

Bible Lesson

## 44. Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

John 13, 20-21; Matthew 28; Luke 25; Acts 1



“Go and make disciples of all nations,” Jesus said before he was taken up into heaven.

Matthew 28:19

## Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

After Jesus rose from the dead, more than 500 people saw him. He did many miracles for 40 days. If you wrote them down, the world could not hold all the books!

These were written that we might believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. By believing, we have life – real life, forever life.

The disciples were eating fish on a beach together. Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?”

“Yes,” Peter said. “You know that I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. This meant that Peter was to take care of the believers.

Jesus told all his followers, “You must love each other in the same way that I have loved you.”

“Go,” Jesus said, “Make disciples of all nations. Baptize the believers. Teach them to obey everything that I told you. I will be with you always, even to the end.” Then Jesus went up into heaven. A cloud hid him from their sight.

Two angels said, “Jesus will come back again.” The disciples felt great joy. This was the start of the worldwide Christian church.

## Questions

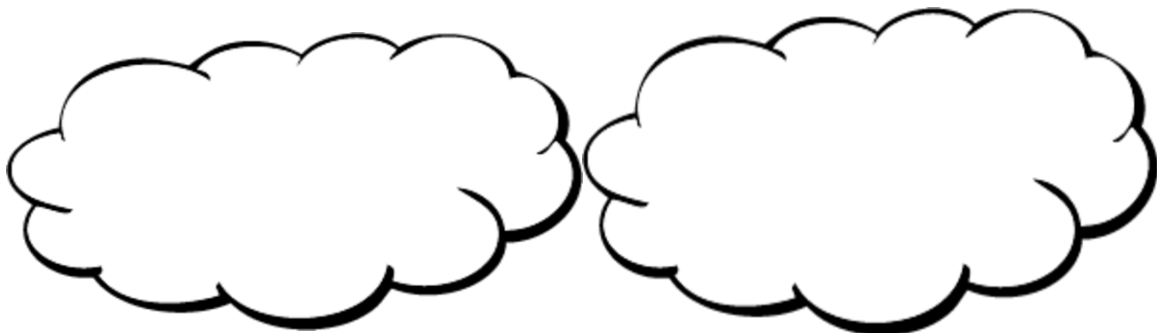
1. What did Jesus do in the 40 days that he was back on earth after he rose from the dead?
2. What commands did Jesus leave us?
3. Did the disciples obey him? How do we know?
4. Which believers can you love? Who can you teach?

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for giving me eternal life. Thank you for living inside me. Help me to tell the world who you are and what you said. Help me to love others in the way that you loved me.

Amen

Jesus promised he would never leave us. When we believe, he lives inside us. Write in the clouds: Jesus said, "I will be with you always, even to the end."



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

### **Before you read:**

#### **Activate Prior Knowledge**

- a) Where did Jesus come from? Where did he return to? How did he get there?
- b) Have your parents ever gone away on a trip and left you with instructions?
- c) What instructions do you think Jesus left with his disciples?

### **After you read:**

#### **Departing Directives**

Bring a suitcase and a few other travel props like a map and sunglasses. Ask the kids if their parents ever left for a few days. What instructions did they (or would they) leave behind? Maybe: brush your teeth; take the dog for a walk; do your homework. Go through the story, find, and write the six directives that Jesus told his followers. Write them on the left side of a folded piece of paper under a column called "Jesus Said." On the right side, write down how you can obey under a column called "So I Will..." Fill them in and ask God to help you obey.

