

Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends—April 26, Wk. 3

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

1. Countdown

2. Announcements

3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

- Host
- 4 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- Minimum of 4 streamer rolls (You will need four for each round you play!)
- Trash bags to clean up the streamers after the game
- Place the four streamer rolls in the game area. (Or more if you want to do more rounds.)

Media

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game
- Theme Slide
- “Spin to Win Title” Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG: Transition Slide

5. CG: Word Video and CG: Transition Slide

6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 4 posterboards
- Thick marker
- Write the four locations from the lesson on the posterboards—make sure the words are big and bold. Write one that says, “Jerusalem,” one that says, “Judea,” one that says, “Samaria,” and one that says, “The World.”

Media

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

Bible Story Outline Week 3

Great Commission and Ascension • Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11

SETTING UP THE STORY

- Today's story is about something incredible Jesus told His followers after He rose from the dead.
- Have you ever been given a really important job? It can feel exciting but also a little intimidating.
- Jesus gave His friends the most important job ever. But He didn't just give them the job; He also gave them a promise to help them.

JESUS GIVES THE MISSION

- During the forty days after Easter, Jesus spent time with His friends, helping them understand God's plan.
- One day, He told His disciples to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee.
- Read: Matthew 28:17-18 (NirV).
- Jesus told them He had ALL authority in heaven and on earth. He was the King over everything.
- Then, He gave His followers the biggest, most important mission ever.
- Read: Matthew 28:19-20a (NirV).
- Jesus was telling them, "Go everywhere. Tell everyone about Me." This mission is for all His followers, including us.
- But Jesus knew this mission was big and they couldn't do it on their own. So He made a promise.
- Read: Matthew 28:20b (NirV).
- Jesus promised, "I will be with you every step of the way." That promise is for us too.

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

- The book of Acts tells us what happened next.
- Read: Acts 1:1-3 (NirV).
- For forty days, Jesus met with His friends, proving He was alive. One day, He told them something very important.
- Read: Acts 1:4-5 (NirV).
- Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself! The Holy Spirit would come and help them.
- Read: Acts 1:7-8 (NirV).
- (Hold up the "Jerusalem" sign). Jerusalem was the city where Jesus' friends already lived. Stomp your feet in place. Now shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "Judea" sign). Judea was the area around Jerusalem. March in place. Now shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "Samaria" sign). Samaria was farther away, with different people. Run in place. Now shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "The World" sign). The whole world means every person, everywhere. Spin around. Now shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- That's the message Jesus wants us to spread. After He said these things, something amazing happened.
- Read: Acts 1:9 (NirV).
- As the disciples stared into the sky, two angels suddenly appeared.
- Read: Acts 1:11 (NirV).
- Jesus went to heaven, but He had told them what to do: wait for the Holy Spirit, then go share the good news.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- Let's use our signs one more time to remember the mission.
- (Hold up the "Jerusalem" sign). Stomp your feet and shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "Judea" sign). March in place and shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "Samaria" sign). Run in place and shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- (Hold up the "The World" sign). Spin around and shout, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"
- That's the good news Jesus wants us to spread to every heart, all over the world.
- **BL: You can share the good news about Jesus.**

Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends—April 26, Wk. 3

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

1. Countdown
2. Announcements
3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

(Host enters with energy and excitement.)

(Things to have ready: Streamer rolls in game area. Trash bag for streamer trash. Game slide loaded. Bottom Line slide loaded.)

“Hey, everybody! Welcome back to our Block Party! This room already feels like a party! Look around. Give somebody a fist bump. Yep ... this is a great day to be at church.

“This month our theme is, ‘Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!’

“We’ve been talking all month about the joy Jesus gives us, real joy, the kind that lasts no matter what happens. But before we get to all that ... we need to warm up. We need to get our energy going. We need to kick this Block Party into high gear.

“And to do that ... we’re going to play one of the silliest, spinniest party games ever.

SLIDE: Spin to Win Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

“This, my friends, is ‘Spin to Win!’

“Here’s what’s going to happen: I’m going to choose four volunteers. Each one will get a streamer roll. You’ll hold one end of the streamer, and when I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll spin in place as fast as you can. Just spin in place and let the streamer unwind behind you. The first person whose streamer completely unrolls wins!

