

Lesson 1

Waiting for the Holy Spirit



Theme: Faith — Jesus as the Son of God

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts (See page 8 of this Guide)

Memory Verse: Make or purchase heavy card stock footprints, both right and left. Print each word of the Memory Verse on a footprint, alternating right and left. Arrange the footprints in order to make a trail, so that a student can step on the words and say them. Have students walk the trail and say the Memory Verse. Since you are introducing a new Memory Verse, have them walk the trail and say the verse a few times. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk about Who? What? When? and Where? in connection with the verse.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Luke 24:49-53. Have reading students find and mark Luke 24:49 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place. (Using a lighted telescoping pointer, which can be purchased in the toy section of a discount store, is exciting for students and solves height problems if the time line must be mounted high on a wall.)
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Jerusalem and Bethany on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* as described on page 9 in this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Gospel is for All Lesson Graphics* and other props. You may make a cloud out of paper or a large container with batting glued on it. Talk about why Jesus appeared to the apostles after the resurrection.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:

- Between being raised from the dead and returning to heaven, Jesus spent time with His apostles preparing them for their work.
 - Jesus said the apostles would go into the world to preach the gospel and help people be Christians.
 - Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven where He will be until He comes again.
 - With God's help, the apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas, and the twelve waited in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come.
8. Make a cloud from a large container with batting or cotton balls glued on it. Reproduce the black and white Jesus graphic from page 71 of this Guide. Attach the graphic to a craft stick and give one to each student. As you tell the story, hold the cloud up and allow the students to make their Jesus ascend into the cloud. Talk about Jesus completing His work on earth and going back home to heaven. The apostles were still on earth and had work to do.
9. Test the students' knowledge about the lesson by giving a character quiz. Give the students a character and have each student respond with an attribute or part of the story that tells about that particular character. Characters for this lesson are the following: Jesus, the eleven apostles, Peter, and Matthias.

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

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Lesson 1

Waiting for the Holy Spirit



Theme: Faith — Jesus as the Son of God

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts (See page 8 of this Guide)

Memory Verse: Using the footprints from Sunday, place them in a trail but pull out several key words, scattering the missing words around on the floor. Have students work together to place the footprints in the correct order to complete the trail. Have students walk the trail and say the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse.

Prayer

Starter

Do you like to take trips with your family? It's exciting to see new places and do new things. We usually enjoy trips like this, but it's always good to get back home. It's always good to sleep in your own bed and to be able to walk around in the dark because you know where everything is.

Jesus left heaven and came to earth as a man. Jesus' life on earth was not easy, but He was willing to come here to save people from sin. Jesus did His Father's will in every way, even to the point of dying on the cross. To show that Jesus was God's Son and the Savior, God raised Him from the dead. Not long after He was raised from the dead, Jesus returned to heaven. He went back home!

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Luke 24:49-53.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** To explain to students why the book of Acts is named "Acts"

Discuss the fact that an act is something one does. Have students name some of the "acts" they might have done to get ready for class today. Explain that the book of Acts tells about the acts of the apostles (mostly Peter and Paul) and of the Holy Spirit. It is about the things they did.

2. **Objective:** To show that the apostles could not have performed miracles without the Holy Spirit
Have a flashlight without batteries. Ask a student to turn it on. Let him tell you that the

batteries must be dead or missing. But then provide batteries and put them in the flashlight. Ask a students to turn it on. Discuss how the flashlight must have batteries to work properly. Compare this to how the apostles had to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit so that they would be able to preach the gospel and prove it was from God by miracles. Without the Holy Spirit's power, they were just eleven ordinary men. But when the Holy Spirit came to energize and guide them, the apostles were special "lights." With God's help, these men did the important work of telling God's good news to the world.

3. *Objective: To make Jesus more personal to the students*

Put stick-on dots on the students' hands and have them act out the scene between Jesus and his apostles, explaining the dots as nail marks. Have students explain how Jesus died and God brought him back to life.

4. *Objective: To show Jesus' strategy for preaching the gospel*

Jesus outlined His strategy for the gospel in Acts 1:8, that it would be taken to Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria, and finally into all the world. See the teaching board idea on page 7 of this Guide. If this teaching board was created, take the students to show it to them while teaching this lesson.

The Old Testament word for "lots" is derived from a root word meaning "stony" or "stony ground" and probably referred to small stones used to discover the divine will. The lots were likely kept in a container in which they were shaken until one was thrown out. The use of lots in making decisions was a way to allow God to make the choice — "The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33). The eleven apostles selected two candidates to be a twelfth apostle, and then the choice between the two was made by casting lots and thus was God's choice.

From *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Geoffrey W. Bromily, General Editor. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Grand Rapids, MI. 1986. Volume 3. pages 172-173.

Journeys for Jesus Journal

We are the eleven apostles. Jesus took us to Bethany today and you will never guess what happened ...

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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