

### LESSON 1

## JESUS GIVES THE GREAT COMMISSION AND ASCENDS

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

**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**

**Snack**

**Word of Wonder**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Sensory Clouds**

## 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. 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 float? 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.**

**We are learning: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER.**

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.

## Worship

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 [LL Spotify Playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, balloon from "Balloon Bop" activity, [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

Gather kids to watch the [God's Big Story Video](#), then circle up for a short review:

In today's Bible story, you will be reinforcing 4 main points from our story: *Jesus is alive, Jesus gives us a job to tell everyone about Him, Jesus gives us help, and Jesus lives in heaven.*

**Friends, can you say Jesus?** Jesus.

Hold up the balloon

**Jesus died and came back to life so we could be His friend forever. Jesus is alive! Can you say that with me?**

Jesus is Alive!

Move the balloon around like it is talking.

**Jesus told His friends to go tell everyone about Him, and that's our job too as His friends!**

**Cup your hands around your mouth and say this with me: Tell Everyone About Jesus!**

Tell everyone about Jesus!

Point upward

**Jesus said He would send a Helper, the Holy Spirit**

**Pat your heart and say this with me: The Holy Spirit helps me.**

The Holy Spirit helps me.

Let the balloon rise or gently toss it upward.

**Jesus went up to heaven to live with His Father, God.**

**Point up high and say this with me: Jesus is in heaven.**

Jesus is in heaven.

Repeat all 4 again with motions.

**That's right, friends! Jesus is alive, we can tell everyone about Jesus, Jesus gives us help through the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is in Heaven with God!**

## Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

**Thank you for the world so sweet.** kids repeat

**Thank you for the food we eat.** kids repeat

**Thank you for the birds that sing.** kids repeat

**Thank you God for everything.** kids repeat

**Amen**

## Word of Wonder / Wonder Truth

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—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.