

BIG IDEA

When Jesus returned to heaven, the story didn't end.

LUKE | RESCUE | WEEK 3 OF 4

Not the End

GOD STORY

Jesus Returns to Heaven
Luke 24:49–53

KEY VERSE

Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.
Colossians 1:14 (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

In advance, be sure to review this lesson plan, organize the supplies, and watch the weekly teaching video. Pray for your group, too! When working with kids, you can't predict outcomes, but you can be as prepared as possible.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

To lead into the lesson, chat about the endings of the kids' favourite stories.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Collaborate on a group storytelling activity, which highlights that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Play a board game that focuses on today's teaching.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Work in teams to collect parts of Colossians 1:14 and put them in order.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



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1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet everyone and gather the kids together.
- Ask:
 - What's your favourite story from a book, TV show, or movie?
 - How does it end?
 - How does the ending make you feel? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **When Jesus returned to heaven, the story didn't end.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Explain that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. In this activity, you will begin a story. The kids will take turns making up the middle.
- Read aloud one of the following beginnings:
 - I was on my way to church when...
 - I was playing during recess when I saw someone who needed help...
 - My best friend had just arrived when...
- Prompt the person to your right to carry on with telling the story.
- Guide the kids to take turns adding to the story as it goes around the circle.
- When everyone has had a turn, end the story.
- Remind the group that **when Jesus returned to heaven, the story didn't end.** God's big story is still being told with us today!



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Make sure the kids understand the links between today's Big Idea, the God Story, and the Life Story.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jesus Returns to Heaven, Luke 24:49–53)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Moriah lost her leg due to bone cancer but her life did not come to a standstill. She got help from doctors, physiotherapists, and many other people. Today, she snowboards and coaches volleyball!)
- Discuss:
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**When Jesus returned to heaven, the story didn't end**) connect?

My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Game board
- Dice
- Bibles
- Markers
- Craft sticks
- Binder clips

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group together.
- Divide the kids into groups of up to four people.
- Give each group a game board, a die, a Bible, and some markers.
- Give each player a craft stick and a binder clip.
- Encourage the kids to spend a couple of minutes colouring their craft sticks to look like them.
- Demonstrate how to make a craft stick stand up using a clip as a base.
- Explain that these are the players' tokens to move around the board.
- Ask the youngest person in each group to go first. Direct them to roll the die and move their token. When they land, they should follow the instructions on the board or answer the question.
- Guide the kids to continue taking turns until someone wins.
- Invite the winner to take home the game board.



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Masking tape
- Key Verse cards
- Re-sealable plastic bags

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Use masking tape to create a starting line on the floor at one end of your group's space.
- Place the Key Verse cards in two stacks at the opposite end of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone back together.
- Review Colossians 1:14 (NIRV): Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Line them up behind the starting line on the floor.
- Instruct the first person in each line to put the plastic bags on their hands like gloves and duck walk (i.e., walk while squatting) to their team's stack of cards.
- Direct them to pick up a card—while wearing the plastics bags—and bring it back to their team.
- Continue with the next person in line until all the cards have been retrieved.
- Prompt the teammates to put the verse in the correct order.
- Cheer for the team that completes the task first.
- Repeat the game if there's time and the kids are interested.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

LEADER TIP

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.