Younger Preschool April 19

Bible Teaching: Jesus' Return is Promised

Bible Passage: Acts 1:1–11

Summary:

After Jesus died on the cross, He appeared to His disciples many times. He stayed with them for 40 days, teaching about God's kingdom. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Then He ascended into heaven. Two men in white told the disciples He would return one day in the same way that He left. The disciples prayed together in Jerusalem, awaiting the Spirit's arrival.

Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus promised a Helper.

Monthly Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.

Monthly Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Incident Forms

While not the most exciting tool, incident forms are vital for maintaining safety, communication and accountability in your preschool area. No one likes to see a kid get hurt or witness a behavior concern. However, it's important to have a plan to document what you see. Make sure that you have an incident form that ensures important details, like what happened, how it was handled and any follow-up needed. This not only protects your ministry but also builds trust with parents as you communicate with them. When parents are informed promptly and clearly, they feel reassured that their kid's well-being is a priority. Incident forms also help you identify patterns. If a kid is frequently getting hurt in a certain area or struggling with the same concern in behavior, those records can help you adjust your environment or provide extra support. Taking time to fill out an incident form might feel small, but it's a big step in creating a safe, caring space where preschoolers can thrive!

Navigating a Broken World: Is It Okay to Share What I Believe?

A troubling belief is on the rise among Christian U.S. millennials. As many as 47 percent believe that it is wrong to share your faith with someone of a different faith.* Kids today face pressure to accept all belief systems. In our culture, it can be seen as hateful to disagree with what someone believes. This perception can be an incredibly scary obstacle to sharing the gospel for anyone, but especially kids. In today's lesson, kids will learn about Jesus' command to be His witnesses to the world. As you discuss this with kids, emphasize the importance of being bold to share the truth of the gospel in a loving way. Remind the kids that every single person needs Jesus. It is our call to love others *and* share the gospel in a broken world.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

Preschool Glossary:

Appeared: to be seen
Ascended: to move upward

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Roll the Die
Supplies: Large die

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Jesus' Return is Promised (Acts 1:1–11)
Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Memory Verse Hopscotch
Supplies: Painter's tape, Memory Verse Song, music player

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Jesus Goes to Heaven
Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, blue construction paper (1 per kid), cotton balls (8 per kid), glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), printable page (1 image per kid)

Roll the Dice

Belong Activity

Supplies: Large die

Prep: None

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Leader Tip: Small dice can be a choking hazard for preschoolers. If you have to use small dice, only have the leader do the rolling.

Instructions:

1. *Gather kids together.*
2. **Say:** Today, we will play a game by rolling the die. When it lands on a number, I'll tell you what motion to do.
3. *Choose a kid to roll the die each time. Once it lands on the number, call out and demonstrate the action for them to do.*
4. Movements:
    - *1 = Clap two times*
    - *2 = Spin around*
    - *3 = Make a silly face*
    - *4 = Wave your hands in the air*
    - *5 = Stomp your feet*
    - *6 = Freeze*
5. **Ask:** What was your favorite thing to do?

Activity Wrap-Up: I love having fun with you! Today we will learn about how Jesus will do something in a big way! Let's learn more about it together.

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

Jesus' Return is Promised
(Acts 1:1–11)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Acts. So much had happened to Jesus. He had gone to the cross, died and then rose again. Then He **appeared** to the disciples to show them He was alive again! Say, "Jesus is alive!" Jesus spent time with the disciples and taught them more about God and His kingdom.

Say: Jesus gathered the disciples on a mountain. Jesus had some special instructions to give the disciples. First, He told them to stay in Jerusalem. God would send a special Helper, the Holy Spirit, to be with them.

Say: The disciples asked many questions. Jesus told them it wasn't their job to know everything. Then Jesus told them to share the good news with everyone in the whole world!

Say: When He finished talking, Jesus was taken up to heaven on a cloud. The disciples looked up toward heaven. They watched until they could no longer see Him. Can you look high up into the sky? Suddenly, two men in white robes were next to them. The men said, "Why are you standing here and looking into Heaven? Jesus has gone up to Heaven and one day He will come back in the same way!"

Say: God's great plan was not done yet. One day, Jesus will come back! He will make all the bad things good again. The disciples did as Jesus said and stayed in Jerusalem. They prayed and waited.

Wrap-Up:
Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- For God *(point up to the sky)*
- so loved *(hug yourself)*
- the world, *(make a circle above your head)*
- that He gave His only Son. *(extend arms out)*
- John 3:16 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: Jesus will return.
We: We can know Jesus will return.
Me: I can know Jesus will return.

Memory Verse Hopscotch

Believe Activity Option 1

Supplies: Painter's tape, Memory Verse Song, music player

Prep: Use the painter's tape to tape a hopscotch grid on the floor.

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse together. *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son. (John 3:16)*
2. **Say:** We have some squares on the ground—they're like stepping stones! We will walk or jump across them while our song plays.
3. *Lead kids through the hopscotch grid as the song plays. For younger kids, encourage them to move through it by crawling or walking on tip-toe.*
4. *Repeat the song, allowing kids to go down the hopscotch grid a few times.*
5. **Ask:** Does Jesus love us?

Activity Wrap-Up: Great job, friends! We will have this verse memorized in no time. We can remember that Jesus loves us!

Jesus Goes to Heaven

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, blue construction paper (1 per kid), cotton balls (8 per kid), glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), printable page (1 image per kid), scissors (prep)

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page and cut out (1 Jesus image per kid).

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Today we learned that Jesus will return again! Let's make a craft to remember this.
2. *Hand out a piece of paper and cotton balls to each kid.*
3. **Say:** Let's use cotton balls to make fluffy clouds in the sky. You can put them at the top of your paper.
4. *Help kids glue the cotton balls onto the top of their papers.*
5. *Then pass out the pictures of Jesus and lead kids to glue them to the paper using their glue sticks.*
6. *Write the kid's name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pick up.*

Discussion Questions:

- Who saw Jesus go up into heaven?
- What did Jesus say to wait for?
- Will Jesus return again?
- Who was sent to save us from sin?

Pray Together: Dear Jesus, thank You for the promise that You will return again. Help us to remember this truth about You, amen.

Centers

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Dress Up:** Place out dress-up items and have kids act out the role of disciples following Jesus.
- **Music Time:** Lay out instruments. Allow kids to play their instruments and celebrate that Jesus is alive and will return again.
- **Sensory Bin:** Fill a bin with cotton balls and cups. Encourage kids to fill the cups and pour them out. The cotton balls are like the clouds—Jesus went up to heaven and will return again.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: After Jesus died on the cross, He appeared to His disciples many times. He stayed with them for 40 days, teaching about God's kingdom. He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. Then He ascended into heaven. Two men in white told the disciples He would return one day in the same way that He left.

How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!