LEFC KIDS

SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Pre-K / K
Nov. 22, 2026
1st Service

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Mark 16; Luke 24; Acts 1

How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?

The Holy Spirit comforts, shows sin, and guides Christians to live for God's glory.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.
-Acts 1:8

Story Point:
Jesus told His followers to tell others about Him.

- [ ] Welcome/Intro Activity..... 5 minutes
- [ ] Circle Time and Bible Story (Kindergarten - Large Group Lesson at 9:20)..... 15-20 minutes
- [ ] Movement Activity..... 10 minutes
- [ ] Craft ..... 10 minutes
- [ ] Music and Friends From Afar ..... 10 minutes
- [ ] Prayer and Bible Verse ..... 10 minutes
- [ ] Snack and Discussion Time ..... 5-7 minutes
- [ ] Group Game ..... 10 minutes

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Matthew, Luke, and Acts all recount the weeks Jesus spent with His followers in the days before He ascended to heaven. Jesus spent these days fellowshipping with friends and speaking to them about God's kingdom. When the disciples saw Him, they worshiped, though some still doubted whether the resurrection was true.

In these days, Jesus prepared the disciples, taught them, and granted them the authority to proclaim His message of hope and love. He commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations—not just the Jews or those who lived nearby, but to anyone who would come to Him by faith and be saved. And through it all, Jesus promised to be near to them and to remain with them always, to the end of the age.

As the disciples watched Jesus ascend, they gazed into heaven as two angels appeared and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11). It was as if they were telling them that it was already time to get going!

The disciples continued worshiping Jesus as they joyfully returned to Jerusalem and spent time in the temple together, praising God as they awaited what He would do next.

Kids may experience doubts similar to what the disciples felt in the days immediately following the resurrection. Remind them that it takes faith to believe that God's Word is true and that Jesus knew we might feel this way at times. Jesus said it's better for Him to be in heaven with His Father and for us to have His Spirit to comfort us as we await His return (John 16:7). Pray that kids would hear this story and call upon the Savior who draws near to them—even in their doubts and uncertainty. Ask the Lord to soften their hearts so they may receive salvation, experiencing His gift of eternal life now and for all eternity.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

LEFC KIDS

Pre-K/K

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Nov. 22, 2026
1st Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

*KNOW Jesus went back to heaven and gave us a mission.

*LET the Holy Spirit help them follow Jesus.

*TELL others about Jesus!

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children.
Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.
Ways to connect - Play a game, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, pretend play, etc.
When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



Welcome and Intro Activity

- Large sheet of blue butcher paper
- Tape
- Markers
- Crayons

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

Make a Sky Scene

*Before class - Spread a large piece of butcher paper on the floor or a tabletop and tape down the edges.

Invite the kids to use crayons or washable markers to draw things they can see in the sky.

Suggest objects such as the sun, clouds, birds, kites, airplanes, and so on.

When the kids finish, guide them to lie on the floor in a row. Enlist several volunteers to hold the banner above the kids so they can “look up” at the sky.

SAY: When you look up in the sky, you can see lots of things. In today’s Bible story, we will learn why the disciples were looking up in the sky. Today’s story will remind us that JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM.

ACTIVE MINDS

9:20 - 9:30ish - Kindergarten - Whole Group Bible Lesson in Large Group 3
Pre-K - Classroom Bible Story Time

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display a helium-filled balloon. Ask the kids what they think will happen if you let the balloon go in the classroom. Let the balloon go if your set-up allows. (Note: Tie some ribbon around the end of the balloon so it can easily be retrieved.)

SAY: Have you ever held a balloon like this and let it go? Balloons filled with helium will float if you let them go. In today's Bible story, we will hear about the time Jesus went up in the sky.

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Place a bookmark at Matthew 28 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY — The Bible is God's Word. The New Testament of the Bible tells about Jesus's life on earth and what happened after He returned to heaven. Today's Bible story is from the New Testament books of Matthew, Luke, and Acts. This story includes something that might seem unbelievable, but everything in the Bible is true and really happened. Listen to learn what happened when Jesus returned to heaven.

