



# Ascending into Heaven

**Lesson Aim: To be willing to see and believe the miracles God is showing us.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** Jesus as Lord

## THE WORD

**What He Has Done:** Jesus blessed His disciples and ascended into heaven.

**Scripture Focus:** Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:44-53 **Key Verses:** Mark 16:19-20

**Christ Connection:** Numbers 6:23-26

## THE WAY

**The Big Question: What might keep you from believing that a miracle occurred?**

## UNIT 3 FOCUS VERSE

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25, 26

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Banishing an Evil Spirit, Luke 4:31-37; Romans 8:35-39; James 2:19	Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out.	To challenge children to privately assess their current relationship with Jesus.
12	Raising Lazarus, John 11:3-7, 14-27, 32-48, 53	Jesus called Lazarus from out of the tomb.	To understand why the story surrounding Lazarus' resurrection impacts all believers as well as Jesus' public ministry.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Luke 19:28-44	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 27:50-66; 28:1-10; Luke 24:9-12	Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.	To consider the eyewitness reports, prophesies, and faith God gives us to see who Jesus is and what He has done for us.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-14	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To expect and recognize Jesus' presence and activity in our daily lives.
16	Ascending into Heaven, Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:44-53	Jesus blessed His disciples and ascended into heaven.	To be willing to see and believe the miracles God is showing us.

**LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT** This week, read Revelation 5:1-14. Please join us in praying, "Lord Jesus, affirm in each student's heart that You are indeed on Your throne now in heaven, hearing their prayers, and watching over them. Amen."

**Lesson Aims** are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

**Take Home Elements:** The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

**Leader's Tip:** For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



## Getting started

# THE WELCOME

**Suggestion:** Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as blessings, signs, heaven, or heavenly clouds.

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 1: PLASTIC WRAP GIFT BALL**

**Purpose:** To introduce the idea of blessings.

**Supplies:** Several small gifts (candy, small toys, etc.), plastic wrap, 2 dice

**Preparation:** Wrap several small gifts (candy, small toys, etc.) in strips of plastic wrap until you have a large ball with all the gifts wrapped in the plastic wrap.

**Directions:**

1. Students sit in a circle. Give the gift ball to a student in the circle and a pair of dice to the student on his/her right.
2. On your signal, the person with the gift ball begins unwrapping the plastic wrap while the person on his/her right rolls a pair of dice, trying to roll doubles. The person unwrapping the plastic wrap keeps any gifts he or she unwraps.
3. When doubles are rolled, the ball is passed to the student with the dice and the dice are passed to the person on his/her right and the sequence begins again.

**Leader Tips:** Put the best gift in the middle. Make the ball as big as you want. Wrap the strips of plastic wrap in different directions. Use oven mitts, gloves, or mittens to make the game more challenging. You can roll the dice to see who starts with the ball first (e.g. First person to roll a six).

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 2: I AM THANKFUL FOR ...**

**Purpose:** To introduce the idea of blessings.

**Supplies:** Paper and pen/pencil for every person, 2-minute timer

**Directions:**

1. Give each person a piece of paper and a pen/pencil.
2. On your signal, students should write down everything they are thankful for that can be described in one word.
3. When time is up, students count how many items they have written down.
4. The student with the most items, reads them aloud. If anyone else has the same item, everyone who has that item crosses it off their list. Only unique items remain.
5. The next person continues in the same way, calling out the items that remain on his or her list. If the item is unique it remains. If someone else has the same item, than everyone who has it crosses it off their list.
6. Continue until everyone has read their list. Then students count the number of unique items he or she has listed. The person with the most unique answers wins.
7. Afterward, you may wish to use one or more of the discussion questions below:
  - What was the most surprising thing that someone was thankful for?
  - How did creating your list affect you?
  - Did you have more or less items than you thought you would have?
  - How did you feel when you discovered others felt blessed for the same things as you?
  - Of all the things on your list, which is most significant for you?



