


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 17

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 17: Life From Above

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Ascends Into Heaven</p> <p><i>Acts 1:6-11</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible, with the following Bible verses marked:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Read Mark 16:19.○ Read Hebrews 7:25.○ Read Hebrews 4:14-16.○ Read John 14:1-3.• One balloon filled with helium• One balloon filled with air
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.”</p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:6, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>We can be seated in heavenly places with Jesus.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Very briefly review the life, death and resurrection of Jesus with the children. Talk about the fact that Jesus was totally human. He looked like us, talked like us, ate like us and lived like us. At the same time he was completely God. He perfectly represents God to us.

Show the children the two balloons and ask them to guess which one is filled with helium. Talk about how each balloon looks exactly the same on the outside. Only when we let them go will we see the difference.

In today's story, Jesus is lifted up to the sky. He returns to be with his Father in heaven.

If time and weather allows, take the children outside and release the two balloons. One will sink and one will float away.

As you read the story from Acts 1:9-12, ask the children to stand up and immediately sit back down whenever they hear the word, UP.

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, going UP the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted.

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

“So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” because they did not understand that Jesus came to establish God’s kingdom on the earth.

He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes UPon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After saying this, he was taken UP into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken UP into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go UP!

What do you think Jesus is doing right now up in heaven?

Take student responses.

Jesus is praying for his people.

Read Hebrews 7:25.

Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Read John 14:1-3.

He supplies us with God's mercy and grace when we're in need. He pleads to the Father for our forgiveness so we can have a relationship with the Father too.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

Jesus is seated on the throne at the right hand of God, the place of highest honor and power in God's Kingdom.

Read Mark 16:19.

We'll talk about some of those things in the coming weeks, but today we're going to focus on Jesus seated on the throne at the right hand of God the Father and what that means for us.

Review the Bible verse:

“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.” *Ephesians 2:6, NLT*

We'll talk about what it means to be seated with Jesus in heavenly places in our small groups today.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.