



3rd-5th

April 22-23, 2017

DATE

Ascension

LESSON TITLE

Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus gave us a special job: to show others how to follow him.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Kids need to feel heard. If they ask you something, even if it's not timed well, stop and respond positively.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to show their parents what they "decoded" today!

large group heads up

Today, we're reviewing the story of Jesus' rescue and examining the special job Jesus gave us (the Great Commission). We're also talking about practical ways to do that job! Ahead of time, spend some time praying about Matthew 28:18-20.

connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

SHARE THE FUN!

- Split into **small groups** (Or stay in one large group if it's better for your room.)
- Have kids sit in circles. Give each kid one **playing card** from the deck. Tell them to remember what it is, then put it in a pile in the middle of the circle.
- Game play: Ask questions about things kids love (below). As soon as they have an answer they want to share, they should grab their card. Then go around and let them share if they want. Feel free to ask about their answers or ask why they have a particular favorite.
 - What's the best movie ever made?
 - Tell me the name of the best band or singer.
 - Which (sports) team is your favorite?
 - What's the most fun video game?
 - Is school or summer better?
 - What's the best vacation you've been on?
 - *Come up with more as needed!*
- Put cards back for the following service to use.

TALK ABOUT IT

- Why do you like to tell your friends about fun things you do?
- What was the best or worst part of your week?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) review the story of Jesus' Rescue, (2) recognize that Jesus gave us a special job to tell others about him and (3) identify ways we can teach others about Jesus.

Why? Making disciples is a command Jesus gave us, and that can include kids! No matter how young you are, you can show your friends how to follow Jesus.

Tip: One great thing about this story is that it reminds us that Jesus gives us all authority to make disciples. There's not one "right way" to do it. Be honest with kids about how you follow Jesus and tell others about him.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Tell me what happened after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. (People found Jesus' empty grave and were sad; Jesus appeared to the two women, then eventually to the rest of his followers.)
2. Before Jesus went back up to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job, a great command. What was it? (Go and make disciples, baptize people in Jesus' name, and teach/show them how to follow Jesus.)
3. How do we become a follower of Jesus? (Make the choice to follow. You could say something like this: "Jesus, I've done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment and rescued me. I want to follow you and have a relationship with you.)
4. Is it hard or easy to show somebody how to follow Jesus? Explain.
5. What does it mean to get baptized? Why does Jesus want us to do it?
6. How is Jesus still with us, even though he went to a heaven to prepare our home? (He gave us the Holy Spirit, and it's always with us, helping us.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **secret message page and decoder page**:
 - A hidden message (A row of images with a blank space above each one.)
 - A chart to decode the secret message (It shows each image next to a letter.)
- Kids have to "decode" the secret message by looking up each image on the chart to see which letter it goes with, then writing that letter in the blank space.
 - For example, if the first image of the secret message is a heart, look up a heart on the key, and you'll see that a heart = A. Write 'A' in the blank space. Do this for each image/blank space.

(Instructions continued on next page.)

- Tell kids that each secret message is a question or command, and once they solve each message, they have to write/draw the answer next to it.
- Here's the secret message:
 - **“Who are three people you can show Jesus to.”**
- Next, have kids create their own secret messages! All they have to do is think of a word or phrase, and then write symbols to replace the letters in the phrase.

Extra time? Have kids use their decoder to create their own secret messages!

special notes

The goal today is to thoroughly review Jesus' rescue, then dive deep into the Great Commission (the "special job" Jesus gave us).

presenter tips

You can preview today's God's Story video here:

God's Story /Jesus' Rescue:

<https://vimeo.com/49018353>

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

Notes:

- **Say:** Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here. You all have been talking about all your favorite things: Movies, music, video games, vacations...Why do you think it's fun to share what we love, or talk about things we've done that are fun? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, because we want other people to know how awesome that stuff is! And we probably want our friends to be able to enjoy those things, and know how great they are.
- **Ask:** Do we share things we *don't* care about, or things we *do* care about? (Let kids respond.) Yep, we share stuff we care about! Maybe we tell people when we're excited, like if we went to Disney World. Or maybe we tell people we're dealing with something hard, like when we're frustrated or sad.
- **Say:** We all have different things we like and don't like and different styles of having fun. But is there anything so exciting and joyful that you think EVERYONE should know about it? (Let kids respond.) You're right, there is! And today, we're talking about the AMAZING news of Jesus' rescue, and how it's something that EVERYONE should know!

RECAP JESUS' RESCUE

Main Goal: Understand how Jesus rescued us, and why it's such amazing news!

- **(Image: Cross)** Let's take a minute to remember why Jesus' rescue is so great. Remember, the wrong things we do—sins—separate us from God. But Jesus came and took OUR punishment. Then he came back to life, which means he's stronger than death!
- **Say:** That means death—or punishment—can't separate us from God...and we can be close to him again and one day live with him forever.
- **Say:** Let's watch a video to remember how Jesus rescued us. We always talk about how exciting it is that Jesus has rescued us. So as you watch, I want you to try to think of ONE thing about Jesus' rescue that makes you really, really excited. We'll talk about those things after the video.
- **Video: God's Story / Jesus' Rescue**
- **Say:** Wow, so what are some of the things about Jesus' rescue that make you really excited? (Let kids respond. Share your own idea too—what makes YOU most excited?)
- **Say:** When we choose to say something like, "Jesus, I have done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment. I want to follow you," we instantly become part of God's family. And one of the most exciting parts—if not THE most exciting part—of Jesus' rescue, is that he's preparing a home for God's family to live in with him forever.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Main Goal: Understand the special job Jesus gave us, his followers, before he went to heaven.

