



The King Ascends

Lesson Aim: To honor Jesus' final words and to look forward to His return.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Rose

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 1:8b-11

What He has done: Jesus ascended into heaven.

Key Verse: Acts 1:9

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Daniel 7:13-14

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.
And I will see God. I myself will see Him with my own eyes." Job 19:25, 27

Unit 4: The King Who Rose			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
18	Jesus is Risen, John 20:1-18	Jesus rose from the grave.	To know the Easter story and its significance.
19	The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-18, 27-31	Jesus explained who He is.	To recognize who Jesus is and what He has done.
20	Jesus Talks with Peter, John 21:15-17	Jesus asked Peter to care for His followers.	To be invited to receive Christ as Savior and challenged to care for believers.
21	The Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20, 22:37-39	Jesus sent His disciples to make disciples of all nations.	To learn effective ways to carry out the Great Commission.
22	The King Ascends, Acts 1:8b-11	Jesus ascended into heaven.	To honor Jesus' final words and to look forward to His return.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 47:1-9. Please join us in praying, "Jesus, we praise You as the King who rose to Your heavenly throne. Fill the children with the anticipation of Your return through the clouds. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Clouds Float Overhead	Two pillows (different colors), chair, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," CD player
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "Follow Me" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarhurst Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 47:5-7	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 22 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 1:8b-11	Map—Mount of Olives, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Daniel 7:13-14	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Mount of Olives photograph (© Robert B. Jones, rjones@computer.org , used with permission, available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Sweet Clouds	Marshmallows
	Up to 10	Game: Cloud Search	Cotton ball
	Up to 10	Craft: Sun Catcher Cross	Wax paper, sturdy white paper or cardboard, cotton balls, colored tissue paper, glue, hole punch, string or fishing line
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Corners of the Earth	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	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 is the highest place you've ever been?

GAME: CLOUDS FLOAT OVERHEAD

Purpose: Children will play a game to introduce the story of Jesus' ascension to His throne in heaven.

Supplies: Two pillows (in different colors), chair, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," CD player

Let's play a game where we pretend to be floating in the sky with the clouds. We will pass two fluffy clouds over our heads while our Bible Memory Verse Song is playing. If you are holding a cloud when the music stops, be ready to race to the throne!

Directions:

1. Children hold hands and move outward to form a large circle. Release hands and sit on the floor.
2. Place the chair in the center of the circle and tell the children it is the throne.
3. Give a pillow to a child on one side of the circle and a pillow to a child on the other side of the circle. Tell the children which color pillow is the Chaser's Cloud and which color pillow is the Runner's Cloud.
4. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song and tell the children to pass the clouds over their heads in a clockwise direction.
5. After the clouds have been passed around the circle at least once, stop the music.
6. The child holding the Runner's Cloud runs clockwise around the circle, through the place where they were originally sitting, enters the circle, and sits on the throne. The child with the Chaser's Cloud chases the Runner around the circle in the same direction. If the Chaser tags the Runner before the Runner enters the circle, the Chaser gets to sit on the throne and the Runner sits down in his or her original place.
7. Repeat steps 4-6. Note: Child sitting on the throne from the previous game should get up and stand behind the throne when the music stops. He or she returns to their spot in the circle when replaced by the Runner or Chaser.
8. Play as long as time allows.

Today, we will find out how Jesus went up through the clouds and into heaven. He is now on His throne in heaven.



Jesus as the King who rose

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 worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the King who rose. He rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Forty days later, Jesus rose up through the clouds when He was taken into heaven. He ascended to His throne in heaven. To ascend means to rise or be lifted up. Together, we give Him our offering and lift up our songs of praise. We lift up His name so everyone will hear! Ask an older child to read Psalm 47:5-7. Sing: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" as offering is collected.



Sing Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." You may also choose to sing songs about Jesus in heaven.



Perform Kingdom Adventures script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 4, Lesson 22.



Jesus rose up through the clouds

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.

Teacher Tip: Take the children outdoors or near a large window so they can gaze at the sky during the Scripture reading and discussion. Be sure to take Bibles with you.

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."