“Let’s pick our four players! Raise your hand if you’d like to volunteer!

(Choose four volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to come up to the front of the room, and give each kid a streamer roll.)

“Alright, everyone, take your spots so you don’t bump into anyone! Hold your streamer out to the side. Audience, are you ready to cheer them on?

(Pause while audience cheers.)

“I don’t know ... that didn’t sound very ready. Let’s try again—are you ready to cheer them on?

(Pause while audience cheers.)

“There we go! ‘Spin to Win’ begins in 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Play the game. Cheer on the players and involve the audience.)

“Look at those streamers fly! Nice spinning! Keep going, don’t stop now! Who’s going to unroll their streamer first? Oh wow, that one’s getting close!

(Continue playing until one of the kids unrolls their streamer.)

“And we have a winner! Great job! Let’s give them a huge round of applause! They were amazing! You all can get untangled and head to your seats!

(Gather and discard the streamer trash in the trash bag. Repeat for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for four new volunteers at the start of each round.)

“Wow, that was fun! You all were so joyful! This game reminds me of something else that brings LOTS of joy—and that’s sharing Jesus with others.

“That’s actually our Bottom Line for today! Let’s check it out!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can share the good news about Jesus. Say that with me!”

KIDS AND HOST: “You can share the good news about Jesus.”

HOST: “Did you know that the good news about Jesus isn’t just for one place or one group of people? The good news about Jesus is meant to be spread all around the world. And we’re going to learn more about that today in our true story from the Bible! Let’s go learn about what that means!”

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG:Transition Slide

5. CG: Word Video and CG:Transition Slide

6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.)

(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Four posterboards with locations written on them near the Storyteller.)

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! Welcome to another week of ‘Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!’

“The last few weeks, we’ve been talking about some of the biggest events in the entire Bible! A few weeks ago, we talked about the very first Easter—when Jesus died to give His life to rescue us, and then He rose again! And then last week, Jesus explained what had happened to a couple of confused friends. Jesus taught about His bigger story!

“But what happens next? Stories usually don’t just end. There’s always a ‘what happens next’ moment. Well, you and I are a huge part of that! Today, we’ll learn about God by going through the Bible together. (Gesture to slide.)

SLIDE: God’s Big Story

“Let me catch you up on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far! God created everything to be close to people, but they turned away. He had a plan to bring us back together through a family. God picked Abraham’s family to bless the whole world. Through Joseph and Moses, God saved His people from hard times like famine and slavery. Even though they didn’t always follow, God sent prophets to remind them of His love. He promised a Savior, and Jesus came to be that Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, gave it all up for our sins, broke the power of sin, and rose from the dead, offering us eternal life and a closer relationship with God. After He rose, Jesus told His followers why His death and resurrection were so important.

“And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story!”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “We’re continuing our journey through the Bible! Today’s Bible Story is about something amazing Jesus told His followers after He rose from the dead. It changed their lives, and it matters for us too.

“Have you ever been given an important job? Maybe a teacher asked you to help, or someone at home trusted you with something big. A big job can feel exciting, but also a little scary. You might wonder, ‘Can I do this?’ Well, Jesus gave His friends a very important job. But He also gave them a promise to help them.”

JESUS GIVES THE MISSION

“After Jesus came back to life, He spent forty days with His friends. He talked with them, ate with them, and helped them understand God’s plan. One day, Jesus told His disciples to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee. When they saw Him alive, they worshiped Him. But some still had questions. Let’s see what the Bible says.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:17-18 NIV.)

When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some still had their doubts. Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

“Jesus had beaten sin and death. He is not just a teacher. He is King over everything. Then Jesus gave them a mission.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:19-20a NIV.)

“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

“Jesus was telling them to go and help people everywhere know Him and follow Him. This mission was not just for them. It is for all of Jesus’ followers, and that includes us. We can help others know Jesus too. But this was a big job, so Jesus gave them a promise.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 28:20b NIV.)

“And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

“Jesus was not sending them alone. He promised to be with them always. That promise is for us too. At home, at school, with friends—Jesus is with you. But how would Jesus be with them all the time?”