- **Say:** This is fantastic news! So Jesus doesn't want his rescue to be a secret. He wants EVERYONE to know about it, so that anyone can choose to be part of his family. In fact, in the Bible, before Jesus went back to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job. It's called the Great Commission, which means an important command. It's for us too, if we follow Jesus:
- **Slide: Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MAKING DISCIPLES

Main Goal: Understand why Jesus wants us to make disciples, and what it means to be baptized.

- **Say:** Let's look at that for a second. Jesus said to go and make *disciples*. Does anybody know what a disciple is? (Let kids say: somebody who follows Jesus.) That's right, somebody who follows Jesus. So Jesus is saying, "Go and show people how to follow me!"
- **(Image: Baptism)** After that, he said to baptize people and teach them to obey him. What's baptism? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yes, it's when somebody goes into the water and comes back out. It symbolizes how Jesus was buried and came back to life. It shows that a person wants to be like Jesus by following him. Baptism is like a BIG announcement. It's like somebody telling the whole world, "I follow Jesus!"
- **Ask:** Now, why did Jesus tell us to baptize people? (Let kids respond.) Well, baptism is a lot like telling people what you believe, what you care about, and who you follow. Like in Connect Time, when we were telling each other about things we love!

SHOWING OUR LOVE FOR JESUS

Main Goal: Understand why we should show others that we follow Jesus, instead of keeping it to ourselves.

- **(Image: Reds Jersey)** Think about other ways we can show others what we care about and what we believe. For example, if I wore this shirt, what would you know about me? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, you'd know I follow the Reds, even if I never said a word.
- **(Image: Baptism Dunk)** When a person is baptized, it's kind of like that: we know they follow Jesus. Just like wearing this shirt is a way to show lots of people I'm a Reds fan, getting baptized is a way to show others you follow Jesus.
- **Say:** Now, we can choose to wear or not wear this shirt. And we can choose to get baptized, or not get baptized. But does Jesus command us to do it, if we follow him?
- **Say:** Yeah! Jesus says that when a person chooses to follow him (become a disciple), he or she should get baptized and then obey Jesus. And if we already follow Jesus, we get to teach people how to do that!

RESPONSE TIME

- **Say:** So if Jesus told us to teach people how to follow and obey him, we're going to need to know how to teach something, right? So I'm going to teach you something: The sign language motion for the word "Baptism"!

RESPONSE TIME

Main Goal: Give kids a chance to actively respond to what they heard, and listen to what God is telling them.

- **Say:** (Tell kids the instructions, but don't physically show them.) Hold up your thumbs. (Pause.) Now rock them from the left, to the right, to the left. (Pause. Kids should look a little confused.)
- **Say:** Hmm, was that a little confusing? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, because I tried to explain it to you, but I didn't show you! Let's look at someone doing it on the screen, and see if that helps.
- **Video: Baptism Sign**
- **Say:** Okay, now try it! (Let kids do the motion.) Much better! And you know what? That's kind of like showing somebody how to follow Jesus. To really teach them—to really obey Jesus' command, we have to show them how to do it by following Jesus yourself!
- **Say:** Of course, we'll mess up sometimes, but that's why Jesus died to rescue us! We can always repent—turn away from our mistakes and wrong choices—and turn back toward God and follow Jesus again!
- **Say:** Right now, let's all close our eyes, and picture one person that we could show how to follow Jesus. A friend at school, someone in our family....someone who doesn't know Jesus. (Pause.) Got it? Okay, let's pray together right now, and ask Jesus to help us reach that person and show them who Jesus is.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Close the lesson with prayer and worship.

- **Pray:** *Lord, you've given us a really important job. We get to show and tell others who you are, and how much you love them, and how you rescued every one of us! Help us to reach our friends, and to be brave when we feel like we can't do it!*
- **Say:** Let's worship together and thank Jesus for his rescue!
- **Music Video: You Come in a Hurry**
- **Music Video: All Our Hope**

Dismiss kids to small groups.

LESSON needs

3rd-5th

April 22-23, 2017



connect questions

What special job did Jesus give us?

How will you show others how to follow Jesus?

lesson supplies

Connect Time			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Playing Cards	1 card per kid, reused	Oriental Trading; Playing Cards ; #IN-8/260	KC Central

Small Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Markers	1 set per small group, reused	In room	site
decoder image	1 per kid	8.5x11 paper; color; Page 10	Site
Secret message	1 per kid	8.5x11 paper; color; Page 11	Site

Large Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Adventure Bible	1 per room		site

a - 

j - 

s - 

b - 

k - 

t - 

c - 

l - 

u - 

d - 

m - 

v - 

e - 

n - 

w - 

f - 

o - 

x - 

g - 

p - 


y - 

h - 

q - 

z - 

i - 

r - 





1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: Cross
3. Video: God's Story / Jesus' Rescue (<https://vimeo.com/49018353>)
4. Slide: Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
5. Image: Baptism
6. Image: Reds Jersey
7. Image: Baptism Dunk
8. Video: Baptism Sign (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p9AahNR3kk>)
9. Music Video: You Come in a Hurry (<https://vimeo.com/185495000>)
10. Music Video: All Our Hope (<https://vimeo.com/99668247>)