After Jesus came back to life, He appeared to His friends many times over 40 days. He taught His friends about God's kingdom and reminded them of His promises.

One day, Jesus met His friends on a mountain. He said, "God has given Me all power in heaven and on earth. Go and tell everyone about Me! Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey My commands. And remember, I am with you always."

Later, while they were together, Jesus said, "Stay in Jerusalem. Soon, My Father will give you the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give you power to tell people about Me—here and everywhere in the world."

Then Jesus took His friends outside the city. He lifted His hands to bless them. As He was blessing them, something amazing happened: Jesus began to rise into the sky! The disciples watched as a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Two men in bright clothes appeared and said, "Why are you standing here looking up? Jesus will come back the same way you saw Him go."

The disciples worshiped Jesus and went back to Jerusalem with joy. They praised God and waited for the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus told them.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus went back to heaven but did not leave His friends alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to help them tell the good news. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live for Him.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- Balloon

Lead kids to stand up and try to continuously keep a balloon (non-helium) in the air by tapping it as a team. Each time the balloon falls to the ground, ask a simple review question. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster to help kids recall the story.

Once the question is answered, begin tapping the balloon in the air again. Ask questions such as:

- Where did Jesus meet with the disciples? (on a mountain)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (go tell everyone about Him)
- Who did Jesus promise to send His followers? (the Holy Spirit)
- How did Jesus return to heaven? (He went up into the sky.)
- What did the disciples do after Jesus went to heaven? (They worshiped Jesus.)

SAY: Before it was time for Jesus to return to heaven, He met with His disciples several times. JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. Jesus returned to heaven, and the disciples went back to Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit to come.



Movement Activity

Waiting Game

- None

Invite the kids to move around the room as music plays.

Encourage them to pretend to fly like a bird or an airplane if they would like. Stop the music. Guide the kids to stop moving and “freeze” in place.

Lead them to wait for the music to start again. Begin playing the music and lead the kids to move again.

Vary the length of time kids must wait. Play as time allows. Consider letting kids start and stop the music.

SAY: Was it hard to wait in our game? [Allow responses.] Jesus told His disciples to wait for someone, do you remember who it was? (the Holy Spirit) Before He returned to heaven, JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. Jesus promised His disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to help them tell people the good news. Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. The disciples obeyed Jesus and waited for the Holy Spirit to come.

Ascension Craft

- Yellow circles (sun)
- Verse Clouds
- Yarn
- Plastic Cups
- Cotton Balls
- Jesus cut-out
- Tape
- Glue

Pass out a plastic cup (with a pre-cut X on the bottom), yellow circle, Jesus cut-out, and pre-cut yarn to each child.



Give each table group cotton balls and glue.

Have each child take their piece of string and pull it through the X on the bottom of their cup. Help them tape the yellow circle (sun) to the top of the yarn and tape Jesus to the bottom of the yarn.

Then, place dots of glue around the bottom of their upside down cup. Have them place cotton balls on the cup to cover the glue.

Then, have them tape their verse to the middle of the cup.

Show kids how to pull the string so Jesus moves up into the clouds/sky.

SAY: When Jesus returned to heaven, He began to rise in the sky and then was hidden by a cloud. Even though Jesus was no longer with His disciples, He did not leave them alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. Before He left, JEsuS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. Jesus provides the Holy Spirit to help Christians tell people about Him and to help them live and love like Him.

Music

- Activity page

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you would like! You may distribue the Activity page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

You will find today's activity for Friends From Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are invluded. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.

Prayer

Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well.

God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to forgive us for the wrong things we do. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit when we trust in You. Thank You that the Holy Spirit guides us and helps us tell others about You. Amen.



Bible Memory Verse

- Stop/Go Sign

Memory Actions

Read the verse aloud - Acts 1:8

Hold up a “Go” sign. Start saying the verse with all your students. Flip the sign to “Stop” at different words and see how many students can instantly stop. Repeat a few times.



