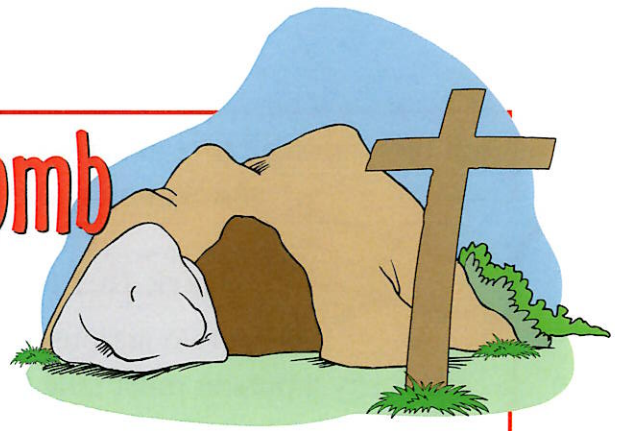


# The Cross & the Empty Tomb



Lesson 13

## Jesus Returns to Heaven

**Theme:** Obedience — Working for Jesus

### Memory Verses

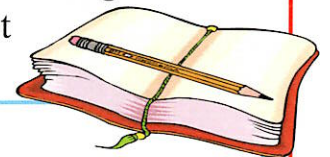
“Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

### Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Matthew 28:16-20
Friday	Mark 16:14-20
Saturday	Luke 24:36-43
Monday	Luke 24:44-53
Tuesday	Acts 1:1-11

**J**esus lived in the world, but He always had heaven in His mind. Many times during His life on earth, Jesus talked about returning to His Father. 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 apostles to get them ready for their important work.



### The Apostles' Work

About three years before His death, Jesus had chosen twelve men to be apostles. These men would have the important work of fishing for men. They would do this by telling people about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jesus told the men they were to

#### Matthew 28:16-20

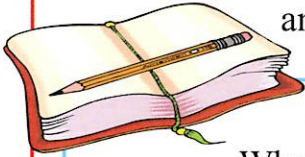
Jesus told the apostles to:

rest a while      teach about Him

follow Him

baptize people      stay at the mountain

tell this message first in Jerusalem, then in the area around Jerusalem known as Judea and Samaria, and then everywhere in the world (Acts 1:8).



### Mark 16:14-20

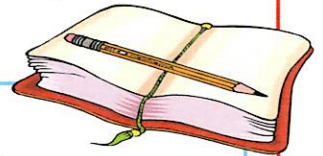
What two actions does Jesus say a person must take to be saved?

- believe and be baptized
- believe and go to church
- read the Bible and pray

To help the men understand what was happening, Jesus showed them things about Himself in the Old Testament. God had planned and promised that His Son would come into the world to save people from sin. Jesus carried out God's plan by dying on the cross. When God raised Jesus from the dead, He showed that Jesus' death could help people with sin. But somehow this good news had to be taken into the world.

Jesus told His apostles to tell this message to all people everywhere.

By taking the message of forgiveness to the world, the apostles would show people how to follow Jesus and be saved. Jesus instructed His men to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Once people were baptized and began following Jesus, they were to be taught to obey Jesus in every way. Today, many years later, this is still the way to follow Jesus. This message still needs to be taken to all the world.



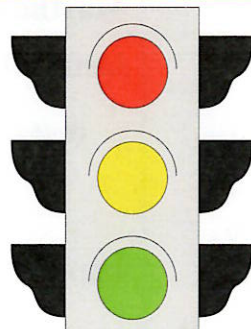
### Luke 24:36-43

What did Jesus show the disciples so they would believe He was really alive?

## Jesus' Ascension

To ascend means to go up. When all His work on earth was finished, Jesus ascended into heaven. He took His closest followers out a few miles east of Jerusalem to Bethany, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. His dying on the cross is the crucifixion. His being raised from the dead is the resurrection. His going back into heaven is the ascension.

I act so others  
will know  
I love Jesus.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — almost never

**Yellow** — sometimes

**Green** — most of the time



When Jesus was taken back up into heaven, He was exalted or highly honored. Jesus died on the cross to give every person the chance to be saved from sin. He was raised from the dead to show He is God's Son and the Savior. He ascended back to heaven to rule heaven and earth. Jesus did the Father's work completely, then the Father raised Jesus from the dead and put Him at His right hand. This is a place of great honor. Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of God today.

### Luke 24:44-53

From what parts of the Bible did Jesus quote things about Himself?

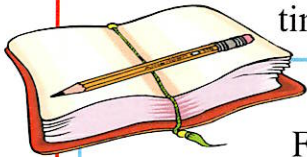
Revelation    Law of Moses  
Psalms    Acts    prophets

What did Jesus want His disciples to proclaim or announce in His name beginning from Jerusalem?

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of sins

### Jesus' Return

When Jesus ascended into heaven in a cloud, the disciples did what any of us would have done. They stood looking up into the sky. Messengers from God told them that Jesus would come again in the same way He had just left. In the meantime, it was no time to be looking into the sky. They had work to do!



### Acts 1:1-11

For how many days after His resurrection was Jesus on earth?

40                      7

How did Jesus go from earth back into heaven?

Now, many years later, we also have work to do. Jesus came to the world to take away people's sins. We need to follow Jesus. Other people need to know about Jesus so they can follow Him. One day, He is coming back. We don't know when, so we must be ready. We have work to do!

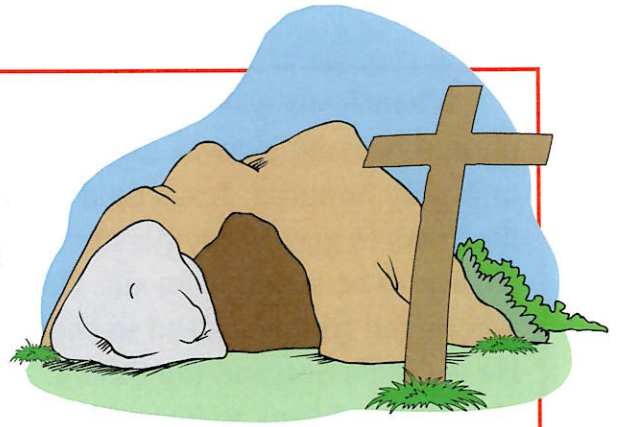
## Think About It...

Write a definition in your own words of these three great events:

Crucifixion

Resurrection

Ascension



## I Know My Bible Facts!

Which book in the New Testament is about fighting for the faith?

Using letters of the alphabet, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Punished by Captivity
- \_\_\_ Wilderness Wanderings
- \_\_\_ Living in the Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt
- \_\_\_ Law at Mount Sinai

On a map inside the back cover, find the city of Caesarea and mark it with a circle.