



3rd-6th

The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2

Lesson #2-28
Mark 16:1-8; Acts 1:1-14

Story Connections

Mark's Gospel focuses our attention on the cross. Throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly told his followers that he would suffer and specifically predicted his own death three times. Yet even the disciples held on to the desire that Jesus would become a powerful king with political clout. Upon his death on the cross, though, we hear the centurion's powerful confession: "Truly this man was God's Son."

Yet the story takes an unbelievable twist in today's lesson. Jesus is resurrected on Easter morning. Finally, the victory over death is won. Yet, Mark's gospel is one of intrigue. Either it ends following verse eight, with the women in fear and amazement and not telling anyone what they have seen. Or, other scholars believe that it ends in similar fashion to Matthew and Luke, including a commissioning of the disciples and Jesus' ascension. The second part of the reading is the beginning of the Book of Acts and includes Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, his call to all believers to share the message to the ends of the earth and his ascension into heaven. We go from the end of the story of Jesus' time on earth and transition into the birth of the Christian church.

Story Summary: Resurrection & Ascension

After Jesus' brutal death on the cross, we pick up the story with the good news that our Christian faith relies on: Jesus rose from the dead and, thus, has conquered death for all believers. During the next forty days, he spends his time preparing the disciples for the work of sharing the good news of what has happened with the world. Finally, he promises them the Holy Spirit and ascends into heaven. Thus begins the Christian church.

Bible Nuts & Bolts: Resurrection & Ascension

Jesus' resurrection, the good news of Easter, is the center of our Christian faith. The final victory has been won!

Yet, even as Christ ascends into heaven, the Holy Spirit is promised. We have a God who is eternally present and creating faith among people on earth.

Story Themes

Any passage of Scripture has countless themes and lessons for the student. The following themes are the focus of this lesson.

Jesus' followers hear that he has been raised from the dead. Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Salome went to the tomb in order to carry out the sad work of anointing his body with spices. As they arrived, their concerns were how they would roll away the stone. But, the following minutes were filled with surprise, alarm, terror and amazement. This was simply unbelievable news.

Forty days later, Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus appeared to the apostles and taught them about the kingdom of God. Then, he promised the Holy Spirit's presence on earth, called followers to action, and ascended into heaven.

As followers, all Christians are called to be witnesses to this good news. Before Jesus ascended, his words clearly called all believers to share the good news with the world. This is challenging work, but with the presence of the Holy Spirit, faith continues to be created around the globe.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Through Jesus Christ, we have been given everlasting life. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to share that news with the world. Worship is our opportunity to express our gratitude and love to God. Today, your child was able to lift up their praises in a colorful activity.

Try it @ HOME

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Mark 16:1-8; Acts 1:1-14

Last Week/ Next Week

During Holy Week, we heard stories that included Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his last meal with his disciples, and all the events leading up to his death on the cross. And, now we complete the story with the glory of Christ's resurrection. God has the final word over death and the final victory is shared with us. This good news is meant to be shared and, as Jesus ascends into heaven, his disciples are reminded of their responsibilities just as we are today. Next week we hear how Jesus' name will continue to be glorified on earth as Peter and John heal a lame man at the gate of the temple. God's name is praised as Christ's church begins to take shape.

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them – and to us? Pick a time each day to gather together and read the following excerpts that share stories from the early church. Engage in a few activities that help you better understand God's message of love.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mark 16:1-8	Mark 16:9-18	Luke 24:13-35	John 21:1-14	Matthew 28:16-20	Acts 1:6-11	Acts 2:1-13
Pick up a small rock outside. Paint it with the words, "He is risen!" and keep it on your dresser or counter to remind you of this good news!	Jesus' resurrection was too good for some to believe. Name as many things as you can that you believe in without seeing—like Jesus and gravity!!	The men didn't recognize Jesus until he broke the bread, blessed it and shared it with them. Bake bread (or another treat) to give away and pray over it!	Jesus provided 153 fish in the disciples' net. Try to name 153 ways Jesus blesses you this week!	Jesus commanded the disciples to <i>go</i> and to <i>teach</i> , and then promised to be with them always. Have each family member make two requests and one promise to the rest of the family.	The disciples first looked up as Jesus ascended and then looked back to their work on earth. Look up to the stars, make a wish, and then direct your energy to making that wish come true.	Look up how to say, "God loves you" in a variety of languages. Make cards (or a YouTube video) sharing that good news with people.