



Future-proofing our children

Religious Instruction Class 2

Lesson Title Jesus commissions the Apostles and
ascends to His Father

A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Jesus commissions the Apostles and ascends to His Father**” Religious Instruction lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
1.	<p>Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS</p>
2.	<p>Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bible ● The PDF lesson that is already prepared ● Child’s workbook and pencils, crayons, etc. ● The Video Clip which is an additional optional resource tool <p>Note:</p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2. Please keep the lesson as concise as possible, bearing in mind the retention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children – you know your child best. <i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lessons are class specific (i.e. SS, RI or Confirmation).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your SS teacher if you need any of the above resources.</p>
3.	<p>Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it.</p>



Present a Sunday School Lesson at Home

How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
4.	Create a pleasant (disturbance free) learning environment where you and the children are at the same level Example: Sit on the mat or at a table
5.	Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson.
6.	Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember.
7.	Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember.
8.	Present the lesson to your child by telling the story. You can even read the story if you like.
9.	Show your child the video and recap on the meaning/purpose of the lesson.
10.	Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook.
11.	Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson.

Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Religious Instruction family.
2. Discuss with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct your own research for additional information.
4. Contact your Sunday School Coordinator or Religious instruction Teacher if additional information is required.



The Lesson

Lesson Title	Jesus commissions the Apostles and ascends to His Father
Text	Matthew 28: 19-20; Acts 1: 4-11 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Lesson Objective	The children learn that Jesus' Apostles prepare us for Christ's return

Lesson Summary:

- After Jesus was raised from the dead, He was **ALIVE forever**.
- After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples and during this time He gave them a new job.
- Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations (meaning all people), baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (the Triune God) and teaching them to observe (meaning to obey) everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28: 19
- Jesus wanted them to go out into the world telling people about Jesus.
- This job is SO BIG, that we call it the **Great Commission**.
- This is still our job today.
- After the 40 days, Jesus led the disciples out of the city as far as Bethany, and raised His hands and blessed them. As Jesus was blessing them, He departed from them and was taken up into heaven.
- The disciples were all watching in amazement as Jesus disappeared into the sky.
- Two angels came and stood with them. They told them: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This, same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1: verse 11
- When they heard that Jesus will return, the disciples were very happy.
- Jesus also promised, that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and that Jesus will be with them until the end of time.
- The disciples had to go back to Jerusalem to wait until the Holy Spirit came upon them.



Jesus commissions the Apostles and ascends to His Father

How do Apostles carry out this commission today?

- In the New Apostolic Church, the Apostles carry out this commission by:
- Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ,
- Baptising with water (sacrament of Holy Baptism),
- Proclaiming/announcing the forgiveness of sins,
- Dispensing Holy Communion,
- Dispensing the gift of the Holy Spirit (sacrament of Holy Sealing),
- Ordaining ministers,
- Proclaiming/announcing Christ's death, resurrection, and return, and
- Gathering the firstfruits (the faithful, those that obeyed God's commandments) and preparing them to have eternal fellowship with God upon Christ's return.

Our ascension – our transformation:

- When the Lord Jesus will return, we will also experience **our** ascension, meaning **our** transformation.
- In 1st Thessalonians 4: 13-18, we see that on the day of Jesus' return, the trumpet of God will sound, and then, Jesus **Himself** will come down from heaven.
- Those, who have died believing in God, **will rise to life first**, and be taken up into the clouds. Then, those who are alive on earth, and believing in God, will be taken up into the clouds **with them**, to meet the Jesus in the air. **This** will all happen within a wink of an eye. **Then** we shall **always** be with the Lord.
- It is a **comfort** to us, to be able to be with the Lord **eternally**, and to **see our loved ones in the beyond** again one day, upon Christ's return.



Notes



Jesus commissions the Apostles and ascends to His Father

What does this lesson teach us?

- We should tell others (friends, family etc.) about Jesus, and **what** He has done for us.
- We should **believe in God**, and **obey** His commandments and teachings, in order for us to enter His Kingdom upon Christ's return. Always remember, that we are living in God's grace and by using the gifts He has given us, we are able to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Let us live our lives in such a way, that the Lord Jesus could come any day, so that we are found worthy, to enter His Kingdom, upon His return, and live with Him forever.

Do Exercise 1, 2 and 3 with your child and answer the questions.

Answers to Exercise 3:

Verse 14 – The departed will see the Lord before we do

Verses 15-16 – First, the believing children of God from the realms of the departed will rise

Verses 17-18 – Then, the believing children of God who still live on earth will be taken with them to Jesus.

Some questions we can ask:

1. Based on our lesson, where in the Bible is the commission of Jesus to the Apostles recorded?

Answer: Matthew 28: 19-20

2. How many men appeared to the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven?

Answer: two

3. After how many days did Jesus ascend to His Father in heaven?

Answer: 40 days

4. Upon Christ's return, who will be taken up first?

Answer: the departed who believed in God

5. What should we do to enter God's Kingdom one day?

Answer: we must believe in God and obey all His commandments and teachings

