

What is Most Important for the Follower of Jesus?

(Jesus' Last Words on Earth & the Ascension of Jesus)

Acts 1: 4-11

Lesson Aim: At the conclusion of this lesson, the students will know that the most important thing for believers to be doing until Jesus comes again is witnessing to Him wherever we are.

1. As Jesus was gathered with His disciples after His resurrection, He instructs them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-5

Read:

*4 "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;
5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

Ask Questions Like These—

Primary Level:

- Who was gathered (assembled) together? (Jesus & His disciples)
- What did Jesus command them not to do at that time? (Not to depart from Jerusalem for a while until the Holy Spirit came.)
- What did Jesus command them to do? (To wait for the Promise of the Father, the coming of the Spirit.)
- How did John the Baptist baptize? (with water)
- How would they be baptized? (with the Spirit)
- How long before this would happen? (not many days from the time Jesus spoke to them)

Secondary Level:

- What would the Holy Spirit give them? (Power from God)
- What is the connection between the baptism of John & being baptized with the Holy Spirit? (The connection is total immersion. As John made people all wet with his baptism, the Holy Spirit will totally wash over the disciples.)

Acting out what happened:

All the children together make the following gestures:

- Jesus telling the disciples, “Don’t go away from Jerusalem right now. Wait until the Holy Spirit comes.”

Singing & dancing what happened:

Jesus said, don’t go away yet.

Stay right here in Jerusalem.

Don’t go away until the Holy Spirit comes.

2. Jesus tells the disciples that witnessing to Him is to be their first priority. Acts 1:6-8

Read:

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Ask Questions Like These—

Primary Level:

- What question did the disciples ask Jesus? (Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?)
- What were the disciples looking for? (A king. It looks like they still thought Jesus was going to be their king on earth.)
- What was Jesus’ answer? (It is not for you to know. God has those things in His own authority.)
- What do you think that means? (God will do it when He has planned. It is not for us to figure out.)
- What did Jesus promise the disciples would receive when the Holy Spirit came on them? (Power from God)
- When the disciples get that power from God, what did Jesus want them to do? (Be witnesses unto Him)
- What is a witness? (Someone who tells what he has seen or heard.)
- What four places would the disciples be witnesses unto Jesus? (1. In Jerusalem (that was right where they were), 2. And in Judea (that was the larger area

around them), 3. And in Samaria (that was farther away & the people were a little different there, and 4. Unto the uttermost part of the earth.)

- Is there any place Jesus does not want his followers to witness unto Him? (No. The ‘uttermost parts of the earth’ includes everywhere.)

Secondary Level:

- What would have given the disciples the idea that Jesus would be a king? (Jesus had promised Jesus’ ancestor King David a kingdom that would never end. There were prophecies that the Messiah would be a king. And they hated being under Roman rule and were anxious to get out of that rule.)
- Is Jesus a King or not? (He is now King ruling in the lives of believers. Some day He will come again and be King on earth.)
- Jesus told the disciples to begin witnessing unto Him where they were & to move out from there. If he had been here talking to us, where might the four places be? (1. In our own village, 2. In the area around us, 3. In another area where the people are a little different, having a different culture or language, 4. Everywhere.)
- The Jews did not like the Samaritans and looked down on them, but Jesus told them to witness unto Him in Samaria. Who are some people we do not like, whom we look down on? How could we witness to those people as well as to our own?
- What have you done to witness unto Jesus? What can you do this week?

Acting out what happened:

All the children together do the following gestures:

Holy Spirit coming on them

Feeling new power & confidence

Telling about Jesus right where they are (to a child next to them)

Telling about Jesus in the larger area around them (children move about the room telling about Jesus)

For telling in Samaria, you name different groups in your country that the children would see as quite different from them and the children shout after each name, “Jesus came to save you!”

For telling about Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth, you name different countries, and the children shout after each, “Jesus came to save you!”

3. Jesus ascends into heaven & angels promise He will come again in like manner.

Acts 1:9-11

Read:

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Ask Questions Like These—

Primary Level:

- What happened as the disciples watched? (He was taken up, and a cloud received them out of their sight. He went up and He didn’t come back down.)
- As the disciples kept on looking up, what did they see? (Angels, described as two men in white apparel.)
- Where were the angels? (Standing by them.)
- Why question did the angels ask them? (Why do you stand gazing up into heaven?)
- What promise did the angels make to them? (This same Jesus, who was taken up into heaven, will so come in like manner.)

Secondary Level:

- Why do you think the disciples were gazing steadfastly into heaven? (Probably to see Jesus come back down again.)

- Why do you think Jesus went up to heaven? (His work on earth was finished, so He went back home to His Father.)
- The angels promised that He would come again just as the disciples saw Him go. Had Jesus ever promised anything like this to them before? (Teacher, see if the students can think of a time when Jesus promised this. If not, refer them to John ch 14, vs. 2 & 3. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Showing what happened:

Choose two students to act the part of the angels. The others will all be disciples. The disciples gather together in a group, looking up, wondering if Jesus will come back down again. Suddenly the two angels speak,

"Men of Galilee,

why do you stand gazing up into heaven?

This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,

will so come in like manner

as you saw Him go into heaven."

Singing & dancing what happened:

Jesus will come again,

The angels told us so.

Like Jesus went up, He will come back down,

Jesus will come again.

O yea. (repeat)

Application for the Saved Student:

Ask students to act out how they could be a witness for Christ in these situations:

- They are just talking with a friend.

- A friend asks them to do something they know is wrong according to God's Word.
- A teacher ridicules Jesus in class.
- They are riding a bus when masked men stop the vehicle. They have guns. They say, "Anyone who will not accept Islam will die today."

Finish with a prayer that God will give us all strength to be witnesses for Him wherever we are and in any situation God allows to come our way.

Song that goes along with the lesson:

To the East, to the West

Invitation for the Unsaved Student:

If you do not yet know Jesus as your Savior, you really don't have anything to witness about. You need to receive Him yourself. If you believe that Jesus, the Son of God, left heaven to die for our sins and to rise from the dead, why not call on Him today, if you have not yet done so? Why not ask Him to save you and forgive your sins? The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).