Last time, we learned Jesus appeared and told His disciples to go and make followers of all nations. We call that the Great Commission; our greatest mission from Jesus. Today, we will learn about their final meeting when Jesus spoke to them on the Mount of Olives. If a map is available, show the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. **Where did Jesus tell His followers to go?** (To all nations.) **What did Jesus tell His followers to do?** (Baptize new followers and teach others what Jesus had taught.)



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: Acts 1:8b-11. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Acts 1:9.**

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

Let's read in the Bible to find out what Jesus said and did. Read Acts 1:8b-11.



Jesus will come back through the clouds

THE WAY

Who did Jesus promise to send to His followers? (The Holy Spirit.) **When the Holy Spirit is with us, it is as if Jesus is with us, even though we cannot see Him.**

What is a witness? (Someone who tells others the truth about what they have seen.) **All who follow Jesus are His witnesses. As His witnesses, what true things about Jesus can you share with others?** (Children respond.) **Jesus told His followers to be witnesses in their city (Jerusalem), their region (Judea), the nearby region where people had a different faith (Samaria), and to the ends of the earth.** Reread Acts 1:8b aloud and replace the words Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria with your local town, region, and a region with people who are considered very different from your own.

Why do you think Jesus' followers kept staring up at the sky after He rose above the clouds? (They may have hoped He was coming right back down.) **How do you think they felt as they saw Jesus go up into the clouds?** (Sad, amazed, afraid, excited, etc.)

Who do you think the two men in bright white clothing were? (Possibly angels.) **Matthew and Luke describe angels as men who suddenly appeared in clothes as bright white as lightning. What did they say to Jesus' followers?** (Jesus would come back in the same way He went up.)

Our Bible Memory Verse speaks of the day when Jesus will return. Can anyone say it from memory? Volunteers recite Job 19:25, 27 from memory: "I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And I will see God. I myself will see Him with my own eyes."

As I play our Bible Memory Verse Song, either look at the sky or close your eyes and imagine what it will be like to see God with your own eyes on that day. Play Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song or recite it together as children imagine that day.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Have you ever looked into the clouds and wondered when Jesus will come back? (Children respond.) **Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God gave Daniel a vision of what it would look like when Jesus comes back. Daniel called Jesus "the Son of Man." Daniel called God, the Father "the Ancient of Days." He uses words like sovereign, dominion and authority to describe the almighty ruling power of King Jesus.**



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Daniel 7:13-14. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Daniel 7:13-14.

What do you think it will be like when Jesus comes back through the clouds? (Children respond.)

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.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to 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 photo of the Mount of Olives; a hill not far from Jerusalem. It is the place where Jesus' followers stood and watched Him rise up through the clouds. Show this photo to people you know and explain what happened there.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 22 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, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus being taken up through the clouds. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

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 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SWEET CLOUDS

Purpose: Connect with your students while enjoying a snack to help them think about Jesus ascending into heaven.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows

Optional: Let the children dip the marshmallows in melted chocolate or eat with graham crackers.

Jesus ascended, or went up, to His throne in heaven. Let's eat marshmallows to remind us of the clouds Jesus rose up above. As we eat, tell us about a time when you have been a witness by telling others about Jesus.

Directions:

1. Give each child a snack and a drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, ask the children to answer the Snack Discussion Question: "When have you told others about Jesus?"

GAME: CLOUD SEARCH

Purpose: Children hide and find a cotton ball as they are reminded of Jesus' return.

Supplies: Cotton ball

Our Bible Story today tells us Jesus went up to heaven and will return one day. Have you ever searched the sky to see if Jesus was coming on the clouds? In this game, we will search for a cloud and remind each other that Jesus will come back someday.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Practice saying the rhyme below.

Jesus rose in the clouds.

Insert child's name, why do you look up today?

Soon He will come back in the very same way.

3. Give one of the children the cotton ball. Practice saying the rhyme with the following motions.
 - Each person places their left hand on their left knee cupped to receive the cloud (cotton ball).
 - With the other hand, at the same time, each person pretends to take the cotton ball from their own left cupped hand and place it in the cupped hand of the person to their right.
 - The goal is to do it without someone being able to see who has the cotton ball.
4. Choose one child to stand in the middle of a circle to guess where the cotton ball is.
5. Child in the middle closes his or her eyes while you give the cotton ball to a child in the circle.
6. Children chant the rhyme and do the motions.
7. When the children have chanted the rhyme twice, the child in the middle opens their eyes.
8. Child in the middle gets three guesses as to where the cotton ball is. If correct, then the child in the center chooses the next child to be in the middle. If incorrect, then the child with the cotton ball gets to be in the middle.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: SUN CATCHER CROSS

Purpose: Children create a sun catcher to remind them Jesus will return through the clouds.

