



Ascending into Heaven

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus is now in heaven, blessing us and working with us to build His kingdom.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: Jesus as Lord

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19-20

What He has done: Jesus blessed His disciples and ascended into heaven.

Key Verse: Luke 24:51

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Numbers 6:23-27

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever." "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." Revelation 5:13b; 19:6b

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Banishing An Evil Spirit, Luke 4:31-37	Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out.	To know Jesus is the highest authority and power.
12	Raising Lazarus, John 11:3-6, 14-15, 21-27, 32-36, 40-45	Jesus called Lazarus from out of the tomb.	To understand why Jesus raised Lazarus; to know He will one day resurrect all who believe in Him.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Luke 19:28-42	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	To see when Jesus is the Lord of our lives, we can trust Him and give to Him whatever He asks of us.
14	The Miracle of Easter, Matthew 27:50-51, 54-66; 28:1-9; John 20:5-7	Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.	To understand the Easter miracles and acknowledge the eyewitnesses.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-12	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To expect and recognize Jesus' presence and activity in our daily lives.
16	Ascending into Heaven, Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19-20	Jesus blessed His disciples and ascended into heaven.	To know Jesus is now in heaven blessing us and working with us to build His kingdom.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 5:1-14. Please join us in praying, "Lord Jesus, affirm in the children's hearts that You are indeed on Your throne now in heaven, hearing their prayers, and watching over them. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Balloon Push	Large garbage bag of inflated balloons for each team (balloons should not be helium filled), empty garbage bag for each team
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "Neither Death nor Life" "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 16 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19-20	Map—Bethany (near Jerusalem, Israel), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Numbers 6:23-27	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Piece of cloud (cotton or fiber pillow stuffing), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "To Him Who Sits On The Throne," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Clouds of Heaven	Cotton candy or any fluffy snack
	Up to 10	Game: Rising Balloons	Helium-filled balloons with string attached, bold felt-tip permanent markers, cotton balls, glue sticks
	Up to 10	Craft: The Lord's Blessing Plaque	Sturdy standard-size colored and white paper, gold glitter or glitter glue, yarn, assorted craft decorations (cotton balls, craft jewels, stickers, dried pasta, etc.), crayons or markers, glue
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: "Sit on the Throne" Musical Chairs	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," CD player, chairs, large red cloth or sheet
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Bible Memory Verse Bop	Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What will the best thing about heaven be for you?

GAME: BALLOON PUSH

Purpose: Help the children imagine Jesus being taken up into heaven.

Supplies: Large garbage bag of inflated balloons for each team (balloons should not be helium filled), empty garbage bag for each team

Welcome! I am so glad you came to worship God today! Today we will discover how Jesus was taken up into heaven! As we begin to think about that, let's play a game with balloons. We will form teams and each team will have to move its balloons from the starting line to the finish line. As you move each balloon in the air, try to imagine what it was like for Jesus' followers to see Him rise into the air.

Directions:

1. Form teams of 4 or 5 players and have each team line up behind a starting line. Place an empty bag for each team on the finish line. Give a bag of balloons to each team to place behind the starting line.
2. On your signal, the players on each team pick up a balloon (1 per team member) and move it through the air to the finish line. They may not carry the balloons, but they can move them by blowing on them or batting at them with their hands or heads.
3. When a player reaches the finish line with a balloon, he or she is to place it in the team's bag. If a balloon hits the ground, it must be returned to the start line and the player may start again to move it toward the finish line.
4. The goal is to be the first team to have all of its balloons in their finish line bag.



Jesus as Lord

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



You may choose to sing songs that focus on praising Jesus in heaven.

Today, we worship Jesus as our Lord who was lifted up into heaven. He still lives there today. Right after Jesus was lifted up into heaven, the disciples went together to the temple to praise God with great joy. In the same way, we are going to praise Him together now with our songs and offerings. Sing favorite praise songs while collecting offering.



Jesus still lives in heaven today. He will watch over us from there until the day He returns. As we listen to the Bible's description of His return, close your eyes and imagine what we will see on that day. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.



From that day forward, all believers will live together in heaven and worship Jesus as Lord. The Bible says that in heaven everyone sings these words to the Lord Jesus. Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne."



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 16.



Jesus blessed the disciples and ascended into heaven

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

After Jesus rose from the dead, He stayed on earth for forty days. He appeared several times to His disciples, proving to them that He was alive and speaking to them about the kingdom of God. Jesus told them He would return to heaven and they must be His witnesses, telling everyone about Him.

