

Bible background

Luke 24:45-53; Acts 1:1-11.

Aim of lesson

To teach that Jesus left his disciples so that they could have the responsibility for doing his work.

Preparation required

Learn the rhyme and make your activity sheet before the lesson. You will need scissors and colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if they ever do any kind of job, like setting the table or tidying their bedrooms, without their mother present in the room to tell them exactly what to do. Stress that they can do jobs like that now because they are not babies any more. They are growing up and can learn to have the responsibility for deciding what needs to be done.
2. Tell them that after Jesus had taught and shown his disciples what to do, after he had died and risen again, he went up to heaven so that his disciples could teach the people, heal them and decide what to do for themselves. Although Jesus was in heaven, he could still see and help them. Use your activity sheet during this explanation. Mention the angels and their message of Jesus' return (though this will be dealt with in more detail in a later lesson).
3. Teach the children the finger rhyme to help them learn what happened.
4. Help the children to make their own activity sheet to take home and show to their family and friends.

Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture depicting the scene.
2. Circle time/game: Jesus told his disciples to tell everyone about him – what would the children tell people about Jesus? You could begin by saying 'Jesus is kind', the next person must say 'Jesus is kind' and then add their own idea e.g. 'and Jesus helped people'. Keep adding facts to the list. This is a good opportunity to see what facts the children have picked up about the life, work and character of Jesus.

Relevance to the children's lives

When we help at home without having to be told what to do at every step, then we are serving Jesus, just as the disciples did. Ask the children what help each plans to give at home this week.

Prayer

Have each of the children pray for help that they may be able to help others.

Verse

'He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.' Acts 1:9.

Rhyme

Now I am going to tell you a rhyme

Now I am going to tell you a rhyme (*show both hands*)
About a mountain that Jesus did climb (*finger tips together to form a peak*)
Here are his disciples who went with him there (*hold up ten fingers*)
And saw the Lord Jesus go up in the air. (*raise hand*)
They went back to wait in Jerusalem, (*fold hands*)
Until the Lord Jesus gave power to them (*flex muscles*)
Then they could heal the sick and the lame (*stroke hand*)
And preach to the people in Jesus' name. (*cup mouth*)