Snack and Discussion Time

- Snack (Pretzels) located under the sink cabinet

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

- What did you like about the Bible story?
- What feelings do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus rise into the sky.
- Who was Jesus talking to when He asked them to tell others about Him? (His followers)
- Jesus told His followers that He had great power and He would always be with them. How do you think that made them feel?
- Do you need to be afraid when telling others about Jesus? Why or why not? (No, we do not need to be afraid because Jesus is powerful and will be with us.)
- How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts, shows sin, and guides Christians to live for God’s glory.

SAY: Before Jesus went up to heaven, JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. He promised them the Holy Spirit would come and give them power to tell others about Him all over the world. The disciples watched as Jesus rose up into the sky to be with God the Father. Angels promised His followers that Jesus would return one day.



Group Activity

Tell About Jesus

- Beanbag

Sit in a large circle with the kids.

Begin by pointing to each child in the circle and asking him or her to say their own name.

Gently toss a beanbag to a child while saying the phrase, “Tell (child’s name) about Jesus.” Prompt the child holding the beanbag to toss the beanbag to another child and repeat the phrase by using that child’s name. Play a game of tossing the beanbag and saying the phrase until every child has had a turn.

SAY: We've told everyone here today about Jesus! Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He spent time with His friends. He said to them, ‘Go and tell everyone about Me! | will be with you always.’ Then Jesus went back to heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to help His friends. When we trust Jesus, He gives us the Holy Spirit too



Additional Activities:

- None

JUMP HIGH

Invite kids to take turns jumping as high as they can and touching the wall. Before each child jumps, give her a piece of painter's tape so she can stick it to the wall at the highest point of her jump. (Note: Modify the movement as needed based on the abilities of the kids in your class, such as having them stretch their arms up and place the tape on the wall instead of jumping.) SAY You all jumped so high! But no matter how high you jump, you'll always come back down to the ground. Jesus went up into to the clouds to be with God. Before Jesus left His followers, He told them to tell everyone the good news about Him. He promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to help them. How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts, shows sin, and guides Christians to live for God's glory.

GO ON A LETTER J HUNT

Cut several pieces of paper into twelve smaller pieces. On these smaller pieces of paper, write a capital letter J. Place a loop of tape on the backs of the prepared J] papers. Gather the children in a circle, tell them you are going to play a game, and ask them to close their eyes without peeking. Quickly tape eleven of the pieces of paper around the room in plain view and within a child's reach. Prompt the kids to open their eyes. Show them the remaining J] and ask them to find the other] papers and bring them to you. SAY Jesus starts with the letter J]. Jesus took His friends outside the city. He lifted His hands to bless them. Then Jesus went up into the sky. Two men in bright clothes told Jesus's friends that Jesus will come back one day. Jesus went to heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to help His friends. When we trust Jesus, He gives us the Holy Spirit too.

OBEY ALL THE COMMANDS

Stand in front of the kids and give a command, such as "pat your head." Instruct them to keep patting their heads until you add a second command, such as "stand on one foot." Continue giving more commands and inviting kids to obey all the commands. When kids can no longer perform all the actions at once, start again with a new set of commands. SAY When JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM, He also told them to teach them to obey all that He commanded them. Jesus's commands were not simple actions like, 'stand on one foot.' Some of His commands were, 'Love your enemies,' 'Forgive as you have been forgiven,' and, 'Do not worry.' We need the the Holy Spirit's help to keep all these commands. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live for Him.

SPREAD THE WORD

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Whisper a phrase such as "God loves you" or "Jesus died for you" in the ear of one of the kids. Instruct that child to whisper the phrase into the ear of the next child. That child will whisper the phrase into the next kid's ear, and so on all the way around the circle. When the last child has heard the phrase, ask her to say the phrase out loud to see if it changed as it traveled around the circle. SAY Good job sharing the good news around the circle! JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM. We can tell our friends, our families, and our neighbors that Jesus died and rose again to forgive our sins. Who can you tell this good news to today? [Lead a prayer for the different people named.]