

Bible background

Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:1-11

Aim of lesson

To see how Jesus went to heaven and yet can help all his disciples, everywhere.

Preparation required

Make one set of finger puppets from your activity book before the lesson. You will need glue and colouring materials. You may like to keep one set of finger puppets for Lesson 105.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Give each of the class a finger puppet so they can each 'be' one of the disciples.
2. Remind the children briefly of the death of the Lord Jesus, his resurrection and the time that he spent with them teaching. During the lesson, as you talk of something sad or happy, get the children to change the appearance of the puppets to make them look either sad or happy as you ask them to consider how the disciples felt.

Jesus told them that he was going away to be with his Father in heaven. Then he would be like his Father in that he would be able to be with them, not just in one place, but able to see and hear and help all of his disciples, wherever they are. He also promised to give them God's special power to heal and to do miracles so they could carry on his work of teaching the people.
3. Tell the class of Jesus going with his disciples to the Mount of Olives. Describe the discussion, the questions and answers, the ascension and the angels.
4. Get each one of the 'disciples' to say what they would like to say to Jesus before he goes away to heaven. Are they sad he is going away? Do they want to thank him for the promise of power to do miracles? Are they looking forward to his coming back?
5. Teach the song 'He is Alive' or 'Jesus went to Heaven'. The second song is the easier of the two.

Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture on thin card. You could use the figures from the activity sheet if you wish. Cut two horizontal slits, one near the top of the card and the other where the top of the mountain will be. Cut a strip of card which is long enough to allow about 5 cm to stick out above and below the picture. Feed the strip in from behind the card, through the lower slit, and then out through the upper slit. The children can then draw or stick a green mountain and the figures of the disciples. Help each child to stick a figure of Jesus on to the strip of card. The figure can then be moved up and down by pulling the tabs sticking out at the top and bottom.
2. If you have access to a sand tray, moisten the sand and let the children help to pile it up to make a mountain. Stand some play people or cardboard figures on the top. Alternatively, build a mountain with playdough or Plasticine.
3. You could sponge print a mountain and then draw or print some people. Simple triangle body and round head shapes can be cut from sponge or potatoes.

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the class to be glad that Jesus now can be with each of them when they are in different places.

Prayer

Ask the children what their 'disciple' might have prayed that night after Jesus had ascended to be with his Father in heaven.

Verse

'While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.' Luke 24:51.

Songs

He is alive (Tune: I got a robe)

Musical notation for the song 'He is alive' (Tune: I got a robe). The notation is in treble clef, key of E major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with an E chord. The second staff includes E, E7, A, and E chords. The third staff includes B7, E, E7, and A chords. The fourth staff includes E, B7, E, A, B7, and E chords.

He is alive
He is alive
Jesus has risen from the dead
After spending forty days in teaching his friends
Jesus rose right up into heaven
heaven
heaven
He went up to be right in the presence of his Father
in heaven, heaven
Jesus rose right up into heaven.

Music: Traditional.

Jesus Went To Heaven (Tune: Sing a song of sixpence)

Musical notation for the song 'Jesus Went To Heaven' (Tune: Sing a song of sixpence). The notation is in treble clef, key of C major (indicated by no sharps or flats), and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff includes C, G, C, and G7 chords. The second staff includes C, G, C, F, G, and C chords.

- v.1 Jesus went to heaven
I'd like you all to know
Jesus went to heaven
A long time ago
He went onto a mountain
With his disciples there
And right before their very eyes
He rose into the air.
- v.2 Jesus went to heaven
I'd like you all to know
Jesus went to heaven
A long time ago
As Jesus went to heaven
Two angels came and then
They said that the Lord Jesus
Would come back here again.
- v.3 Jesus went to heaven
I'd like you all to know
Jesus went to heaven
A long time ago
Though Jesus went to heaven
He's not so far away
For he can see what you and I
Are doing every day.

Music: Traditional.