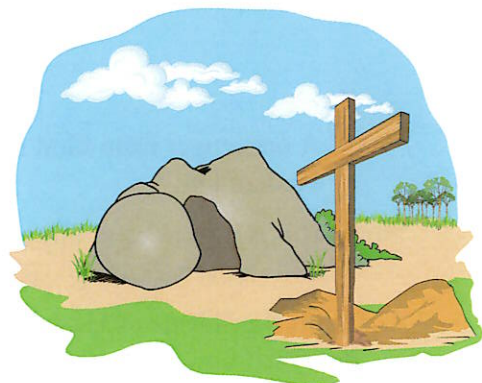


Lesson 13

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Theme: Obedience — Working for Jesus



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: I Know My Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Have the entire class stand and say together all three Memory Verses for this quarter. Take a moment to talk about the meaning of each verse and especially what they tell us about God.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Telling the Story

1. For non-reading students, read Matthew 28:18-20 and Luke 24:50-53. Have reading students find and mark Matthew 28:18 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Ask students to identify the time and place of events studied in this series—Jesus' last week and Jerusalem.
4. Establish the setting more specifically by using the "Last Week" Time Line.
5. Introduce *The Cross & the Empty Tomb Lesson Graphics* using "Heart to Heart."
6. Tell the story using the *The Cross & the Empty Tomb Lesson Graphics*.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Jesus stayed on earth forty days after he was raised from the dead. He taught his apostles about the work they would do.
 - He sent the apostles to go into all the world to preach about Him and how to be saved in Him. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them in this work.
 - The time came for Jesus to go back to Heaven. One day Jesus took His apostles to Bethany; and, while they were looking on, He was lifted up into heaven.

- A messenger from God told them that Jesus would come again in the same way that He had left.

Note: This is a wonderful opportunity is to tell the whole story of Jesus from beginning to end: Jesus is coming—Jesus is here—Jesus is coming again!

8. From the “Heart to Heart” display, take the following items one at a time. Have the students tell how each one is related to this lesson:

- a large card printed with a giant number 40
- a large card printed with the word *preach*
- a large card printed with the word *miracles*
- a map showing the city of Jerusalem
- a giant cut-out of a cloud
- a Bible

As students tell about each item, the teacher fills in with details of the lesson, so that when all the items have been revealed, the lesson story has been completed.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 13

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Theme: Obedience — Working for Jesus

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: I Know My Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Provide an opportunity for students who have not yet recited Memory Verses for the class. Move to the Memory Verse wall display featured on page 9 of this Guide. Talk with the students about the key verses they have learned about the cross and the empty tomb and how these verses will help them their whole lives. Tell the students they may take home the “reward” with their names and the verses they memorized. Give these to the students as they leave class.

Prayer

Starter

His followers did not understand it, but Jesus lived in the world with heaven in view. Several times during His life on earth, Jesus talked about returning to His Father (John 7:33; 14:12; 16:5, 10, 28). Forty days after He was raised from the dead, a cloud took Jesus from earth up into heaven. During His final forty days on earth, Jesus spent time especially with His disciples to get them ready for their important work.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning and Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** Review and reinforce the whole story of Jesus’ birth, life, work, death, and resurrection.

For two quarters we have studied the life of Jesus. Take time to go back and review the major events of His life, trying to pull it all together for your students in a way that is appropriate to their age or grade level. Engage the students as much as possible in helping you tell the story by giving starter sentences and allowing them to complete them.

Obtain the *Stop, Look, and Listen Lesson Graphics* and the *Cross & the Empty Tomb Lesson Graphics*. For younger students choose the main pictures that will help you tell the story of Jesus' life. For older students take all the *Lesson Graphics* and mix them up, so they are not in order. Allow the students to lay them out on the table or floor and arrange them in their proper order. Once they have done this, get the students to help retell the story from beginning to end and talk about what a wonderful and important story it is.

2. **Objective:** *Review and reinforce the topics of this quarter's study.*

Using the "Last Week" Time Line, allow students to mix and reorganize the pieces as they tell you what each picture represents from this quarter's study.

3.  **Objective:** *Help students decide how to work for Jesus.*

Make a folded card for each student with his or her name on the front. Make the inside of the card as shown in the diagram below, with the short poem on the left and the lines on the right. Give a card to each student and allow him to complete it.

| | |
|---|---|
| When Jesus left here He gave us work to do. He said, "Don't stop! "You'll never be through!" | Here's how I can do it! 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ |
| My job is to serve And teach out of love. I will work for My God In heaven above. | |