Preschool–Grade 5

Ascension of Jesus Craft

A hanging cloud and earth · Matthew 28:16–20 and Acts 1:1–11 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

The cloud that "received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9), with the earth hanging below, where Jesus sent His disciples to "teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Medium (left): the cloud and the earth from page 2, joined with blue yarn. Harder (right): the place strip from page 3 hangs under the earth, from Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

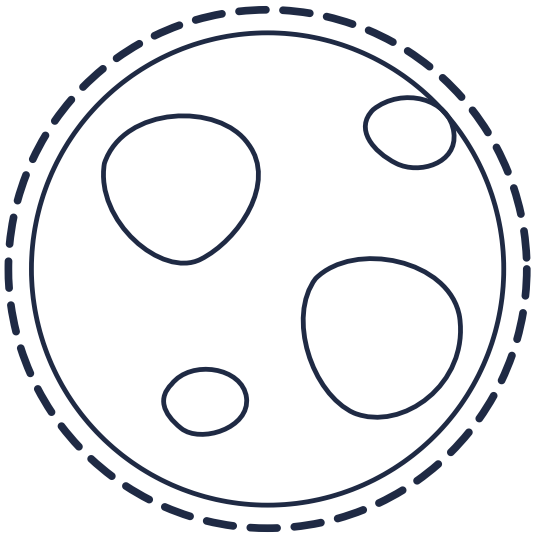
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



cloud: trace the edge light blue, leave the middle white



earth: sea blue, land green

lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.
Matthew 28:20 (KJV)

cloud verse: glue it on the back of the cloud

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

earth verse: glue it on the back of the earth

Trace the cloud's edge light blue. Color the sea blue and the land green. Cut out all four pieces on the dashed lines. Glue each verse on the back of its piece. Tape the short yarn from the bottom of the cloud to the top of the earth, and the long yarn in a loop at the top of the cloud.

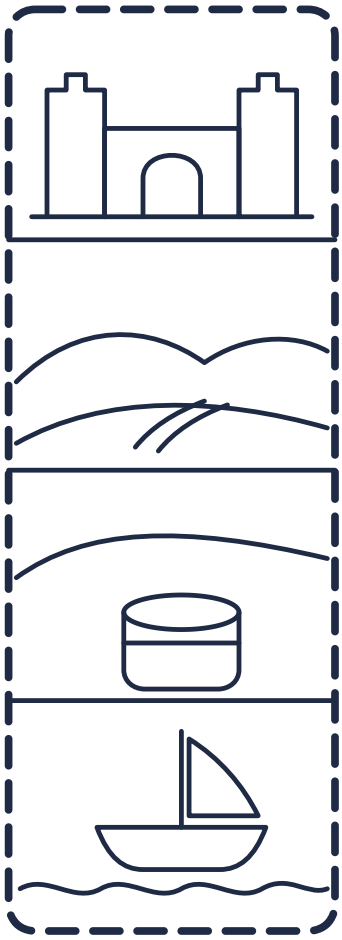
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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Place strip and Acts 1:8 strip (harder level)



1. Jerusalem
walls gray, gate brown

2. Judaea
hills green, path brown

3. Samaria
well gray, hill green

4. The uttermost part of the earth
sea blue, ship brown, sail left white

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

glue on the back of the place strip

How to make the place strip

1. Color the four pictures: Jerusalem's walls gray and its gate brown, the hills of Judaea green with a brown path, the well in Samaria gray on a green hill, and for the uttermost part of the earth the sea blue and the ship brown, with the sail left white.
2. Cut out the place strip and the Acts 1:8 strip on the dashed lines.
3. Glue the Acts 1:8 strip on the back of the place strip.
4. Make the cloud and the earth from page 2. Tape the top of the place strip (Jerusalem) to the bottom of the earth, on the back, so the strip hangs straight down.
5. Read it from the top: the good news began at Jerusalem and goes out to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:47).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/great-commission-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, blue and green crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, clear tape, and blue yarn: one 8-inch piece and one 12-inch piece per child. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and gray, brown and green crayons.
Before class: cut the yarn. For preschoolers, cut out the pieces ahead of time, glue the verses on the backs and tape on the yarn.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces, glue each verse on the back of its piece and tape the yarn from the cloud to the earth and the loop on top. Kids trace the cloud's edge light blue and color the sea blue and the land green. Hold it up and say, A cloud received Jesus (Acts 1:9) and Go and tell! (Matthew 28:19). Read just "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the four pieces, glue on the verses and tape on the yarn. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the cloud and the earth like the medium level. Then color the place strip from page 3, cut out both strips, glue Acts 1:8 on the back and tape the strip under the earth. Kids say Matthew 28:19 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** trace around the edge of the cloud with light blue and leave the middle white. Color the sea of the earth blue and the land green.
2. **Cut:** cut out the cloud, the earth, the cloud verse and the earth verse on the dashed lines.
3. **Verses:** glue the cloud verse on the back of the cloud and the earth verse on the back of the earth.
4. **Join:** turn both pieces over. Tape one end of the 8-inch yarn to the bottom of the cloud and the other end to the top of the earth, so the earth hangs under the cloud.
5. **Hanger:** tape both ends of the 12-inch yarn to the top of the cloud to make a loop.
6. **Hold it up:** the cloud is at the top, like the cloud that received Jesus out of their sight (Acts 1:9). The earth hangs below, where Jesus sent His disciples to teach all nations (Matthew 28:19). Turn it over and read the verses together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did the eleven disciples meet Jesus? *(On a mountain in Galilee, Matthew 28:16)*
- Point to the earth. Who did Jesus say to teach? *(All nations, people everywhere, 28:19)*
- Turn over the cloud. What did Jesus promise? *("Lo, I am with you alway," 28:20)*
- Point to the cloud. What happened while the apostles watched? *(Jesus was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight, Acts 1:9)*
- What did the two men in white apparel say? *(This same Jesus will come again the same way, 1:11)*
- Harder level: where did Jesus say His witnesses would tell about Him? *(In Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth, 1:8)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** teach all nations = teach people in every country; lo = look; alway = always; beheld = watched; apparel = clothes; witnesses = people who tell what they saw and know; the uttermost part of the earth = the farthest places in the world.
- **What the Bible says:** "while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). The craft shows the cloud, not Jesus. The land on the earth is simple shapes, not a map. The Samaria picture shows a well because Jacob's well was in Samaria (John 4:5–6).
- **No people are drawn on the template, and Jesus is never drawn.**
- **Telling others:** talk about people kids already know (family, friends, kids at church) and telling them with a parent's OK. Never send children to strangers or door to door.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, glue the verses and tape the yarn yourself. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Hanging it:** tape the yarn on the back, over the glued verse, with a long piece of tape so the earth doesn't fall off. A paper clip through the loop hangs it on a string across the classroom.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Great Commission and ascension Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/great-commission.

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