Last time, we learned He appeared to the disciples who were fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Who remembers what Jesus did when He appeared on the shore? (He performed a miracle filling the net with 153 fish, and cooked breakfast for the disciples.) Today, we will discover what happened when Jesus then led His disciples to Bethany at the end of those forty days. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to Bethany, which is near Jerusalem, Israel.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19-20. **Let's see who can Find Luke 24:50-53 First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 24:51.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen carefully as we read what happened that day in Bethany. Read Luke 24:50-53. **Now, to find out what happened after Jesus was lifted up into heaven, let's read Mark 16:19-20.** Read Mark 16:19-20.



Jesus blesses us and works with us

THE WAY

After the risen Jesus appeared many times to His disciples, where did He lead them? (To Bethany.) **What did Jesus do for them just before He was taken up into heaven?** (He blessed them.) **How do you think His disciples felt as they received Jesus' blessing?** (Children respond.)

Why do you think it was important for the disciples to see with their own eyes where Jesus went? (Children respond.) **This moment showed them it was time for the followers to be His witnesses because He would not appear again on earth until His final return. Where does Jesus sit in heaven?** (At the right hand of God.) **Why do you think they chose the temple as the place to worship?** (Children respond.) **In Bible times, the temple was the place where God's people gathered to worship Him. Heaven will one day be our place of worship. What do you think will be the first thing we will all do together when we arrive?** (Worship Jesus.)

We still love to come together to praise the Lord and thank Him for His many blessings. How has the Lord blessed your life? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

What do you think Jesus said when He blessed the disciples that day? (Children respond.) **1,500 years before the Lord Jesus blessed His disciples, the Lord gave Moses a blessing for the Israelites. This blessing is for anyone who belongs to God.**



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Numbers 6:23-27. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Numbers 6:23-27.

Review these meanings:

The Lord "keeps you." (He watches over you to keep you safe.)

He "makes His face shine upon you." (He smiles upon you.)

He is "gracious to you." (He shows undeserved kindness.)

He "turns His face toward you and gives you peace." (He sees you, is pleased with you and gives you a peaceful heart.)

Which part of this blessing means the most to you? (Children respond.) **Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. In the same way, I would like to bless each one of you today.** Lift up your hands and repeat the following prayer for each child. For a large group of children, have children pray for each other, as you lead them in repeating the prayer.

"May the Lord bless you, child's name, and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you. Amen."

What did the disciples do after they spent time praising God? (They went out and preached everywhere.) **What did the Lord Jesus do as He watched over them from His seat in heaven?** (He worked with them and showed them certain signs to prove His words were true.) **It is comforting to know exactly where the Lord Jesus is. Today, Jesus continues to watch over us, bless us, and work with us to build His kingdom.**

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, _____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a cloud reminder. As you leave, pull off a small piece of cotton (or fiber pillow stuffing) as a reminder Jesus was lifted up through the clouds into heaven. He is there right now watching over us.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 16 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus being taken up through the clouds into heaven.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: CLOUDS OF HEAVEN

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Snack Suggestion: Cotton candy or any fluffy snack

Today, we are learning how Jesus was taken up into heaven. For our snack, let's enjoy some cotton candy. The fluffy cotton candy can remind us of the clouds of heaven. Just before He's taken up into heaven, Jesus blessed His followers. Let's ask Him to bless our cotton candy snack.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you could fly anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?"**

GAME: RISING BALLOONS

Purpose: For children to remember that Jesus was taken up into heaven.

Supplies: Helium-filled balloons with string attached (1 per child), bold felt-tip permanent markers, cotton balls, glue sticks

Prepare: Fill balloons with helium, and attach string (1 balloon per child.)

Imagine what it looked like to see the Lord Jesus taken up into heaven. We can look forward to His return when we will see Him coming in the cloud. He will lift us up and take us up into heaven to be with Him forever. Let's decorate balloons to show this story to our family and friends.

Directions:

1. Give each child a balloon. On their balloons, children use a permanent marker to draw a picture of Jesus being taken up into heaven.
2. Demonstrate how to pull apart cotton balls and use the glue sticks to create and glue on clouds under Jesus' throne.

