LEFC KIDS

SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Grade 3
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 in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
-Acts 1:8

Story Point:
Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers to make disciples.

PREPARE HEARTS

- [ ] Welcome - Search and Find
- [ ] Starter Activity - How Do I Make Disciples?

ACTIVATE HEARTS

- [ ] **9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2**
- [ ] Review and discuss the Bible Story
- [ ] Reflection and Prayer
- [ ] Questions from Kids Video

ENGAGE HEARTS

- [ ] Key Passage Activity - Verse Sort
- [ ] Group Activity – Chain Reaction
- [ ] Group Activity - The Great Commission

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

GRADE 3

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Nov. 22, 2026
1st Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

*KNOW Jesus returned to heaven and gave His follows a mission to make disciples.

DEPEND on the Holy Spirit to 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 from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, 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.
Pen Pal Kit!!



PREPARE HEARTS

WELCOME

Search and Find

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Can you think of a time when you needed help completing a task? How did having help make you feel?

Invite kids to complete the “Search and Find” activity page.

Today we will learn that before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers to make disciples. The disciples could not complete this task alone, but they didn’t have to. God sent the Holy Spirit to be their Helper.



STARTER

How Do I Make Disciples?

- Liquid Dish Soap
- Q-tips
- Milk
- Food Coloring

Challenge the kids to think about what it means to go and make disciples. Allow them to share their answers.

Invite kids to gather around a table so everyone can see. Place liquid dish soap in a bowl and soak the ends of several Q-tips in the soap.

Next, pour enough milk to cover the bottom of the pan. Then, add small drops of food color to represent Christians living in the world.

Then, invite a kid to take a Q-tip and carefully touch the soap-covered end to a food color drop and watch how it spreads.

SAY: Similar to the way the food color spread when it was touched with a Q-tip, believers can spread the good news of Jesus around the world and make disciples just as Jesus told them to do.

ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3rd Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

How does the Holy Spirit help us? *The Holy Spirit comforts, shows sin, and guides Christians to live for God's glory.*

Open your Bible to Matthew 28; Luke 24; Acts 1.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Maps: While telling the story, show a map of New Testament Israel. Point out the different cities and areas that Jesus mentioned. Explain that Jesus was commanding the disciples to share the gospel to both those who lived close to them and those who lived far away.
Mount of Olives: Show a picture of the Mount of Olives today (on powerpoint) to reinforce that the Bible is true and the places mentioned in the Bible are real and still exist today.
Instructions: Challenge kids to listen closely as you tell the story and raise their hands each time Jesus gives an instruction to His followers.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His friends many times over The disciples were overjoyed—Jesus was alive! But soon, Jesus told them it was almost time for Him to return to His Father in heaven.

One day, Jesus met His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. Some of them worshiped Him, but some were still unsure. Jesus came close and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember this: 1 am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Later, Jesus told them, "Don't leave this city yet. Wait for the gift My Father promised—the Holy Spirit. John baptized with water, but soon you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The disciples still wondered, "Lord, are You going to restore Israel's kingdom now?" Jesus said, "It's not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Then Jesus led them out toward the town of Bethany. He lifted His hands and blessed them. As He was blessing them, something amazing happened: He began to rise up into the sky! The disciples watched, amazed, as a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Suddenly, two men in bright clothes stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back the same way you saw Him go."

The disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem filled with joy. They stayed there, praising God and waiting for the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had told them.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave His followers alone. He gave them the Holy Spirit to be with them and help them share the good news to the whole world. Because Jesus died, rose again, and reigns in heaven, we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

The time had come for Jesus to return to heaven. He had completed His ministry on earth, died on the cross, and rose again, conquering sin and death. Before He ascended to heaven, though, Jesus gave His followers special instructions. **What did He tell them to do?** [Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:19.] Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers to make disciples. He told them to go into all the world and share the good news that anyone who trusts in Him as Savior will be saved from their sins and spend eternity with Him.

This was a big task, but Jesus was not expecting His followers to complete this task on their own or in their own power. **Who did Jesus say would give them the power?** [Choose a volunteer to read Acts 1:8 aloud.] Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit to help them share the good news with the whole world. The command to go and make disciples was not just for the followers of Jesus during that time, it is a command for all believers. Even today, anyone who has trusted Jesus as Savior has the power of the Holy Spirit to share the gospel with others so that they, too, can trust Jesus as Savior.



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use their journal page as you answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

What does this story teach me about God?
God is powerful. Jesus rose and ascended to heaven.
God is wise. He gives His people the Holy Spirit.
God is faithful. He keeps His promises.
God is missional. He sends His followers to share the gospel.
What does this story teach me about myself?
I can't follow Jesus on my own. I need the Holy Spirit and others - my church family, etc. to lead and guide me.

***Pray together**: Thank You, Lord, for allowing Your followers to share the good news with the world and for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps all who have trusted in You. Help us share the gospel with those around us. In Jesus's name, amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 29, Session 1" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Is it true that Jesus is coming back to earth?
- Why is it important to remember that Jesus is coming back?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Acts 1:8.

Key Passage Activity:

Verse Sort

- Colored sets of index cards with words from verse

SAY: Today we saw that before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers to make disciples. Let's memorize our key passage, which reminds us of this command.

Before this activity, write the words to the key passage on individual index cards. Create several sets out of different colored cards. (This will be done for you!)

**Before this activity - scatter the colored index cards around the room.

Form kids into 4 groups and assign each group a color card.

Challenge groups to look around the room and find all their index cards.

Once they have collected the cards, direct them to arrange their cards in order.

The first group to arrange their cards correctly, wins.



Chain Reaction

- Dominos

Form kids into 4 groups and provide each group with a set of dominoes. Challenge groups to set up their dominoes to set off a chain reaction. Explain that a chain reaction happens if the dominoes are set up one inch apart in a line, and then when one is knocked down they will all fall one after the other.

Allow groups one to two minutes to work together to set up the dominoes the first round. Then give them more time in the second round. Finally, challenge them to set up the dominoes, not in a straight line, but in a design and see if they can still all fall setting off a chain reaction.

SAY: You were able to create a chain reaction by knocking over just one domino. The same can be said of sharing about Jesus with others. If one person shares the love of Jesus with someone, and that person shares it with someone else, and it continues until many have heard. Think how many people we could reach for Jesus!

Ask: What can we share with others about Jesus?

- He is kind, He hears us, He cares, He loves us, He died on the cross for our sins, He wants us to believe and follow Him, He is coming back one day!



The Great Commission

- Map worksheet
- Colored Pencils
- Bible

Open your Bible and read Jesus' words from Matthew 28:19-20 -

- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

SAY: Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told his followers to make disciples.

- What is a disciple? (someone who follows Jesus)
- How do we make disciples? (by sharing the good news of Jesus with others - here with our family and friends, and also to all the other places in the world that still need to hear about Jesus!

As followers of Jesus, we can be ready to share the good news of the gospel with others!

Pass out "The Great Commission" map to each child. Together as a class, decide what color each continent will be. Talk about what each continent is called and color it in.

Then, have them flip their paper over and challenge them to think of a country, town or city for every letter of the alphabet. Let them work in pairs or small groups to collaborate together.



