



Jesus is the Good News – Jesus Appears & Returns to Heaven

Matthew 28:18-20

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

MAKE: Letters to Compassion Child

(To be done during check-in, prior to Explore Activity)

As kids check-in, invite them to write letters to your Compassion Child to go with the Missions focus for this month – Compassion International.

Supplies: blank paper, markers/crayons

Directions: Encourage kids to color/decorate and write a special note for your Compassion child. Kids can write a Bible verse or a fun joke or share about themselves. Give Woodmen Kids staff member the finished letters.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

Have you ever had really exciting news that you wanted to share with someone? Maybe you just found out you were going on a special vacation, or your family was getting a puppy, or you got an A+ on your spelling test? What was the news? How did your friend react?

Did you know that we call Jesus the Good News? Why do you think that is? We just celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus! That was when Jesus rose from the dead after 3 days. That is the most amazing news ever!

Imagine you were one of Jesus' close friends, a disciple, and Jesus just appeared to you after you saw Him on the cross. How would you react? How would you feel? Who would you want to tell? We're going to hear more about what happened when Jesus reappeared in large group, but first, let's play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Pin the Clouds on Heaven!

Supplies: blue paper, blind fold, clouds, tape

Say: *Today we're celebrating that Jesus is alive! Let's play a game to help us remember that Jesus came back to life and rose to Heaven.*

Directions: Have children make a line and give each one a cloud. Tape the blue paper to the wall and place the blind fold around the first child's eyes. Place a piece of tape on the cloud piece and have the children try and place their cloud on the blue page (Heaven). (This game is like pin the tail on the donkey but with clouds). Allow all children to have a turn placing their cloud on the page.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Key Verse” slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

“But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8, NIRV)

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is the Good News – Jesus Appears & Returns to Heaven

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: 1 piece of chalk per kid, 1 "ABCs" card per kid

Jesus told us to make disciples of all nations – that means we share the Good News of who Jesus is and what He did for us to others! Think of two people you can share about Jesus with.

- When you write to your Compassion friend, you can share about Jesus. You also can share with your friends at school.
- You can share with your family. What about neighbors? You can pray for them to know about Jesus and you can share about Him.

Sometimes it can feel scary to share the Good News with others, but there's a really easy tool we use to help – share the ABCs! Does anyone know what A stands for? And B? And C?

It's as easy as ABC – (Read the verses or summarize)

- **A – Admit** to God that you are a sinner (done bad things, disobeyed and lied) and repent (turn away from your sin).
 - **Romans 3:23, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**
- **B – Believe** that Jesus Christ is God's Son, that he paid the price for you, and you need to accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin.
 - **John 3:16 & Romans 10:9-10**
- **C – Call on Him** to save you from your sin and start a relationship with Him.
 - **Romans 10:13**

This is an easy way to share the amazing news of Jesus with your friends and family. But what about YOU? If you haven't asked Jesus to save you yet, you can do that right now.

Take time to allow kids to respond in prayer if they feel led.

Example Prayer: Jesus I know I do wrong things and I'm sorry. I believe in you, that you died for me and that you came alive again. I confess that you are Lord!

Encourage kids to share with leaders/staff if they make a decision today!

A fun easy way to share the ABCs would be to write them on your driveway or sidewalk. If you don't have a driveway or sidewalk that you can write on, you could make a sign and put it on your mailbox or hallway or door.

We're going to take a few minutes to reflect on who and how we can share the Good News. When you're ready, you can come up and grab a bag with chalk that you can take home! Then, sit back down quietly and continue to talk to God.

Turn on soft worship music and allow kids to sit quietly for 1-2 minutes. Gather them back together to close in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Compassion Give a Bible

****FINAL WEEK****

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: We spend time every week talking about our Compassion child that we sponsor! He/she is so important to us because they are a child of God, just like you and me, and we get to be a part of helping them feel loved by God! We have been working on a special missions focus for the last couple of weeks. We've worked together to raise money to give 50 Bibles to kids in need! Let's see where we're at with our goal! Wow, look how many Bibles we're able to give to other kids to share the amazing news and the hope of Jesus!

Let's pray for our Compassion child and for every child that could receive a Bible because of your donations!

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, as Jesus said in Matthew 28 - Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Matthew 28:18-20).**
2. **What does Jesus tell them to do?** (Make disciples and tell others about Jesus and what He has taught them).
3. **What does it mean to “ascend”?** (Go up).
4. **Jesus ascended into heaven. What do you think this looked like?**
5. **It has been so wonderful learning about Jesus and what He has done. Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told them to go out and make disciples of all nations. What are some ways that we can spread God’s love and Jesus’ teachings to others in our lives?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

What does Jesus tell them to do? (Make disciples and tell others about Jesus and what He has taught them).

2. **What does it mean to make disciples of all nations?** (To spread God’s word and to teach others about Jesus).
3. **What does it mean to “ascend”?** (Go up).
4. **Jesus ascended into heaven. What do you think this looked like?**
5. **It has been so wonderful learning about Jesus and what He has done. Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told them to go out and make disciples of all nations. What are some ways that we can spread God’s love and Jesus’ teachings to others in our lives?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Jesus Ascends Puzzle Page!

Supplies: 1 puzzle page per child, markers/crayons, scissors, plastic bags

Directions: Pass out one puzzle page per child. Have them color their puzzle. If time allows children can cut out the puzzle pieces or take the page with them to complete it at home.

Say: *Jesus really is the Good News! Let’s work on this puzzle page as we talk about what it means to us that Jesus is the Good News.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

