



UNIT 29 | SESSION 1

JESUS GAVE HIS FOLLOWERS A MISSION

ACTS 1

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us while we wait for Jesus to come again.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus. Galatians 5:22

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus said, "Tell people about Me."
- Jesus' friends saw Jesus go up to heaven.
- One day, Jesus will come back again.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Jesus and all His friends were together. Jesus said, "You will get power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. You will tell people about Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The friends needed God's Spirit to help them tell people all across the world about Jesus. Then Jesus' friends saw Jesus go up into the sky! A cloud took Him out of their sight. Two men in white clothes said, "Jesus has been taken into heaven. One day, He will come back again."



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 1. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING TO A FAMILIAR SONG

Sing to the tune of “Happy Birthday to You”:

“God’s Spirit helps us.
God’s Spirit helps us.
God’s Spirit helps us
To be like Jesus!”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says ‘God’s Spirit helps us be like Jesus.’ We can be like Jesus by listening to and obeying Him. Jesus said, ‘Tell people about Me.’ ”

2 DISCOVER UP AND DOWN

Print the Bible story picture. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows on the floor in front of you. Point to Jesus in the picture and say His name. Say, “Up” as you raise the picture of Jesus over your head. Say, “Down” when you lower the picture of Jesus. Encourage babies to mimic your actions.

SAY “ Jesus’ friends saw Jesus go up to heaven. One day, Jesus will come back again. We can be like Jesus and tell our friends about Him! ”

3 PEEKABOO JESUS LOVES YOU

Tape the Bible story picture inside the bottom of a large cardboard box. Lay the box on its side. Drape and attach ribbons of varying lengths, widths, and textures to the opening of the box. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows just out of reach of the box. Allow babies to reach for and touch the ribbons. Play a simple game of peekaboo, saying “Peekaboo, Jesus loves you!” each time babies pull back the ribbons and see the picture. For more mobile babies, open both ends of the box, draping ribbons on both sides. Allow babies to crawl through the box. Ensure safety, making sure no child feels trapped or overstimulated.

SAY “ Jesus’ friends saw Jesus, and then He was gone! One day, Jesus will come back again. Jesus said, ‘Tell people about Me.’ We can tell our friends about Jesus! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 1. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 CREATE A CLOUD

Cut cloud shapes from heavyweight paper (one per child). Encourage each child to color their clouds using crayons. Help each child glue cotton balls to his cloud. Attach craft sticks to the bottom half of the cloud to allow children to hold and wave their cloud. Review the story.

SAY “ Jesus’ friends saw Jesus go up into the sky! A cloud took Him out of their sight. Is Jesus coming back? Yes! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us while we wait for Jesus to come again. ”

3 TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

Provide different types of voice amplifiers (microphone, toy megaphone, paper tubes, and so forth). Help children take turns saying the name of Jesus or the phrase, “Jesus is coming back!” to their friends using the voice amplifier. To keep noise down, challenge the children to see how soft they can speak and still be heard. Retell the story.

SAY “ Jesus said, ‘Tell people about Me.’ Can you tell your friends about Jesus? Yes! We can tell our friends and people all across the world about Jesus! ”

4 CLOUD SORTING

Set out egg cartons (one for every few children) and cotton balls or large pom-poms. Place the objects in one section of the egg carton. Encourage the children to work together to move the cotton balls, one by one, from one section of the egg carton to another. Provide spoons or plastic sensory tweezers to transfer the objects. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ In our Bible story, what took Jesus out of His friends’ sight? Yes! A cloud! One day, He will come back again. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us while we wait for Jesus to come again. ”

5 MATCH THE RAINBOW

Cut a poster board into a semicircle to create a rainbow shape. Cut out triangle- or wedge-like shapes from each color of construction paper. Glue the points of each wedge to the center of the semicircle to make a rainbow. Provide colored spring-type clothespins, and instruct toddlers to clip clothespins to the corresponding colors. Tell the story as the toddlers match.

SAY “ The length of a rainbow cannot be measured. It covers people and places all over. Jesus told us to tell people across the world about Him. We can love Jesus and tell others about Him. ”

JESUS GAVE HIS FOLLOWERS A MISSION

ACTS 1

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us while we wait for Jesus to come again.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus. Galatians 5:22

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SPOT THE STORY

Instruct the children to sit down. Print or display the Bible story picture for the toddlers to see. Direct the children to spot different colors, emotions, or shapes they see in the picture. Challenge the children to tell the story by only looking at the picture. Correct responses and retell the story.

SAY “ Pictures tell stories. What story does this picture tell? It tells of Jesus and His friends. But we need to read the whole story to get the whole picture. We get the whole story from the Bible—God's Word. Jesus' friends saw Jesus go up to heaven, but one day, He will come back again. We can read the Bible and tell people about Jesus. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

“Tell people about Him, tell people about Him.
I can do what Jesus said, I can tell about Him.”

