
(pretend to sleep)

Jesus is with me.
(point to self)

Cloud Book

Purpose: To make a book about clouds and Jesus' ascension.

Procedure: Make a book that follows the style of *It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles Shaw (New York: HarperCollins Publishers). Make one to show the children, or help them make their own. Follow these steps:

- Enlarge, copy, and cut out five cloud formations made from **Copy Master 5** and a set of word strips made from **Copy Master 6**.

- From dark blue paper cut six pages sized to accommodate one cloud formation and its matching word strip.
- Glue each cloud formation and its matching word strip to a separate page, leaving one page empty.
- At the center of the empty sixth page, attach a sticker of Jesus. Cut out a paper cloud, and glue only the top of the cloud to the page so that when you flip up the cloud, Jesus shows. Attach the appropriate set of words.

My Whole Life

Purpose: To play a game about Jesus' constant presence throughout our lives.

Procedure: Color a game board made from **Copy Master 7**. Attach it to the inside of a file folder or to poster board. Show the children how to make and play the game. Read the message under the picture of Jesus, and explain that the other pictures show the life of a boy (birth to old age; remind the children that not all people live to old age). Have the children make their own game boards and play the game in groups of two to four.

Use buttons for game pieces. Players take turns rolling a die and moving that many spaces.

- When landing on a happy face: name a happy time Jesus is with us.
- When landing on a sad face: name a sad time Jesus is with us.
- Do nothing for plain spaces.

Jesus is even with us when we die and will take us to heaven!