

Bible background

Acts 1:1-11; Luke 12:6-7

Aim of lesson

To appreciate that Jesus is now with his father in heaven and they can both see and hear us.

Preparation required

Choose six or seven bright interesting objects, e.g. an apple, carrot, ball, toy bird (or picture of bird), toy car, picture book and a tube of different coloured sweets. You will also need six or seven bags or boxes to hide them in. Colouring materials also are needed.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the class about the ascension of Jesus to heaven and the message of angels. Make sure the class realise that Jesus is still alive in heaven.
2. Bring out one of the boxes or bags and ask the children if they know what is in it. Ask if God knows and if Jesus, his Son, knows. Throughout the lesson refer to God and his Son, Jesus, or Jesus and his Father, God, the children find this confusing and hard to grasp. Open the box or packet for each one. Ask the children if they can see the carrot when it is growing under the ground, the car locked in the garage or the toy cupboard, or an apple growing at the top of a tree, or a ball lost when playing football. Can they see a page when the book is closed? Do they know which colour of sweet is coming next? For each item ask if God and his Son, Jesus, can see it. Encourage the children to suggest the things that Jesus and his Father, God, in heaven can see; perhaps even the sweet now in their tummy.
3. Lead into a discussion of Jesus and his Father, God, seeing them even when they are alone, and hearing their thoughts, even when they do not say them aloud.
4. Tell the children of Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:6-7. Bring out God's detailed knowledge of them and how much he values them.
5. Use the song 'God Sees Me'. You could ask the class to tell you what places they have been in during the last week, places where God and his Son, Jesus, saw them. 6. Ask the children to complete the activity sheet.

Alternative activities

1. Circle game. Based on 'I went to market and I bought...'. The first person (it's probably best if you begin) says something like, "Jesus sees me when I'm asleep". The next person says, "Jesus sees me when I'm asleep and when I wake up." (for example). "...when I'm eating, at school, playing" etc.
2. Draw or paint pictures with the title 'Jesus sees me...'. The children can think of a time, place, mood or activity where or when Jesus can see them (e.g. at school, at night, when they are happy or sad etc).
3. Make clocks from paper plates or circles of card. The children will need help to put the numbers on so you may want to do this for them in advance. Use a split pin to attach some moveable cardboard hands (again it is best if an adult does this. Try putting a lump of Plasticine under the card before you push the pin through – it makes it much easier.) Talk about what we do at different times of the day or night, moving the hands of your clock as you do so. Ask the children if Jesus can see us at these times. Provide each child a cardboard pendulum with a phrase such as 'Jesus is with me all the time'. The pendulums and clock faces can be coloured or decorated with sticky shapes and the pendulums taped or glued so that they hang below the clock face. If you wish you can attach them with another split pin so that they swing. Add a loop of thread or ribbon to the top of the clocks so they can be hung up.
4. Divide a sheet of paper into between 4 and 8 sections. Get the children to draw a picture in each space showing what they do during the day, e.g. get up, go to nursery/school, have a meal, play etc. It's probably a good idea to discuss ideas first, perhaps using the circle game – You can add a suitable title e.g. 'Jesus is with me when...'

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the children to be aware of God and Jesus being present with them.

Prayer

Ask the children for ideas for prayers beginning 'Lord Jesus I am glad you can see me because...' or 'Father, I am glad you can hear me because...'

Verse

'Lord, you know everyone's heart.' Acts 1:24.

Song

God Sees Me (Tune: Hot Cross Buns)

Musical notation for the song 'God Sees Me' (Tune: Hot Cross Buns). The notation is in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, G, D7, G, D7, G.

- v.1 God sees me, God sees me.
If I'm sleeping or I'm waking,
God sees me.
Anywhere I go, wherever I may be,
If I'm sleeping or I'm waking,
God sees me.
- v.2 God hears me, God hears me.
Even if I whisper softly,
God hears me.
Anywhere I go, wherever I may be,
Even if I whisper softly,
God hears me.
- v.3 God loves me, God loves me.
Even though I'm sometimes naughty,
God loves me.
Anywhere I go, wherever I may be,
Even though I'm sometimes naughty,
God loves me.

Music: Traditional.