3 SPY THE PIECES

Print and cut apart multiple Bible story pictures into three parts. Place the parts all around the room. Instruct the children to play a calm game of “I Spy” where the children spy Jesus and His friends. Once all the pictures have been found, allow the children to gather the pieces and put the puzzles together. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Just like we needed all the pieces to see the story, we need to all work together to tell others about Jesus. Can we tell about Jesus? Yes, we can all tell all people about Jesus! One day, Jesus will come back again! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us while we wait for Jesus to come again. ”

4 OBSERVE THE CLOUDS

Weather permitting, lead the children on an outside nature walk according to your church's safety procedures. Encourage the children to look at the sky and tell you what they see. Use describing words such as colors and shapes. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ What took Jesus out of sight? That's right! A cloud! Jesus went up to heaven on a cloud. Jesus was taken into heaven, but one day, He will come back again. We can tell our friends that He is coming back again. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Galatians 5. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”:

“Paul is writing, Paul is writing,
To his friends, to his friends.
He wants them to trust God, He wants them to trust God,
In the end, in the end.”

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to people to remind them to trust in Jesus. Paul said God gives believers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus. ”

2 CREATE A LETTER

Gather paper, various alphabet stamps, washable ink pads, and a painting smock for each baby. Help each baby choose the stamp to place on his paper. Write Paul wrote a letter to people who trust in Jesus on each baby’s paper. Keep baby wipes handy for easy cleanup. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to people who trust in Jesus. Paul had a special message for the people in Galatia. Paul said God gives believers the Holy Spirit. ”

3 MOVE THE LETTERS

Prepare a magnetic baking sheet with magnetic alphabet letters on it for each baby. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows in front of the baking sheets. Demonstrate how to move the letters around on the baking sheet as you read the gospel gems. Explain how we can place letters together to make words. Monitor closely, ensuring no baby puts anything in his mouth.

SAY “ Paul used words to write a letter to people who trust in Jesus. Paul said God gives believers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Galatians 5. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 WRITE A LETTER

Provide crayons and the "About Jesus" printable for toddlers. Encourage toddlers to use their fingers or crayons to trace and color the name of Jesus. Review the Bible story as they play.

SAY "Who did Paul write his letter about? Yes! Jesus! Paul wrote about Jesus to people who trust in Jesus. Paul wanted them to remember that Jesus saves us from our sin when we trust in Him. The Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to be like Jesus."

3 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of "The More We Get Together." If you are unfamiliar with the tune, look it up online before class.

"We're going to send a letter, a letter, a letter.
We want to tell of Jesus and all He has done."

SAY "Paul wrote a letter to people who trust in Jesus. He gives people the Holy Spirit, who changes how we think and act. The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus."

4 STAMP AND SEND

Provide envelopes, paper, and stickers. Cover a box with butcher paper and use a box cutter or knife (adult use only) to cut a slit on one side. Guide the children to write, stamp, and place their letters in the mailbox.

SAY "Paul's letters were about who? Yes! Jesus! Paul wrote a letter to people who trust in Jesus. Paul wanted to remind them that God's Spirit helps them be more like Jesus."

5 OBSERVE WATER

Gather clear plastic bowls of water, spoons, and food color. Drip the food color into the water and observe. Allow toddlers to stir in more food color if desired. Explain how the more color we add, the more the water changes. Keep paper towels handy for easy cleanup. Review the Bible story.

SAY "Who did Paul say changes people? Yes! God! Paul said God gives believers the Holy Spirit, who changes how we think and act. The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus."

THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US

GALATIANS 5

CHRIST CONNECTION: The Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to be like Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus. Galatians 5:22

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SEE AND SAY

Show the Bible story picture. Allow each child to point to something they see in the picture. Explain what they are pointing to and say how it applies to the Bible story. As they point to the people, be sure to talk about the facial expressions of the people. Review the Bible story. For newcomers this hour, read the Bible story *before* asking toddlers to apply what they see to the Bible story.

SAY “ Who was Paul’s letter written to? Yes, the people in Galatia! Paul wanted to remind those who trusted in Jesus to follow Him. The Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus and be more like Him. ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Happy Birthday to You”:

“God’s Spirit helps us.
God’s Spirit helps us.
God’s Spirit helps us
To be like Jesus!”

3 MAKE AND DELIVER CARDS

Provide construction paper, crayons, markers, and stickers. Write Paul wrote a letter to people who trust in Jesus at the top of each child’s paper. Encourage children to draw pictures to help their parents know more about Jesus. Review the Bible story as children make their cards.

SAY “ Who was Paul’s letter about? Yes! Jesus! Paul wrote a letter to people to remind them to trust in Jesus. We can write letters to remind people that Jesus loves them! ”

4 PLAY “SIMON SAYS”

Gather children and play a simple game of “Simon Says.” Direct the children to jump up and down, stand on one foot, touch their elbows, wiggle their noses, and so forth. Periodically leave off the words “Simon Says.” Choose one child who did not follow your instructions as the new leader and have him call out new directions. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Paul told the people who trusted in Jesus not to listen to teachers who said things that were not true. Paul reminded the people that when we follow Jesus, we do not have to try to earn God’s love by following rules. Who helps us follow Jesus? Yes! God does! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.