Jesus as Lord

## THE WORSHIP

**Note to Leader:** The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

**Ideas for Optional Visuals:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Today, we worship Jesus as our Lord who was lifted up into heaven. He reigns from there right now. Right after Jesus was lifted up into heaven, the disciples went together to the temple to praise God with great joy.**

Read the Unit 3 Focus Verse: John 11:25-26.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on Jesus in heaven.



**Jesus 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.** Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence: "Lord, we worship You for \_\_\_\_\_."



Jesus blessed the disciples and ascended into heaven

## THE WORD Presentation

**Note to Leader:** Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

### Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Option 2: \_\_\_\_\_



## TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

*Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.*

Last time, we learned Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and called to the disciples fishing in a boat near the shore. That was just one of many times that Jesus appeared to people after He had risen.

Before we read the scriptures related to Jesus' ascension, let's look back at the miracle of His resurrection. Jesus' disciples spent three years following Him. They heard Him teach about God's Kingdom and witnessed Him perform many miracles. Jesus had told them He would rise again (Matthew 26:32).

The leader or a student reads Mark 16:9-14.

- Despite Jesus telling the disciples He would rise again, they had trouble believing the first eyewitnesses who reported He had risen.
- For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many different people (Acts 1:3).

The leader or a student reads Luke 24:44-49.

- Jesus appeared to the disciples and helped them understand why He had to die and rise again. He told them He must leave, and they must tell others all that they had seen and heard.

The leader or a student reads Luke 24:50-53.

- Jesus' final act before being lifted up into heaven was to bless His disciples. It must have been very meaningful for the disciples to receive a blessing from Him.
- The disciples' first response after seeing Jesus ascend into heaven was to worship. They went to the temple, a place where people regularly gathered to praise God. In the same way, people today gather to worship together in response to who God is and what He has done.

# THE WORD Presentation *continued*



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us  
**CHRIST CONNECTION**

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- 1,500 years before Jesus blessed His disciples, the Lord gave Moses and Aaron a blessing for the Israelites.

The leader or a student reads aloud Numbers 6:23-26.

- It must have been very meaningful for the Israelites to receive this blessing. I would like to take a moment to bless each one of you today with this blessing. *The leader repeats the following blessing for each student. For a large group of students, have students pray for each other, as you lead them in repeating the prayer.*

**"The Lord bless you, *student's name*, and keep you;  
the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."**



## THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

**What might keep you from believing that a miracle occurred?**



## THE WAY Discussion



**GETTING STARTED** Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.  
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



### READ IT AGAIN

Read Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:44-53 silently or aloud.

**Why were the disciples having difficulty believing Jesus is risen?**

**What task did Jesus give the disciples?**

**What amazing miracle did the disciples witness in Luke 24:50-53?**

**Why do you think Jesus' followers worshiped Him immediately after seeing Him taken up to heaven?**



**THE BIG QUESTION** Invite students to share their answers.

**What might keep you from believing that a miracle occurred?**



**TAKE ACTION** Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

**Which phrase from Numbers 6:23-26 is most meaningful to you? Why?**

**If you were one of the disciples, how would you have felt about Jesus leaving?**

**In Luke 24:48, Jesus calls the disciples His witnesses. Where do you feel called to be Jesus' witness?**

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to tell others about God's miracles SO THAT they might \_\_\_\_\_.**



**PRAY** Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



**FINAL FIVE MINUTES** When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #16 and Journal Entry #16. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #16.

# GOD OF WONDERS

## JOURNAL ENTRY #16

### Ascending into Heaven

Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:44-53

## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

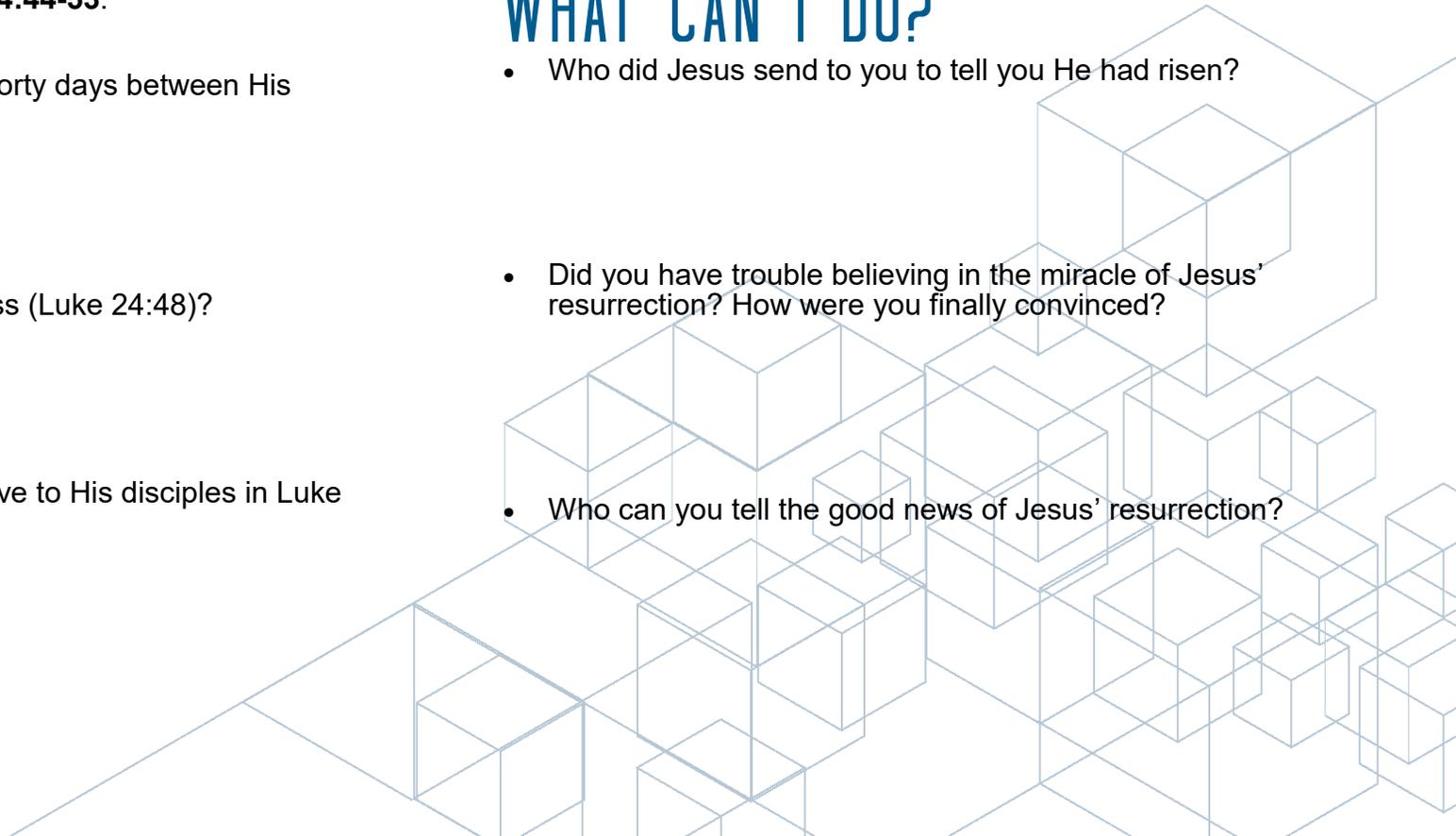
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:44-53.**
- How does Jesus spend the forty days between His resurrection and ascension?
- What did the disciples witness (Luke 24:48)?
- What promise does Jesus give to His disciples in Luke 24:49?

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Why do you think the disciples reacted so differently when Jesus ascended compared to when He was crucified?
- What is Jesus' plan for people to hear the good news of His resurrection?

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- Who did Jesus send to you to tell you He had risen?
- Did you have trouble believing in the miracle of Jesus' resurrection? How were you finally convinced?
- Who can you tell the good news of Jesus' resurrection?



Action Card #16/GOW

## ASCENDING INTO HEAVEN

MARK 16:9-14; LUKE 24:44-53

JESUS BLESSED HIS DISCIPLES AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

WE ARE CALLED TO SEE AND BELIEVE THE MIRACLES GOD IS SHOWING US.

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