#### **A Waterfall of Joy**

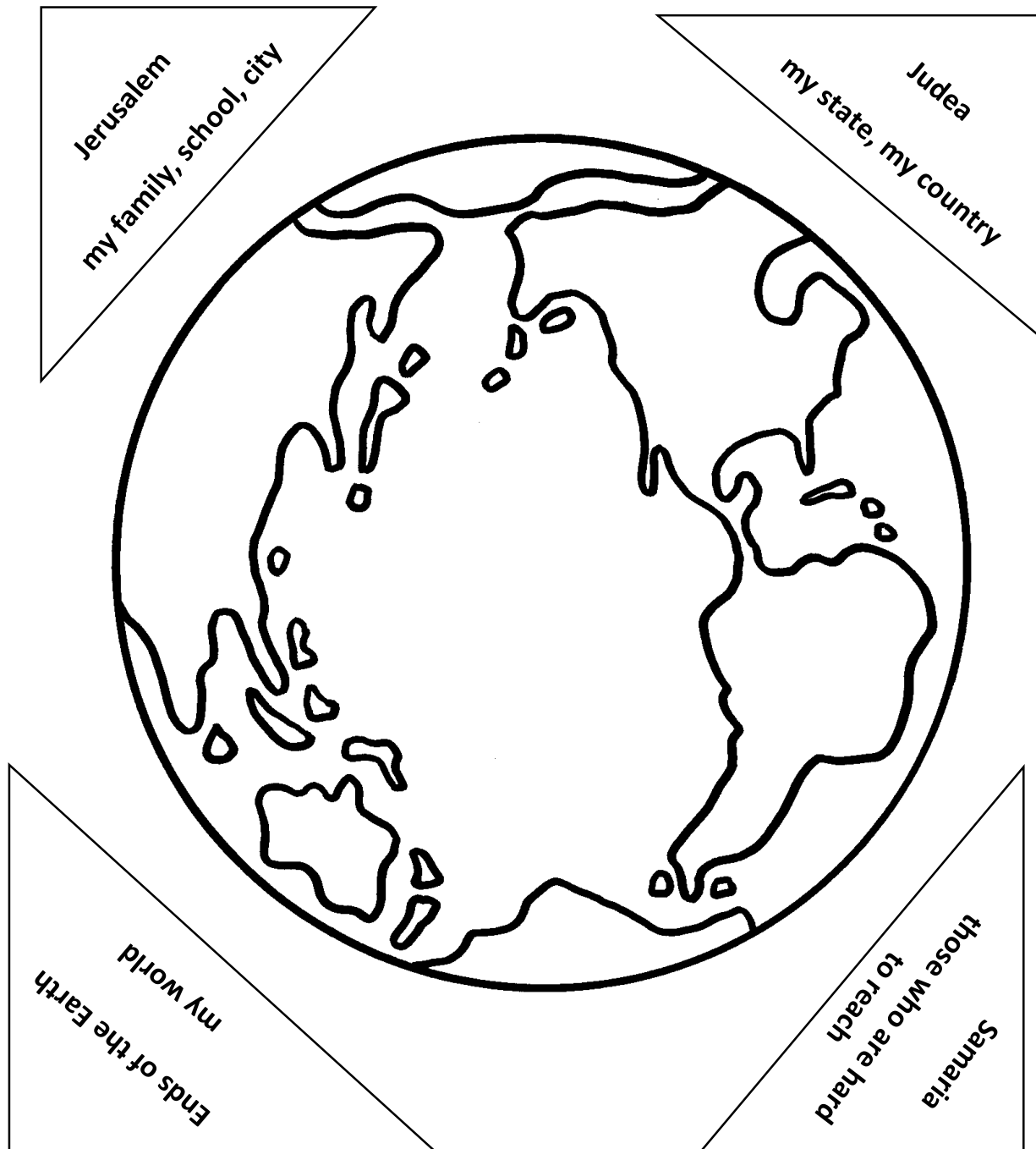
Jesus meant for his words and instructions to spread around the world and throughout every generation. To make this concept come to life, get four buckets. Label them: Jesus said; the disciples did; adults I know do; I will do. Fill the first bucket with water. Look at the instructions Jesus left behind (see Departing Directives above). Take one directive at a time. As you pour the water from one bucket to another, say something like: "Jesus said that we are to care of his sheep, which means our Christian brothers and sisters. The disciples did this. They took care of the sheep by sharing God's word and food with the other believers. Adults I know take care of Jesus' sheep. My uncle posts a Bible verse every day. I will take care of Jesus' sheep, too. I will share my snack with Juan and write a Bible verse on our Christmas cards."

#### **Eye Witness: I Witness**

Seeing the resurrected Jesus Christ, after knowing he had died, shook the disciples and changed them instantly, radically, permanently. They went from fearful, hidden believers to bold witnesses who gave their lives for Christ. The empty tomb changes everything. Today, we have even more resources than the apostles did. We have two millenniums of miracles, proven prophecies, God's full word in many form, comforts, blessings, and for many of us, the freedom to witness without fear of persecution. Choose a child to retell the story from Peter's point of view, using passion and persuasion. Use the phrase "I witnessed it with my own eyes!" How can you be a witness to the resurrection?

## A Worldwide Plan

Jesus' last instructions: "Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)." Jerusalem means your own family or city. Judea is a larger area around you, perhaps your state or country. Samaria stands for places or people that are hard to reach, perhaps hardened nonbelievers or those in prison. The ends of the earth means that we are to go to other countries to share the good news. Write down near the corners how you can serve others in each area in your world. Also, consider also turning this into a bulletin board. Pray for missionaries who obey these words. Write a prayer in the globe asking the Lord to show you how to serve him near and far.



## Sing Hallelujah, Sing, World!

Learn this simple song and sing it outdoors so you can look to the skies. Jesus is coming back! Hallelujah means "God be praised." Reign means "royal rule."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeAIKgv1430>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gN6A13V3EI>

Hear the same song in other languages and other lands:

Russian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iJUTTIIFYc>

India: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtUVJiDsFvQ>

Indonesia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55sudaqFfL1M>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WWqpaEN5o>

Reggae: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAmJXU5JGYI>

French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNdRz5aSwDc>

(Refrain)

Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.  
Sing Hallelujah.  
sing Hallelujah.  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.

(Repeat Refrain 2x)

Jesus is risen from the dead.  
Jesus is risen from the dead.  
Jesus is risen.  
Jesus is risen.  
Jesus is risen from the dead.

(Repeat Refrain)

Jesus is reigning in my heart.  
Jesus is reigning in my heart.  
Jesus is reigning.  
Jesus is reigning.  
Jesus is reigning in my heart.

(Repeat Refrain)

(Add this stanza)

He's coming back to claim his own.  
He's coming back to claim his own.  
He's coming back.  
He's coming back.  
He's coming back to claim his own.



## Clouds in our Pasture

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven and hidden by the clouds, he told Peter to "take care of my sheep." Photocopy this page onto which will be enough for five students. They each get a cloud square. Lay the illustrated page of Jesus ascending on a table and have kids cover it with a cloud. Now, turn those clouds into sheep by drawing feet, tail, ears, and a face (see sheep below). Write on the back: "Take care of my sheep." Write the name on front who God wants you to take care of.