Supplies: Wax paper, sturdy white paper or cardboard, cotton balls, colored tissue paper, glue, hole punch, string or fishing line

Prepare: Cut a 6-inch x 8-inch piece of wax paper. Using sturdy white paper or cardboard, cut two 1-inch x 6-inch strips and two 1-inch x 8-inch strips.

Describe what the disciples saw when Jesus was taken into heaven. (He was taken up into the air and then He disappeared behind a cloud.) **Where is Jesus now?** (In heaven.) **What will Jesus do one day?** (Come back to earth in the same way He left.) **Let's make a sun catcher cross framed in clouds. Hang it in your window at home to remind you Jesus will come back through the clouds one day.**

Directions:

1. Glue white strips around the edge of the wax paper as a frame.
2. Punch a hole in the top center of the frame for hanging.
3. Glue small balls of colored tissue paper in the shape of a cross in the center of the wax paper.
4. Stretch cotton balls and glue them onto white paper frame for fluffy clouds.
5. Tie string or fishing line through the hole to hang it in a window as a sun catcher.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.
And I will see God. I myself will see Him with my own eyes."
Job 19:25, 27

GAME: FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

Purpose: Children will play a game of Four Corners to learn the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker

Prepare: Write the name of four different countries or continents each on a piece of paper. Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Optional: Have the children choose the four countries or continents you will use for the game.

Optional: For a more competitive version, the children whose corner is called recite the Bible Memory verse together and then sit down. Play continues until only a few remain in the game.

Today, we are celebrating that Jesus is alive forever. Let's read our Bible Memory Verse together. Read the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse together. **This verse from the Bible tells us Jesus is alive. He is our Redeemer; He took the punishment we deserve for sinning. Where will He stand one day when He returns? (Upon the earth.) Who will see Him? (We will.)**

Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by playing Four Corners of the Earth.

Directions:

1. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to 10 with eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, "10."
3. Caller calls out one of the four corner countries/continents.
4. All children in that corner recite the Bible Memory verse together as quickly as possible.
5. Choose another Caller and play again. All children remain in the game.
6. Play as long as you like or as time allows.

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Job 19:25, 27 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to thighs, and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus (Circa 0-33 A.D.) beginning with the only story of His childhood and then focusing on His relationships, His ministry, His teachings, and the events surrounding His death, resurrection, and ascension. It concludes with a study of His kingdom parables. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Jesus Talks with Peter (Circa 30-33 A.D.) After He rose, Jesus appeared to the disciples and talked with Peter. Jesus had forgiven Peter for denying Him. What question did Jesus ask Peter three times? ("Do you love Me?") Who are Jesus' sheep? (Those who follow Jesus.) What does Jesus' direction, "Take care of my sheep," mean to you? (Children respond.)

The Great Commission (Circa 30-33 A.D.) After Jesus had appeared to many people, He met with His followers to give them the Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples. What did Jesus tell us to teach them? (Everything Jesus has commanded us.) What do you want to tell people about Jesus? (Children respond.)

The King Ascends (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Jesus met with His followers on the Mount of Olives where they watched as He was taken into heaven. Just before He was taken up, what did He tell His disciples to do? (To be His witnesses.) What did the two men in white tell the disciples? (Jesus will return just as He went up.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Life 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.

Life of Jesus: Jesus and His Father's House > Jesus Is Baptized > Jesus Is Tempted > Jesus Calls His Disciples > Jesus Clears the Temple > Jesus Is Transfigured > Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes > Jesus and Nicodemus > Jesus and the Woman at the Well > Jesus with Mary and Martha > Jesus and Zacchaeus > Jesus Is Anointed > The Triumphal Entry > Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet > Jesus and the Last Supper > Jesus in the Garden > Jesus and the Cross > Jesus Is Risen > The Road to Emmaus > Jesus Talks with Peter > The Great Commission > The King Ascends

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan