

LESSON PLAN

JESUS' ASCENSION

Acts 1:1-14

Lesson Memory Verse: Acts 1:11 - "This same **Jesus**, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize **bold** portion.)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to be ready for Jesus to come in the clouds to take believers to Heaven.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have two flashlights. Be sure one works and the other does not. Now tell the following story to introduce your lesson.

Jack was staying with his parents in his uncle's cabin for a two-week vacation. One evening his father decided to go to town with Jack to buy some food for some friends that were coming the next day. Jack's mother decided to stay home and get things ready for their friends.

After Jack and his father got to town a terrible storm struck the town. There was so much rain that it flooded the low places in the fields and meadows. Even some of the roads were partly under water.

When Jack and his father finished their shopping it was dark. They got into their car to drive back to the cabin, but now the roads were bad. They drove carefully to within a mile of the cabin when suddenly the wheels of the car got caught in the mud and the car went into the ditch! There was no way to get it out that night. They would have to get help in the morning, so they decided to walk to the cabin in the dark.

Jack grabbed for the flashlight, (grab the bad flashlight) because it was very black outside. He flipped on the switch, but nothing happened. He hit the flashlight a couple of times and flipped the switch back and forth but still there was no light. This was serious. They could hardly find their way home in the dark without a flashlight and they could not stay in the car that night or Jack's mother would worry all night about them.

Jack's father suddenly remembered that he had another flashlight in the trunk of the car. He had just put it there when he packed for their vacation. In the dark, Jack's father searched and searched until he found the flashlight (pick up the good flashlight). Quickly he tried the switch and a strong bright light burst out into the darkness. Jack let out a sigh of relief. The first flashlight was a big disappointment because it was not ready when it was needed; but the second flashlight was good. It was ready when Jack and his father were in trouble.

HE (for Authority): In our Bible lesson today we will learn some important things about two comings of Jesus. The first coming of Jesus will be for all of His followers. He will gather all of them in the clouds and take them to Heaven. At least seven years later and possibly a few more years, He will return to the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem to fight against all the armies that will be trying to destroy Jerusalem. It is this return of Jesus that our memory verse is talking about, but it can apply to His coming in the clouds

When He returns to earth, He will come back the same way as He left the earth. He ascended to Heaven in the sight of His disciples until He passed through a cloud and they could see Him no more. When He returns, He will descend from Heaven in the sight of all people (Mt 24:30) on a white horse to make war with His enemies (Rev 19:11-16). When He returns, He will come back to the Mount of Olives from which He left for Heaven. When His feet touch the mountain, it will split and one half will go to the north and the other half will go to the south (Zech 14:1-4).

Jesus will bring all believers in Heaven with Him when He returns to the earth. If you have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, you will be with Him when He returns to earth to rule all nations for one thousand years. If you have not trusted Jesus as your Savior, you are not ready for either of His comings.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Listen carefully to the Bible lesson today so that you will know how to be ready for Jesus' return.

I. Christians Must Be Ready

A. By obeying Jesus' commands - 1:4

LESSON PLAN

The disciples were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them. What two important commands should they obey? (Love God and love one's neighbor) If they obey these commands they will be ready for either coming of Jesus: in the clouds or to the earth (Mk 12:30-31; John 15:12-13).

B. By receiving power from the Holy Spirit - 1:8

Children need to be taught to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. Their own human power will never make them ready for the coming of Jesus (Gal 3:3), but the divine power of the Holy Spirit will make them ready (Gal 5:16, 22-23).

C. By witnessing of Jesus' death and resurrection - 1:8

Children should begin to witness as soon as they are saved, not wait until they become adults. They should tell others that Jesus died to pay the penalty for their sins and He arose from the dead with eternal life to share with all that receive Him as their Savior. Witnessing to others will prepare them for the coming of Jesus. He will honor those who have honored Him in witnessing about Him. (Teach the children a simple plan of salvation, like the Gospel Hand or the Wordless Book. These simple plans are found on our web site; a different one is given for each year as Special Lessons under Commencement)

D. By praying to God - 1:14

Children need to pray to God about all the things that they do during the day. They need to pray for His wisdom to make the right decisions. They need to ask for His help to live a godly life before their friends. They need to pray for others that need His help. They need to learn to pray privately and publicly. Provide time in your class for children to pray. Prayer will make them ready for the coming of Jesus.