Option 1: If you have a low ceiling and long enough strings attached to the balloons, gather the children together and let them release the balloons together. Ask them to pretend they are watching Jesus being taken up into heaven. Then ask them to pull the balloons back down and think of Jesus returning to take them up into heaven with Him.

Option 2: Take the balloons outside and let children release them into the sky, watching them as long as they can, just as the disciples watched Jesus go into the clouds.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: THE LORD'S BLESSING PLAQUE

Purpose: Children will make a plaque to remember that the Lord blesses us.

Supplies: Sturdy standard-size colored and white paper, gold glitter or glitter glue, yarn, assorted craft decorations (cotton balls, craft jewels, stickers, dried pasta, etc.), crayons or markers, glue

Prepare: Cut a standard-size sheet of colored paper in half (about 6-inches x 9-inches). From sturdy white paper, cut a 4-inch x 6-inch rectangle. Punch a hole in each upper corner of the colored paper. Cut a 16-inch piece of yarn.

Option: Instead of a hanging plaque, glue magnets to the back of the colored paper for a "The Lord's Blessing" magnet.

Today, we heard the blessing the Lord gave to Moses for the people. Let's make a plaque to remind us of that blessing. Hang this plaque in your home. Each time you see it, thank God for His blessings and pray for the Lord's blessing on everyone you know.

Directions:

1. Print the following blessing across the lower third of the white paper:
**"May the LORD bless you and keep you;
may the LORD make His face shine upon you."
Numbers 6:24-25a**
2. Draw a sunrise above the blessing, with its rays reaching to the top edges of the paper.
3. Decorate the sun using gold glitter, glitter glue, crayons, or yellow markers.
4. Glue the colored paper to the back of white paper to look like a frame. Be sure the white card is centered, and the corner holes appear above the top of the white paper.
5. Decorate colored paper "frame" with cotton balls, or craft jewels, stickers, dried pasta, etc.
6. Thread the yarn through the upper corner holes and tie each end as a hanger for the plaque.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor
and glory and power for ever and ever.”

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.” Revelation 5:13b; 19:6b

GAME: “SIT ON THE THRONE” MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: Children will give examples of how we can give praise, honor, and glory to Jesus or an example of His power.

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song “To Him Who Sits on the Throne,” CD player, chairs, large red cloth or sheet

Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the book of Revelation. It tells us that the Lord God Almighty, who is seated on the throne in heaven, is the one who deserves all the praise, honor, glory, and power. Let’s play a version of musical chairs in which we share examples of Jesus’ power or ways we can give praise, honor, and glory to Him.

Directions:

1. Place chairs (one per child) back-to-back in a line.
2. Drape the red cloth over one chair to represent Jesus’ throne.
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse as the children walk in a line around the chairs.
4. Stop the music periodically.
5. When the music stops, each child sits in the nearest chair as quickly as possible.
6. The child sitting on the throne gives an example of a way to praise, honor, and glorify Jesus (sing, pray, tell others about Him, serve others, love others, etc.) or an example of His power (creating the earth, making the sun, calming the sea, miracles of healing, etc.).
7. Have all children stand and shout, **“Hallelujah, for the Lord God Almighty reigns!”**
8. Place the red cloth on a different chair and play again.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BOP

Purpose: Children will memorize the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated (non-helium) balloon, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Display Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Toss the balloon into the air reciting the first three words of the Bible Memory Verse.
4. Each child who “bops” the balloon must say the next three words of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Each round is complete when the Bible Memory Verse is completed.

Teacher Tip: Children may help each other remember the words so the balloon never falls.

Competitive Version: Form two teams in two separate circles. The first team to complete the Bible Memory Verse without the balloon touching the ground is the winning team.

Timed Version: Time each round. Challenge children to achieve a faster time each round.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

The Miracle of Easter (Circa 33 A.D.) The Easter story is filled with miracles. The two greatest miracles are Jesus paid for our sins, and God raised Him from the dead. What is your favorite part of the Easter story? (Children respond.)

Appearing on the Shore (Circa 33 A.D.) After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples who were fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Who remembers what Jesus did when He appeared on the shore? (He performed a miracle when he filled the net with 153 fish, and He cooked breakfast for the disciples.)

Ascending into Heaven (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What did Jesus do for His disciples in Bethany just before He was taken up to heaven? (He blessed them.) Afterwards, why did the disciples go to the temple? (To praise God.) Where is the Lord Jesus now? (In heaven.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven