



UNBELIEVABLE

JESUS' RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

GREAT COMMISSION AND ASCENSION

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:9 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does the unbelievable.

FOCUS VERSE

“Stop doubting and believe.” John 20:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Ascension of Jesus Sheet | Jesus Figure Cutout | Jesus' Great Commission Instructions
| Scissors | Hole Punch | Yarn or String (10-12 inches per child) | Crayons | Tape |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Do you know any good jokes?
- Who do you want to be like when you grow up?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Remind your children that Jesus doesn't prefer the worship of those who are talented singers, dancers, and musicians. “The Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). God wants our love and commitment. As long as we are sincere and devoted in worship, He will be pleased.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather everyone for prayer.



SET BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS EARLY IN EACH CLASS PERIOD
FOR A MORE SUCCESSFUL TEACHING DAY!

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Jesus, help us become more and more like You every day. Grow us into the people You want us to be. Thank You for everything you’ve done. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Use the puzzle pieces to help the children remember the previous weeks.

BACKGROUND: Say, “Who can tell the class what we’ve learned about this month? Right! **Jesus does the unbelievable!** Can anyone tell me what ‘unbelievable’—this month’s unit title—means? Fantastic! Unbelievable means something that is so incredible and so surprising that it’s hard, almost impossible, to believe! Show me you’re ready to hear another unbelievable story by sitting with your legs crossed, mouths off, and eyes on me. Now, who would like to put our last Unbelievable puzzle piece on the wall?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s play a game to prepare for our story!”

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

Say, “Our game for today is *Follow the Leader*. This game is going to get our minds thinking about the events of our story. Let’s play!”

GAME GOAL: To precisely follow all of the actions given by the student leader.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Choose one person to be the leader. Every other person will be a follower.
- The leader must make-up a series of four actions for everyone to model.
 - Example- Jump 3 times, clap once, spin in a circle, and touch the floor.
 - Note: If you have a lot of younger children, modify the game so that it is doable for them. For example, you may instruct the leader to only complete two actions at a time.
- Remind the followers to watch the leader closely.
- Once the leader has done their actions, the followers will try to copy what the leader modeled accurately.
- Give each child about three rotations to lead and then switch to a different leader.
- If the volunteer leaders can’t think of four motions to do, show them this list of action series and allow them to choose one to act out.

1. 2 Claps, 4 Squats, 1 Leg Kick, 1 Snap
2. 5 Jumps, 3 Blinks, 5 Claps, 1 Arms Raised
3. 2 Squats, 2 Head Touches, 3 Jumps, 5 Claps
4. 8 Jumps, 2 Toe Touches, 3 Snaps, 6 Hand Waves
5. 3 Thumbs Up, 3 Shoulder Taps, 1 Shake, 2 Snaps
6. 4 Ear Touches, 5 Nose Touches, 2 Spins, 3 Claps

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job playing *Follow the Leader!* Who is really the BEST leader though? Right! It’s Jesus! Let’s learn to follow Jesus by listening to what the Bible says He taught.”

LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today’s story is about Jesus Christ’s last day on earth. Until this point, Jesus had been making random appearances to His disciples. We’ve talked about some of those events over the past few weeks. But today, Jesus isn’t only going to appear; He is also going to give some important instructions for the disciples to follow after He leaves. Let’s read to see what Jesus says. Open your Bibles with me to Matthew 28:16-20 (ICB). Then, we will read one verse from Acts 1:9.”

16 The 11 followers went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. 17 On the mountain they saw Jesus and worshiped him. But some of them did not believe that it was really Jesus. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. 19 So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world."

Acts 1:9 After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up. A cloud hid him from their sight.

Say, "What an unbelievable story! **Jesus does the unbelievable.**"

- Ask, "Did you notice that some of the disciples did not believe that the man on the mountain was really Jesus? Why do you think that is?" (Answers will vary.)

"The two big events from this story are known as the 'Great Commission' and the 'Ascension.' Christians should know what each of these are." Take a moment to explain the "Great Commission" and Christ's "Ascension:"

- Great Commission: "A 'commission' is another word for a command. So, we could call this passage the "Great Command" of Jesus. These are Jesus' last words on earth to His disciples. They are so important because He gives final instructions on how to live as His followers:"

1. Go and make followers of all people.
2. Be baptized in the name of the Father (God), Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (Helper).
3. Teach everyone to obey what Jesus taught.



TEACH THE CHILDREN THAT THE "GREAT COMMISSION IS FOR EVERYONE—INCLUDING KIDS!"

- Ascension: "This sounds like a big word, but all it means is the 'lifting up of' to a place of importance. Jesus was 'lifted up' to heaven, where He is now with God. The Ascension is important because Jesus was going to heaven to take His seat as King. Jesus now leads the Church and prays for us continually. Also, when Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, help us, and live in us. We will talk more about the Holy Spirit next week."

TRANSITION: Say, "Wow! **Jesus does the unbelievable.** Let's talk more about our story!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: "Let's answer some questions."

1. Who does the unbelievable?

Response: Jesus.

2. What is another way to say the "Great Commission"?

Response: Jesus' 'Great Command' for all of His followers.

3. How does Jesus stay with us even though He is in heaven?

Response: Now that He is in heaven, Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit.

4. What are some things Jesus taught that we should be teaching others?

Response: All of Jesus' teachings should be shared (giving to others, healing, prayer, love, forgiveness, humility, etc.), but most importantly, we are to tell the gospel: Jesus sacrificed Himself to forgive our sins and free us from death.

5. What is the ascension of Jesus?

Response: The Ascension refers to the moment when Jesus was lifted up to heaven.

6. What do we learn about God in this story?

Response: God is all-knowing, God will never leave us, **God does the unbelievable**, God wants us to spread the good news of Jesus, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "**Jesus does the unbelievable.** Let's do an activity together."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Ascension of Jesus Activity Page | Jesus Figure Cutout | Jesus' Great Commission Instructions | Scissors | Hole Punch | String or Yarn (10-12" per child) | Crayons | Tape |

Say, "What a great discussion! **Jesus really does the unbelievable!** Remember, we talked about two really important events: the Great Commission and the Ascension of Jesus! Let's create an activity that shows Jesus speaking and then going to heaven!"

ASCENSION OF JESUS ACTIVITY PAGE

- Give each child an Ascension of Jesus activity page, Jesus Figure cutout, Great Commission Instructions, and one piece of string.
- Children should color the activity page, Jesus, and the instructions.
- Use scissors to cut out the Jesus and the instruction word bubbles.
- Help the children punch a hole on the black dot at the top of the page.
- Thread the string through the punched hole with half hanging out the front and half hanging out the back.
- Tape one end of the string on the back of the Jesus figure (facing the front page) and tie the other end in a knot (facing the back page).
- By pulling the string down from the back of the activity page, you should see Jesus being lifted into the clouds.
- Tape the instruction bubbles around Jesus to make it look like He is speaking during the Ascension.

TRANSITION: Say, "**Jesus does the unbelievable!** I love the activities you each made—what great reminders of the Great Commission and Jesus' Ascension."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This is the last day we get to practice this month's verse! Let's do it together."

“Stop doubting (Extend your left hand, palm upward. Sharply bring the side of your right hand down to your left palm in a “chopping” motion) **and believe** (point to both of your temples).” **John 20:27 (NIV)** (hold your hands like a book)



OUR ACTION FOR “STOP DOUBTING” IS THE SAME AS THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE MOTION FOR “STOP.” LOOK ONLINE FOR THE MOTION FOR “STOP” FOR A SIMPLE VISUAL.

CHALLENGE: Memory Verse Basketball is a fun game you can use any week to help kids learn the memory verse. First, print out two copies of that month’s memory verse and cut them up, so there is one word on each piece of paper. Then, set up a hoop or bin (even a trash can works). Next, divide the group into two teams. Have the teams take turns having one team member at a time shoot the ball into the hoop. When a goal is made, that team will be rewarded with a word. The first team to get all the words from their memory verse and arrange it in the correct order wins.

Note: Each player gets a shot. If they miss, it goes to the next player.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “**Jesus does the unbelievable!** We learned so much about the Great Commission and the Ascension of Jesus. Don’t forget to tell your parents all about it!”

SAMPLE PRAYER: “*Jesus, thank You for appearing to Your disciples and giving us a good example to follow. We are so grateful that You ascended to heaven so we can have a relationship with You! We love You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.*”

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, children can play the ENGAGE game again, review the story, or practice this month’s memory verse for the last time.

GREAT COMMISSIONS

1. Go and make followers of all people.

2. Be baptized in the name of the Father (God), Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (Helper).

3. Teach everyone to obey what I taught.







