

Ascension of Jesus; A New Apostle Chosen

Acts 1



New Testament 7
Part 1: ABCs of Acts 1-6

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Acts 1; Luke 24:46-53

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Also help the children memorize the ABCs of Acts.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Our Lord Went Back to God"](#)
- ["Go Everywhere"](#)
- ["I Can Be a Missionary"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [ABCs of Acts 1-12](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Acts Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep 2](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Take Home Visual: print a large "1" with the word "ACTS" printed vertically within it. Draw or print a large cloud (approximately 8½x11"). Draw two large feet and glue them to the bottom of the cloud (as though going into the cloud). Cut out



a 3x4” piece of cardstock/poster board, and tape the left and right edges to the back of the cloud, making a “tunnel.” (Laminate the “1” and the cloud/feet if possible.) Punch a hole at the bottom of the “1” and attach a piece of yarn to it. Thread the yarn through the back of the cloud. Punch a hole at the top of an ascension coloring sheet (8½x11” — to match the size of the cloud) and attach the end of the yarn to it. As the “1” is raised, Jesus should ascend into the cloud.

- Classroom decorations for Acts: “Acts Door Poster” (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=363>)
- Classroom decorations for Acts: “ABCs of Acts” (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=587>) [Take home version: <http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=346>]
- Acts attendance record: “Acts Geography Passports” (<http://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/shopexd.asp?id=551>)
- On the wall or bulletin board, create an “ABCs of Acts” display: Make 4” (or larger) letters of the alphabet. Put a letter up with each week’s lesson. Beside each letter, put a picture or the phrase to go with that lesson. Can take pictures/phrases down each week before you review.
- Pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross, a New Testament tomb, Jesus’ ascension, 12 apostles, etc., to use as you teach the lesson
- “Jesus’ Ascension” (p. 24) from *Creative Bible Teaching: Volume 2*, by Sarah Richey
- Crucifixion and Resurrection A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, not the lesson book; note on cards CE 7.4, 7.5, and 9.1 that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)
- Songs from “Sing a Story” Volume III (Book of Acts Stories Sung to Familiar Tunes), by Jewel Kendrick

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can invite my friends to Bible class, give them Bibles, and pray for them so they will learn about Jesus.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

What happened to Jesus after He died on the cross? He came back to life (was resurrected). Today we’re going to start looking at the book of Acts, and in chapter 1 we find out what happened to Jesus after His resurrection.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Fact—The New Testament is the Most Historically Accurate Book Ever Written](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the integrity of the Bible in light of the book of Acts.



POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. To help us remember what happens in each chapter of Acts, we are going to use ABCs. Chapter 1 of Acts is the letter “A.” “A” is for **ascension**. “Ascend” means “to go up.” Today’s lesson is about Someone very special ascending (going up) to heaven. That Someone special was Jesus.
2. For over three years, Jesus taught people about God and how God wanted them to live. He also performed miracles wherever He went, proving He was the Son of God as He claimed. The Jews did not want Jesus to continue teaching because they did not want the crowds who followed Him to believe He was God’s Son. So they looked for ways to stop Jesus. They made a deal with Judas, one of Jesus’ 12 apostles, to betray Jesus so they could arrest Him. The Jews convinced Pilate (the Roman government official) to kill Jesus, saying that Jesus wanted to take Caesar’s place and be a king.
3. Jesus was crucified (nailed to a wooden cross) on a Friday (during the Passover festival). After six terrible hours of suffering on the cross, Jesus died. Two Jews who believed in Jesus—Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus—took Jesus’ body and buried it in Joseph’s unused **tomb**. A huge stone was rolled in the doorway of the tomb. The Jews asked to have a guard posted at the tomb, claiming that Jesus’ disciples might steal the body and pretend that He had come back to life. But on Sunday morning the stone rolled away without man’s help, and Jesus did come back to life! He was **resurrected** just as He had promised He would be! This was the most important miracle because it proved more than any other that Jesus had power over death and was the Son of God.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Does the Bible Contradict Itself Regarding the Day of the Crucifixion?](#)” by Jeff Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the charge that the Gospels contradict one another regarding the day of Christ’s crucifixion.



Tomb: in New Testament times, a cave hewn out of rock used to bury the dead. Often, families would use the same tomb for generations, burying all family members in the same tomb

Resurrected: to bring or be brought back to life

4. At the end of 40 days, as He was preparing to go back to heaven, Jesus commanded the apostles to spread the “good news” (the Gospel) [that “it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name” (Luke 24:46-47; 1 Corinthians 15:1)]. We call these words of Jesus the Great Commission. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for special power (miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit) that would help them to carry out the Great Commission, “even to the remotest part of the Earth” (Acts 1:8, NASB).
5. After Jesus had finished giving His final instructions to the apostles, He was lifted up into the clouds as they watched. They stood looking intently into the sky, even after Jesus had disappeared from view (**ascended** into heaven). Two men dressed in white clothing (angels) asked them why they were just standing there looking into the sky. The angels said Jesus had gone to heaven and would return some day in the same way He left. In the mean time, the apostles had much work to do. There was no more despair, uncertainty, or fear. “They returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Did Jesus Begin His Ascension While in a Physical Body?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the charge that Jesus did not physically die on the cross, or else He had to die a second time at the ascension.

