

JESUS COMMISSIONS THE APOSTLES AND ASCENDS TO HIS FATHER

Objective

The children learn that Jesus' Apostles prepare us for Christ's return.

Contents

- The Apostles are commissioned (John 20:21-23; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:4-11).
- Our ascension – the transformation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1

Implementation

Discussion

Statement Prompt

The children work on the exercise, individually or with a partner.

Discuss the following with the children:

After his resurrection, the Lord Jesus repeatedly spoke with his disciples, and gave them various instructions.

The Apostles were to

- go into the world,
- teach all nations and baptize in the name of the triune God, and
- forgive sins.

Statement Prompt

The Lord Jesus also gave them promises.

- “... ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...” (Acts 1:8).
- “... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20).

Question Prompt

How do the Apostles carry out this commission today?

Discussion

The present-day Apostles

- preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,
- baptize with water,
- forgive sins,
- dispense the Holy Communion,
- seal with the Holy Ghost,
- ordain ministers,
- proclaim Christ’s return, and

	<p>■ gather the chosen and lead them to the Lord as his bride.</p> <p>The promise of the Lord Jesus is also valid today, "... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."</p>
Statement Prompt	On the fortieth day following Jesus' resurrection, something special occurred.
Workbook, Exercise 2	The children read the interview with parts given out.
Question Prompt	Which event is Apostle Peter reporting about?
Discussion	<p>In the discussion that follows, the children firstly talk about what they know about Christ's ascension.</p> <p>Then the children read two Bible passages, reporting about the Lord's ascension, aloud.</p>
Bible	<p>Luke 24:50–51: <i>"And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."</i></p> <p>Acts 1:9–11: <i>"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall also come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."</i></p>
Teacher's Presentation	When the Lord Jesus shall return, as the two men in white apparel said during his ascension, we will also experience our ascension, i.e. transformation. Apostle Paul wrote about this in his letter to the Thessalonians.
Workbook, Exercise 3	The children read the Bible text aloud.
Discussion	<p>Discuss the Bible verses and, together with the children, find simpler wording so the children will be better able to understand.</p> <p>[Methodical remark: The suggested answers do not have to be adopted verbatim. What is important, is to take up the children's contributions.</p>

Board	<p>The answers are recorded on the board.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"><ul style="list-style-type: none">- When Christ returns, the completed children of God from the realms of the departed will arise first. - Then the completed children of God living on earth will be taken to the Lord.</div>
Workbook	<p>The children write the board text into their workbook.</p>
Question Prompt	<p>In his letter, Apostle Paul also writes, "<i>Wherefore comfort one another with these words.</i>" Why is this a comfort for us?</p>
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Then we are able to be with the Lord eternally. ■ We will see our loved ones in the beyond again.
Conclusion	<p>We want to live our lives in such a manner, that the Lord Jesus could come any day.</p>
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