WE: We need to be ready for Jesus to come in the clouds to bring us to Heaven. Then He will bring us with Him when He returns to the earth to rule the nations and restore the earth to its original condition when He created it.

II. Sinners Must Be Ready

A. By admitting they are lost sinners – Romans 3:23

Many people will admit they have sinned, but no one can be saved until he admits he is a lost sinner and is on his way to Hell.

B. By believing that Jesus is the only one who can save them – Romans 5:8

Good parents, good teachers and good preachers are unable to save sinners from Hell. Sinners must believe that Jesus is the only one that is able to save them and bring them to God the Father in Heaven (John 14:6).

C. By wanting Jesus to save them – Romans 6:23

A person may believe Jesus is the only one who can save him, but that is not enough to save him. Even the demons believe and tremble, yet they are not saved. Sinners must want Jesus to save them.

D. By asking Jesus to save them – Romans 10:9-14

When a person calls on Jesus to save him, he must believe in his heart that God will save him (10:12-14). If he really believes, he will be saved. If he is really saved, he will tell others that Jesus Christ is his Savior (10:9-10). It is doubtful that anyone can be saved who is ashamed of Jesus (10:11). Only those who are saved will be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ.

WE: We need to be true believers in Jesus Christ. We need to be proud of Him for bearing our shameful sins on the cross and dying for them. We need to tell others that He is our Savior. If we truly love God for sending His Son to save us and truly love Jesus for dying in our place, and if we have truly received Jesus as our Savior, we will be ready for the coming of Jesus; He may come today.

BE (for Action): John came home from college during Easter vacation. His father and mother and sister, Jane, were thrilled to have him home. After a big Easter dinner they sat around the table talking. John told his family what had happened at college. Then he told them how much he wanted to be busy working for the Lord because he felt that Jesus was coming soon.

LESSON PLAN

Suddenly Jane jumped up from the table and ran to her room. Mother said, "John I think you have frightened Jane by what you said."

John went to Jane's room and found her sobbing on her bed. Between her sobs she said, "John, I am afraid when you talk about Jesus coming so soon. I do not think that I am a Christian. If He should come today, I don't know what would happen to me."

Then John said tenderly, "Jane, you need not be afraid of Jesus' coming if you are ready. You will be ready if you have received Jesus as your Savior."

Jane looked at her brother and said, "I have prayed, but I do not think God answered my prayer. I do not think that I am ready for Jesus to come. What do I have to do to be sure that I am ready for His coming?"

John took a Bible that Jane had in her room and showed her where Jesus said, "Repent ... and believe the Gospel" (Mk 1:15); and where Peter said, "Repent ... and be converted" (Act 3:19); and where Paul said he testified to both Jews and Gentiles "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Act 20:21). He kindly told her that God wants to save everyone, but He cannot save a person while he or she holds on to any sin because they all are big sins to God. Then he said to Jane, "If you hate your sins and by faith will give them to Jesus, He will take them and remove them from your account. All of your sins will be taken from your record and given to Jesus. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit and He will help you to live a new godly life. Will you receive Jesus and give Him all of your sins?"

Jane dried her eyes and with new hope in her voice she said, "Yes, I will." And with God's promise she bowed her head and prayed, "Dear God, I want to receive Jesus as my Savior and give Him all of my sins so I can live a life that pleases you. I want to be ready for Jesus when He comes"

Then Jane asked her brother, "How can I know that God answered my prayer and saved me?" John said, "Have faith in His promise that He will save you when you sincerely call on Him (Rom 10:13). You will begin to see godly changes in your life, because He will make you into a new person when He saves you" (2 Cor 5:17).

Children, are you ready for Jesus to come today? If not, you need to pray like Jane did and receive Him as your Savior. If you want to do that, I will be glad to help you make that important decision after I dismiss our class. (Pray for all of the children in your class to be ready for Jesus to come, even if He should come today.).