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

STORYTELLER: “The book of Acts tells us what happened next. Luke wrote Acts to help people understand Jesus and the early church. It is like a sequel to the Gospels. For forty days, Jesus kept showing His friends that He was alive and teaching them. This is what Luke wrote in the book of Acts:

(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:4-5 NIV.)

One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. “Do not leave Jerusalem,” he said. “Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

“Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who is God. The Holy Spirit would help them do what Jesus asked. The disciples still had questions, so Jesus helped them see the bigger plan.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:7-8 NIV.)

He said to them, “You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.”

“Jesus wanted the good news to go everywhere. I brought some signs to help us remember. *(Hold up the “Jerusalem” sign.)* This sign says, ‘Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem was the place closest to home—the city where Jesus’ friends already lived. Now I want you to stomp your feet in place like you’re standing right where you live.

(Kids stomp in place.)

“Now let’s say, ‘Jesus is alive and He loves you!’”

ALL: “Jesus is alive and He loves you!”

STORYTELLER: “Good job!”

(Hold up “Judea” sign.)

“This one says, ‘Judea.’ Judea was the area around Jerusalem. It was farther than home but still familiar. Now I want you to march in place like you’re going somewhere a little farther.

(Kids march in place.)

“Now let’s say, ‘Jesus is alive, and He loves you!’”

ALL: “Jesus is alive, and He loves you!”

STORYTELLER: “Great job!”

(Hold up “Samaria” sign.)

“This one says, ‘Samaria.’ Samaria was even farther away, and it was a city filled with people who were different from Jesus’ followers. This time, run in place!

(Kids run in place.)

“Now let’s say, ‘Jesus is alive, and He loves you!’”

ALL: “Jesus is alive, and He loves you!”

STORYTELLER: “Oh yeah!

(Hold up “The World” sign.)

“This sign says, ‘The World.’ The whole world means every person, everywhere. Jesus wants His love to reach the entire earth. “Now I want you to spin around and get ready to shout.

(Kids spin around.)

“Now let’s say, ‘Jesus is alive, and He loves you!’”

ALL: “Jesus is alive, and He loves you!”

STORYTELLER: “Great job, everyone! You can take your seats.

“That’s the message Jesus wants us to spread everywhere: ‘Jesus is alive, and He loves you! Let’s continue with our Bible Story. After Jesus said these things, something amazing happened.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:9 NIV.)

After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven. The apostles watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

“Imagine standing there. One moment, Jesus was with you, and the next, He was rising into the sky, higher and higher, until a cloud covered Him. As the disciples stood there, staring up into the sky, two angels suddenly appeared beside them.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 1:11 NIV.)

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.”

“It was a lot to take in. But Jesus had already told them what to do: wait for the Holy Spirit. Then go share the good news. And soon, the power of the Holy Spirit would come, and their mission would begin.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: That’s the good news about Jesus that He wants us to spread! To every heart, in every country, all over the world. Let’s review our Bottom Line for the day!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can share the good news about Jesus. Say that with me.”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line]** “You can share the good news about Jesus.”

Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God’s Big Story

“This week, we’re right up here on the path after the picture of ‘The Resurrection’ of God’s Big Story! Today’s true story from the Bible took place in the days after Jesus rose from the dead, and when He went back to heaven! *(Gesture to timeline.)*

This week, we learned about the Great Commission, when Jesus told His disciples to tell the whole world about Him, and the ascension, when Jesus left Earth and went to be with God in heaven!”

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

If you're following Jesus, you're invited to share the wonderful news about God and His love. We can help others discover how amazing Jesus is by what we say and how we live. When you're kind, honest, and forgiving, just like Jesus, people can see His presence in you. So, your journey begins right where you are. Whether you're at home, school, on your team, or in your community, you can shine the light of Jesus' love.

"But Jesus also wants us to share His message with others. We can tell people that God's love is so deep that He sent Jesus so they can have a forever friendship with Him.

"That's quite a task, but Jesus assures us that we're not alone! He promised, 'I am always with you' (Matthew 28:20 NIV). God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to live like Jesus, guides us in what to say, and helps us understand what's right. You have a big assignment, yes, but you are never, ever alone!"

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme