Preschool–Grade 6

The Great Commission and Ascension

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is with me, and I can tell others about Him.
Bible passage: Matthew 28 and Acts 1. Read Matthew 28:16–20 and Acts 1:1–11 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" *Matthew 28:19 (KJV)*. The old words **go ye therefore** mean so you go, and **teach all nations** means teach people everywhere.
You need: a Bible, a white pillowcase or white towel to be the "cloud," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 28.

1. Opening game: Go and Stop (5 minutes)

Kids stand in a line on one side of the room. When you say "Go!", they walk across the room. When you say "Stop!", they freeze. When they reach the other side, they turn to a friend and say, "Jesus loves you!" Play two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story. Jesus told His friends to go and tell everyone about Him."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 28. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus died, and then He rose again! Jesus is alive (Acts 1:3). *(Jump up with your arms high.)*

Jesus' friends went up a mountain to meet Him (Matthew 28:16). *(Climb in place.)*

They saw Jesus. They worshipped Him (28:17). *(Bow your head and fold your hands.)*

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (28:19). *(Point far away.)*

Say it with me: "Go and tell!"

Jesus said, "I am with you alway" (28:20). Alway means always. *(Hug yourself.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is with me!"

Jesus went up, up, up (Acts 1:9). *(Reach up high on tiptoes.)*

A cloud came, and they could not see Him (1:9). *(Hold up the white cloth, then cover your eyes.)*

Two men in white said that Jesus will come back (1:10–11). *(Clap, clap, clap!)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is coming back!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who is alive? *(Jesus, Acts 1:3)*
2. What did Jesus tell His friends to do? *(Go and teach all nations, Matthew 28:19)*
3. What covered Jesus when He went up? *(A cloud, Acts 1:9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' That means go and tell people everywhere about Jesus." Teach the motion: walk in place on "Go ye therefore," then spread your arms wide on "all nations." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 28:19" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Cloud (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big cloud in a blue sky. Then they draw themselves with someone they love, and you say, "You can tell them, 'Jesus loves you!'" While they color, ask: "Who is with you always? Who is coming back?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for being with me.
Help me tell my friends about You.
In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let a child hold up the "cloud." If they get wiggly, play "Go and Stop" one more time. Kids tell people they already know, like family and friends, with a grown-up nearby. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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