#### Lesson 1:

#### The Great Commision; Jesus Ascends to Heaven

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Matthew 28

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can tell others that Jesus loves them. I can invite them to Bible class and worship.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Note: There will be two new memory work requirements introduced this quarter. The memory verse, Mark 16:15 goes right along with this lesson. There should be a new visual for this memory verse in the Quarter 4 file if it is not already out. Also, introduce Matthias as an apostle and learn the last verse to the apostle song (refer to the song section of the lesson).

What very sad thing happened to Jesus? But then what happened to Jesus that makes us very happy? Jesus had done everything on Earth that He was sent to do. Now it was time for Him to go be with God again. Before He left, though, He had special instructions for His 11 apostles. Let’s see what He told them to do!

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus appeared to different people several times for 40 days after His resurrection, continuing to teach the apostles and others. Sometime during those 40 days, the 11 apostles went to a mountain in Galilee where Jesus had told them He would meet them (Matthew 26:32; 28:7,10).
2. Jesus reminded the apostles that He had been given “all authority” from God. This means that nobody has any authority on his own to do what he wants, without permission from Jesus (cf. Colossians 3:17). Using that authority, Jesus commanded the apostles to spread the “good news” (the Gospel), i.e., “that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name” (Luke 24:46-47). He told them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every **creature**…” (Mark 16:15-16).

**NOTE:** When Jesus told the apostles to preach to “every creature,” He, of course, was not referring to animals—which could not be taught everything Jesus had commanded the disciples (Matthew 28:20). This may not be clear to the children if it is not explained.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**To Every Creature**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=4787)[**Under Heaven?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=4787)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about what Jesus meant when He commanded the apostles to preach to every creature under heaven.

1. He told them to make “disciples” (followers) by teaching people to do the things Jesus taught and “baptizing them in (“into”) the name (i.e., the authority) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). He said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). [“he who does not believe is condemned already”—John 3:18b] We call these final instructions of Jesus to the apostles in these passages the Great Commission.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the articles “[**Is Mark 16:9-20**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=704)

[**Inspired?**](https://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=704)” and “[**The Strongest Argument Against Mark 16:9-20**](http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=5151)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussion about the allegation that Mark 16:9- 10 was not written by the hand of Mark.

1. Jesus had sent the apostles out to preach earlier in His ministry, but they had been sent only to the Jews—to their own countrymen. Before He went back to heaven, Jesus told them to preach to all nations—in other words, to everyone. They were not to keep the good news to themselves. They were to preach and to preach in Jesus’ name (by His authority). Jesus told them, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” indicating that He would be with them all the time, in every circumstance, as they taught others.
2. Then Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem for special power (miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit) that would help them to carry out the Great Commission, “even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NAS).
3. After Jesus had finished giving His final instructions to the apostles, He went up into the clouds as they watched.
4. They stood looking intently into the sky, even after He had disappeared. Then two men dressed in white (angels) asked them why they were just standing there looking into the sky. The angels said Jesus had gone to heaven and would return some day in the same way (in the clouds). In the mean time, the apostles had much work to do. “They returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52), and a few days later they were preaching to a large crowd in Jerusalem, just as Jesus had told them to do.
5. The apostles were supposed to tell others about Jesus, who would then tell others, etc. Today, Jesus expects us to carry on that work, telling others about His death and His resurrection, and how we can obey Him and worship Him. Missionaries are people who usually go to foreign lands to teach others about Jesus. But Jesus expects all of us to tell others about Him—those we come in contact with where we live and work and go to school.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “01” and will be in the Quarter 4 folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“Go Everywhere”**

Author: Bannie Burt (Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

Go everywhere, Go everywhere,

In the world, in the world;

Go and tell the Good News, Go and tell the Good News,

To everyone, everywhere.

He who believes and is baptized,

Will be saved, will be saved.

Go and tell the Good News, Go and tell the Good News,

To everyone, everywhere.

**“PLAN OF SALVATION”**

Author: Unknown\* (Tune: “Pop Goes the Weasel”)

Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized in the Wa-ter;

Rise up again to walk with Christ, and Live like you ought to!

**The Apostle Song**

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next, came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

Chorus-
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
And they all followed him.

James the one they called the less,
Simon, also Thaddeus,
Twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Repeat Chorus.

Matthias then took Judas' place,
To preach to men of every race,
Paul three preaching trips did make,
And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

Repeat Chorus.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Go into the World Craft – In the lesson file there is a template and teacher copy to introduce the concept of going into all the world. You will need to make copies and precut pieces for students. Hole punch a hole in the top of each pentagon and attach with a brad. Discuss each page – teaching people in our house, city, state, country, and continent. Students should have been introduced to the concept of city, state, and country in school but may be unfamiliar with continents.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Continue lesson with information about the choosing of a new apostle to take Judas’ place (Acts 1:12- 26). Be sure to introduce the last verse of the apostle song.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Begin the ABC’s of Acts Pages for the student’s NT Binders. Today’s page is A is for Ascend.
* Taken Up in a Cloud Craft – Templates for this are in the lesson file. Copy onto cardstock for durability. If concerned about time, pre-cut the clouds and Jesus figures. Punch a hole through the center top and bottom of the activity page and thread a piece of yarn through each hole. In class, students can color their page and glue cotton balls to the cloud. Help them put glue on the opposite ends of the large cloud and attach it to their pages in a way that allows for Jesus to easily be pulled behind it. Children pull the string in the back to move Jesus from standing on the ground to ascend up to heaven.
* Snack Idea - Use teddy grahams for people, a gummy bear for Jesus, and mini marshmallows for the clouds. Attach Jesus to a sour punch straw or part of a twizzler.

### Review Questions

1. What did Jesus do after His resurrection?

a. He appeared to many people for 40 days.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

a. To preach the Gospel to everyone

3. What is this command called?

a. The Great Commission

4. In what way was Jesus still with His disciples when they started preaching?

a. He was with them in spirit.

5. What happened to Jesus after He finished talking to the apostles?

a. He was taken up into the clouds.

6. What happened when the disciples stood staring into the sky?

a. Two angels appeared and asked them why they were staring into the sky.

7. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem?

a. So they could be baptized with the Holy Spirit

8. Was Jesus commanding only His disciples to teach others?

a. No. We as Christians are expected to share the good news with the world as well.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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