

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

Scripture:

Acts 1:1-11

Materials Needed:

Pictures of story

Memory Verse:

Acts 1:11 "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Jesus, God's appointed King, told his disciples to wait for the promised Holy Spirit so they could be His witnesses, and after He was taken up into Heaven in front of their eyes, the angels told the disciples He would come again in the same way.

To Realize—Jesus, God's appointed King, left His followers on earth to be witnesses to His death, resurrection and coming Kingdom, and is seated at the right hand of the Father where He is waiting to return and bring judgment on all evildoers when He establishes His kingdom on earth.

To Respond by—repenting of their sins and being ready for Jesus' return.

Setting up the Story:

You will need to set up the story with review questions to understand how these events tie in God's promises to King David and Jesus' coming Kingdom. Have the pictures drawn on the board and covered with pieces of paper. As each question is answered, uncover the part of the picture depicted by that answer. This will develop the whole first point of the lesson.

1. Who did God promise would have a kingdom forever? (David)
2. Who was David's enemy who tried to kill him? (Saul)
3. Why didn't David fight against Saul or kill him when he had the chance? (he was waiting until God took care of Saul and gave him the kingdom)
4. After Saul died, who kept fighting against David for 7-1/2 more years? (Abner)
5. Who was David's great-great-great-great...grandson? Hint: He was also born in Bethlehem (Jesus)
6. Who were Jesus' enemies who wanted to kill him? (Pilate, Herod, Jewish leaders)
7. Why did the Romans make a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head? (they were mocking Him)
8. What did the sign above Jesus' cross say? ("This is Jesus, the King of the Jews")
9. What did the thief on the cross ask Jesus before He died? ("Remember me when you come into Your kingdom.")
10. What did Jesus promise him? ("Today you will be with Me")
11. After Jesus came back to life, what did He talk to His disciples about? (Have students look in Acts 1:3...God's Kingdom!)
12. What did the disciples ask Jesus about? (Have students look in Acts 1:6... "Is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?")

Scripture

Telling the story:

As you tell the story:

- I. Jesus is God's Appointed King
 - A. Like David
 - 1. Promise of an enduring kingdom
 - 2. Opposed by Saul, the leader
 - 3. Opposed by Abner for 7-1/2 more yrs.
 - 4. Waited and would not take his own revenge
 - 5. Was given the kingdom
 - B. Acknowledged at his Crucifixion
 - 1. Crown of thorns: Gentiles mock
 - 2. Inscription above the cross: King of the Jews
 - 3. Thief on the cross: "Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom."
 - 4. After resurrection He appeared over 40 days: speaking about the KINGDOM of GOD
 - 5. They asked about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel
- Acts 1:3
- Acts 1:6
- Acts 1:4-5
 - II. Jesus Tells His Disciples to Wait in Jerusalem
 - A. For the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Jesus wouldn't leave them on their own!
 - 2. God would send the Holy Spirit to live in them
- Acts 1:7-8

Ask review questions. Have the visuals drawn on the board and covered with pieces of paper. As each question is answered, remove a piece of paper.

After review questions are all answered, pick up the story by saying:
Just before Jesus was betrayed by Judas, He had told them He was going to go away and that God would send the Holy Spirit. They didn't understand what was happening. But now it is the time for Jesus to go away and for them to WAIT until the Holy Spirit comes.
(DRAW visual on board)
Jesus is going to be seated at the right hand of God, the Father, and WAIT for God's timing for Him to

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3. They needed power!
- B. They would be His witnesses
1. Jesus died for you. He cleans you from your sins. Turn from going your own way! Get right with God!!
 2. Jesus is King, so you need to bow to HIM!
 3. Jesus is coming again and will destroy His enemies!
- III. Jesus is Taken into Heaven
- A. Disciples are watching
 - B. He was lifted up and a cloud takes Him out of sight
 - C. Two men in white robes stand beside them
 1. Why are you looking into heaven?
 2. "This Jesus will come again just as you saw Him go into heaven."

come back to earth. When He comes back, He is going to JUDGE all evil-doers! Anyone who has sided against Him will be judged and punished. Remember how Saul sided against David and ended in shame? Now everyone who has not joined with Jesus will end in shame, too.

David had to wait about 15 years, but Jesus has been waiting 2,000 years already...and He is going to come back because HE Promised!
What were His disciples going to do while He was gone?
Be His witnesses.
This is what they were going to say:
Jesus died for your sins so you can be clean in your heart.
Turn from going your own way!
Get right with God!
Jesus is King: bow to Him!
Jesus is coming again and will destroy His enemies!

Show picture.

Concluding the Story:

Boys and girls, Jesus hasn't come back yet. You know what that means? He wants YOU to know that YOU need to get right with God! Some of you are still going your own way and have not asked Jesus to give you a clean heart. Jesus wants each of YOU to be in His Kingdom and say, "Jesus is MY KING! I obey Him." Jesus wants each of YOU to be ready when He comes so that you won't be on the wrong side. It's not easy to be on

Jesus' side right now and say, "I follow Jesus." People will make fun of you. But He is coming again and if you are on His side now, you will be in His kingdom then!
Sing: I Believe the Bible (Point to each part of the lesson as you sing each verse.)