

LESSON 1

JESUS GIVES THE GREAT COMMISSION AND ASCENDS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28; Acts 1

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus—resurrected and alive—appears to the disciples on a mountain in Galilee. He commissions His followers to share the good news and promises to send the Holy Spirit as a helper, then ascends into the sky to heaven.

WORD OF WONDER: The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

Activity: Balloon Bop

Activity: Floating Bubbles

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Sensory Clouds

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Balloon Bop

SUPPLIES: inflated balloon, permanent marker (prep only), helium-filled balloon with string attached (optional)

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Leader Tip: Watch the kids closely with the balloons, as balloons can be choking hazards when popped or uninflated.

Ahead of time, inflate one balloon and use a permanent marker to draw a face on it (or write the word “Jesus” on it). You may want to have extras in case one pops.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We’re going to talk today about Jesus telling the disciples He would send a helper to help us tell the world about God. And then Jesus floated up through the clouds to heaven! Come see what we have today. Let’s play and get curious. Show the kids the balloon.

Invite the kids to keep the balloon up by bopping it.

This balloon reminds me of Jesus going up to heaven. We’ll learn today about when He went up to heaven.

If you have a helium-filled balloon, tie a string to it and release it, allowing the kids to watch it “float” up. **You can help each other keep the balloon off the floor. It’s easier to do when you have a helper. We’ll learn today that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper.**

Activity: Floating Bubbles

SUPPLIES: bubbles with a wand, bubble machine (optional)

In God’s big story today, we’ll see how Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that a helper would come so they could tell the world about God. And then Jesus floated up through the clouds to heaven! Can you think of something else that floats? Allow the kids to respond. I have an idea ... bubbles! Let’s explore how bubbles float.

Blow bubbles for the kids. Allow them to explore the bubbles by touching them and popping them. For older toddlers, allow them to try to blow the bubbles.

Wow! Look at the bubbles floating up. In our God’s big story today, we’ll learn about when Jesus rose up to the clouds to go to heaven, kind of like our bubbles did! He didn’t leave us alone. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be a helper for His followers.

Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Point up.

SENDS—Hold your arms open in front of you, as if giving something.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about when Jesus gave a mission to all of His followers. But He didn't leave us alone. He sent the greatest helper. Let's sing about our mission to go and tell all the world about Jesus!

Play songs from the [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, helium-inflated balloon with string or ribbon attached, permanent marker (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jesus Gives the Great Commission and Ascends God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Before the kids arrive, use a marker to write the name "Jesus" on the helium-inflated balloon with ribbon tied to it.

We learned about how Jesus died and then came back to life. Can you say, "Jesus"? Pause to allow the kids to respond. **Today we're learning what happened after Jesus came back to life! Let's find out from the Bible what happened!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Jesus died and came back to life. Hold up the balloon. **Then Jesus spent time with His disciples. He ate and drank with them and let them touch His hands so they would know He was alive again. After 40 days, Jesus told His disciples to meet Him on a mountain.** Make the balloon move around as if talking and walking up a mountain.

There, Jesus shared an important message—He was going to go to heaven to be with God and would come back one day. Jesus gave His disciples a special mission to do while He is gone. They should tell people all about Him and His love.

Jesus told them to tell everyone how He died and came back to life so that every person could be close with God. Jesus told them to share this message all over the world!

Stand with your hands on your hips. **Whew! That sounds like a really hard thing to do! Jesus knew His followers would need some help, so He promised a helper—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help His followers share the message of Jesus with everyone.**

Jesus went to heaven, and He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help His followers. The Holy Spirit would come and help His followers share God's story.

And then, before their eyes (let go of the balloon and allow it to float to the ceiling or bop it up to the ceiling if not filled with helium), **Jesus rose into the air and disappeared in the clouds to heaven! The**

disciples went to Jerusalem, and there they waited for the Holy Spirit. We'll hear more about that in our next story.

But this special job was not just for the disciples back a long time ago. Jesus gave this special mission to all of His followers—that's us too!

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us with this mission! The Holy Spirit helps us share God's story.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Power of the Spirit Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series is from Acts 1:8. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God and thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to help us.

God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us. God, help us to be excited as we go tell others about You and Your love. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him, and that includes us! Through the Holy Spirit, God is always with you and in you. May you walk in step with the Holy Spirit this week and always, receiving His help and power to share God's love!

Activity: Sensory Clouds

SUPPLIES: cotton balls, small bowls and cups, scoops or spoons

Today we learned how Jesus wants us to tell everyone about God and that He would send us a helper to do that. Then Jesus rose up through the clouds to heaven. Jesus didn't leave us alone though. He promised to send the Holy Spirit. Let's play with cotton balls and make our own clouds so we can remember how powerful God is. You can help a friend gather as many cotton ball clouds as you can! Work together and help one another.

Give the kids cotton balls, bowls, cups, and scoops. Let them play with the cotton balls and make pretend cloud formations. Encourage the kids to help one another with the mission.

Leader Tip: Watch the kids closely as they play and remind them not to put cotton balls in their mouths.