6. Jesus expected the apostles to tell others about Jesus, who would then tell others, etc. (Acts 1:8). Now He expects us to carry on that work, telling others about God’s Word, Jesus’ death and resurrection, and how we must obey Him so that we can go to heaven to be with Jesus. Even though we can pray for and support missionaries who work to teach others about Jesus in different parts of the world, Jesus expects all of us to do our part to help others learn more about Him so that they (and we) can go to heaven to be with Him. Happiness is telling others about Jesus.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus’ Ascension Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Memory Work Scroll: buy scroll paper or print a scroll from the Internet for each student. Write/print the memory verse on each scroll. After the children are able to say the verse to the teacher, puts the child’s name on the scroll and put it on the wall under the words “These were more noble.” Do this with each memory verse in the quarter. Be sure to discuss that memorizing Scripture is more noble than most of the other things they could be doing with their time.
- Make a large letter “A” for each child. Provide cutouts for each child representing Matthias and the ascension of Jesus. Let the children color their pictures and glue them to their letters.
- Help the children begin their own ABCs of Acts book: provide two sheets of cardstock or construction paper for each child’s book (one for the front cover, one for the back cover). Provide ABC letter cutouts or printed title pages (“ABCs of Acts”) that the children can glue onto the front covers of their books. With each lesson, let the children label a piece of paper with that lesson’s letter and title. Then have them draw a picture, glue pictures from magazines, put stickers that relate to the story, etc. on that page. Plan to bind the books at the end of the series (hole punch the pages and use yarn to tie them, or spiral bind them if a machine is available, etc.). (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” cover provided in activity sheets)
- Provide “cloud” outlines for each child. On one side write/copy, “Jesus went back to heaven.” Let the children glue cotton balls to the other side of their clouds. Have a figure of Jesus for them to glue to their clouds. (“[Cloud Cutouts](#)” provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Memory Work Scroll: buy scroll paper or print a scroll from the Internet for each student. Have the children write the memory verse, from memory, on the scroll. Post the scroll on the wall under the words “These were more noble.” Do this with each memory verse in the quarter. Be sure to discuss that memorizing Scripture is more noble than most of the other things they could be doing with their time.

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- Write key words from the lesson on index cards (example: Jerusalem, Peter, Matthias, men in white apparel, Barsabas, Mount of Olives, apostles, Holy Spirit, etc.). Let the children take turns choosing a card and telling the significance of that word to the lesson. (“[Key Word Cards](#)” provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Memory Work Scroll: buy scroll paper or print a scroll from the Internet for each student. Have the children write the memory verse, from memory, on the scroll. Post the scroll on the wall under the words “These were more noble.” Do this with each memory verse in the quarter. Be sure to discuss that memorizing Scripture is more noble than most of the other things they could be doing with their time.
- Help the children begin their own ABCs of Acts book: provide two sheets of cardstock or construction paper for each child’s book (one for the front cover, one for the back cover). Provide ABC letter cutouts or printed title pages (“ABCs of Acts”) that the children can glue onto the front covers of their books. With each lesson, let the children label a piece of paper with that lesson’s letter and title. Then have them draw a picture, glue pictures from magazines, put stickers that relate to the story, etc. on that page. Plan to bind the books at the end of the series (hole punch the pages and use yarn to tie them, or spiral bind them if a machine is available, etc.). (“[ABCs of Acts Booklet](#)” cover provided in activity sheets)
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- Have the children read the following:
 - Acts 1 (if they did not do so in NT1)
 - *Discovery* magazine issue: [October, 2004](#)

SONGS:

“OUR LORD WENT BACK TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: chorus of “Blessed Be the Name”)

Our Lord went back to God, He went back to God;
 He went back to God in a cloud.
 He went back to God; He went back to God;
 He went back to God in a cloud.

Where is Jesus now? Where is Jesus now?
 Sitting at the right hand of God.
 Where is Jesus now? Where is Jesus now?

Sitting at the right hand of God.

He will come again; He will come again,
He will come again in a cloud.

He will come again; He will come again,
He will come again in a cloud.

We will live with Him; we will live with Him,
We will live with Him if we obey.

We will live with Him; we will live with Him,
We will live with Him if we obey.

“GO EVERYWHERE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Bannie Burt

(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

Go everywhere, go everywhere,
In the world, in the world.
Go and tell the Good News, go and tell the Good News,
To everyone, everywhere.

He that believes and is baptized,
Will be saved, will be saved.
Go and tell the Good News, go and tell the Good News,
To everyone, everywhere.

“I CAN BE A MISSIONARY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

I can go to North Dakota, I can go to Timbuktu,
I can climb the highest mountain, I can cross the ocean blue.
I can teach the Chinese people, I can teach the Indians, too.
And save the souls of men.

CHORUS:

I can be a missionary. (3X)
And save the souls of men.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can invite my friends to Bible class, give them Bibles, and pray for them so they will learn about Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under "N.T. 7 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. (See [N.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)
2. "A" is also for **apostle chosen**. In Jerusalem, the 11 apostles and over 100 other followers of Jesus stayed together in "the upper room" (possibly the same place where they had their last meal with the Lord). Peter told them that they should choose a replacement for Judas Iscariot. They prayed together and chose a man named Matthias. [With older children discuss the criteria and process for choosing a new apostle, as given in Acts 1:21-26. See also Proverbs 16:33] Matthias was then counted as one of the 12 apostles. The apostles were special messengers. We cannot be apostles, but we can be special messengers, too.

3. Jesus' ascension was not the end of His work on Earth. It was a powerful sign to the apostles, including the new apostle Matthias, that they should continue teaching people about how to live for God so they could go to heaven to be with Jesus.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[Are There Modern-Day Apostles?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the claim that there are still apostles today, and “[Did Judas Die Twice?](#)” and “[Perspectives Matter](#)” by Eric Lyons a response to biblical charges surrounding the accounts of Judas’ death.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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