



HOLY WEEK

Date: 4.27.25 | Title: Jesus' Final Instructions and Ascension |
Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy.
- Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God.
- Because Jesus is God, He has the power to perform miracles.

High School Students:

- From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, he remained altogether free from sin.
- Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness.
- Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God.



MEMORY VERSE

"If you confess (declare) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9



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INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

1. Gather students in a circle (or have them stand together).
2. Whisper a simple instruction to one student (e.g., “Tell the person next to you to clap three times.”).
3. That student then whispers the instruction to the next person, and so on, until it reaches the last person.
4. The last person says the instruction out loud and follows it.
5. Repeat with a few more quick instructions, such as:
 - “Jump once.”
 - “Say ‘Jesus loves you’ to someone.”
 - “Point to the sky.”
6. Discuss:
 - How important was it to pass on the message correctly?
 - What if someone decided not to pass it on—how would that change things?
 - Why do you think Jesus gave His disciples final instructions before He ascended?



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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people over a period of forty days. On one occasion, He appeared to a group of women in Jerusalem and instructed them to tell His eleven disciples (minus Judas) to meet Him in Galilee (Mt 28:5-10).

A short time later, Jesus met the disciples on a mountain in Galilee. When they saw Him, some worshiped Him, while others were hesitant. There, Jesus gave them their mission—known as the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

In His resurrected state, Jesus had absolute authority over heaven and earth, affirming His deity. This authority was given to Him by the Father, showing that He remained subject to the Father's will. The central command of the Great Commission is to make disciples—calling people to commit to Jesus as their Master and Lord. This mission involves going to all nations, baptizing believers, and teaching them to follow His commands. Through this process, people would grow in faith, become sanctified, and live transformed holy lives. Jesus' ministry in Israel was just the beginning of a global movement to share the gospel, reaching not only Jews but also Gentiles.

After appearing multiple times to His disciples, Jesus ascended into heaven (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-3, 9-11). His departure brought uncertainty for His followers, who had to trust that God's plan would unfold as Jesus had promised. The New Testament writers emphasize the importance of this event as both the conclusion of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of His heavenly ministry.

- Jesus has now been exalted to "the right hand of God," which is a symbol of ultimate power as Lord and Christ where He reigns in glory (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:32-36; 5:30-31; Ephesians 1:20-21; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:3; 2:9; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 1:12-18; 3:21)

- Jesus will pour out His Spirit to live within and empower His people (John 14:12; 16:4-7, 13; Acts 2:32-33)



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- *Jesus gives gifts to the church to equip us for ministry (Ephesians 4:7-13)*
- *As our faithful high priest, Jesus now intercedes for us (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14; 6:19-20; 7:25; 8:1; 9:24)*
- *Jesus is preparing a place for us (John 14:2)*



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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Locate the scripture in the Bible:

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth through the voices of different authors. Today, part of our story will come from the fifth book of the New Testament, Acts.

Tell the story:

Jesus came to earth and lived for 33 years until He died on the cross. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He never sinned and was the perfect sacrifice, dying on the cross for our sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, just as He had said He would. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so that we can know God and be saved from our sins. After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with His followers. Before Jesus returned to His Father, He gave His disciples the mission of helping others know Him. Today, we will learn how Jesus instructed His followers on what to do after He returned to heaven and how they would be empowered to be His witnesses.

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples. At the end of His time on earth, Jesus gave His disciples important instructions. First, He told them not to leave the city of Jerusalem. Jesus said the disciples should wait until God kept His promise to give them the Holy Spirit.

Jesus reminded the disciples of John the Baptist. John had baptized people with water when they turned away from their sins and turned to God. Jesus said that in a few days, the disciples would be baptized, too—not with water but with the Holy Spirit.

“Lord, are You giving the kingdom back to Israel now?” the disciples asked. God was with His people- the Jews- but they looked weak. The Romans ruled over them. The Jewish people wanted to have power over other nations.

Jesus did not say yes, but He did not say no. “The Father knows when the time is right,” He said. Then Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on



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you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

As Jesus’ witnesses, the disciples told people what they knew to be true. They told people the good news about Jesus in the city of Jerusalem, the surrounding area of Judea, the nearby area of Samaria, and worldwide. The Holy Spirit helped them.

After Jesus said these things, He went up to heaven. The disciples watched Jesus until a cloud hid Him from their sight. Suddenly, two men appeared. The men were wearing white clothes. These men asked the disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will return in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.”

Then, as Jesus had instructed them, the disciples returned to Jerusalem to pray and wait.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Share the GOSPEL:

Even though Jesus was about to return to heaven, He promised His followers would not be alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to help them as they shared the gospel. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives His Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the early disciples to spread the gospel and establish churches, He also helps us today. The Holy Spirit comforts us, reveals our sins, and guides us to live for God’s glory.

Jesus’ Great Commission connects to God’s earlier promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3—that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. Now, after His death and resurrection, He commissions His followers to take His message of salvation to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 26:23). This was Jesus’ purpose on earth—to establish the kingdom of God. Revelation 7:9 confirms this vision, describing God’s redeemed people as coming from “every nation, tribe, people, and language.”



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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

1. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples saw two men in white robes. What did these men tell the disciples? (Acts 1:11)
2. What did the disciples do after Jesus went away?
3. Is the promise of the Holy Spirit for all believers?
4. How does today’s story encourage us?
5. Is the instruction to go and tell others about Jesus for a select group of people or for all believers? Why?
6. Who should we share the gospel with? Make a list of a few people close to you who need to hear God’s Good News. What are some ways you can share with them this week?
7. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of a believer?
8. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
9. What does the story teach me about myself?
10. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
11. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
12. How does this story help me live on mission?



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PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for Your promises. Thank You for not leaving us alone but giving us the Holy Spirit as our Helper. Help us be faithful to sharing the good news with others.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using only scripture passages from the Gospels.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after Sunday School.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

IYCWYMTJILABIYHTGRHFTDYWBS - Romans 10:9



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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.