

Fun Family Activities to reinforce the story

Jesus Commissions the Disciples from Acts 1:1-14

Key Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

The Point:

Jesus sends us to spread the good news everywhere!

Making Connections:

God Works through Us

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



Background for Adults and older children:

Making Connections

Today's 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 as we see how God works through us.

Story Summary:

Jesus Commissions the Disciples

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 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. 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.

The Point

Jesus sends us to spread the good news everywhere!

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: Prayer

With the resurrection and ascension, our faith makes a transition. That which had been promised has been fulfilled. God's kingdom has broken into our world. Now this new way of being God's people starts spreading throughout the world and through many different kinds of people. We pray for the many parts of the world in which we see God and in which we hope to bring God's peace.

Turn your Frown Upside Down! Pre-K—2nd Grade

You will need:

- † Paper plate and a scissors
- 1. Cut the paper plate in half to create a semi-circle. Then, cut out a smaller semi-circle from the middle in order to create a rainbow-shape.
- 2. Adult says: **This part of a paper plate looks a little bit like a frown. Can you show me a frown on your face?**
- 3. Adult says: **I want to tell you about something sad that happened to me when I was little.** Feel free to make up your own story or say the following: **I had some kids who lived in my neighborhood that played outside almost every day after school. I always wanted to play with them, but I was younger. They told me I was too little. They said I was not very good at sports and too little to do big kid things. Many afternoons I went home and sat in my room all alone. I felt very sad.**
- 4. Ask your kids and other adults to share a story about when they felt sad.
- 5. Hold up the paper plate frown again. Then, slowly turn it over so it looks like a smile.
- 6. **This is how I wanted to feel. I wanted to smile and feel happy. Can you think of some things that could have happened to make me feel that way?** *[The other kids let me play, I made a new friend, I found something fun to do alone.]* **You have some wonderful ideas! What happened that turned my frown upside down and into a smile is that another child, who was the same age as me, moved into the neighborhood. We started to play together after school and in the summer. We became very good friends. I did not feel sad anymore!**
- 7. **In today's Bible story, Jesus' followers felt sad at the beginning but some important things happened that changed how they felt, too.**
- 8. **Can you show me your smile face? That is how Jesus feels when we tell other people how much Jesus loves them!**

Sing Jesus Loves Me together:

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Let's read the Bible Story Together!

Open your Spark Story Bible to *The Great Commission and the Ascension*, pages 496-499. If you don't have a Spark Story Bible, use the story attached.

Older kids: Look up the book of Acts, Chapter 1, verses 1-14.

Where is the book of Act in the Bible? Old or New Testament? (New) Let's look it up in our Bible Table of Contents. If you have an Adventure Bible (3rd and 4th graders should have one— if you don't let Julie Hanson know), read the title page of this book together to see who wrote this book, why it was written, who it was written for, etc. Then find the first Chapter to start reading the story for today. If your Bible has a "Let's Live it!" section on this first page of Acts, read this together.

When you have read the story, talk about what you read- What part of the story was sad?

What part of the story was happy?

Jesus told his Disciples that he had a job for them to do— what was it?

What can we do too? (tell others about Jesus!)

What is Missing—Activity for the whole Family!

You will need:

- † Assorted small items
- † Shoebox

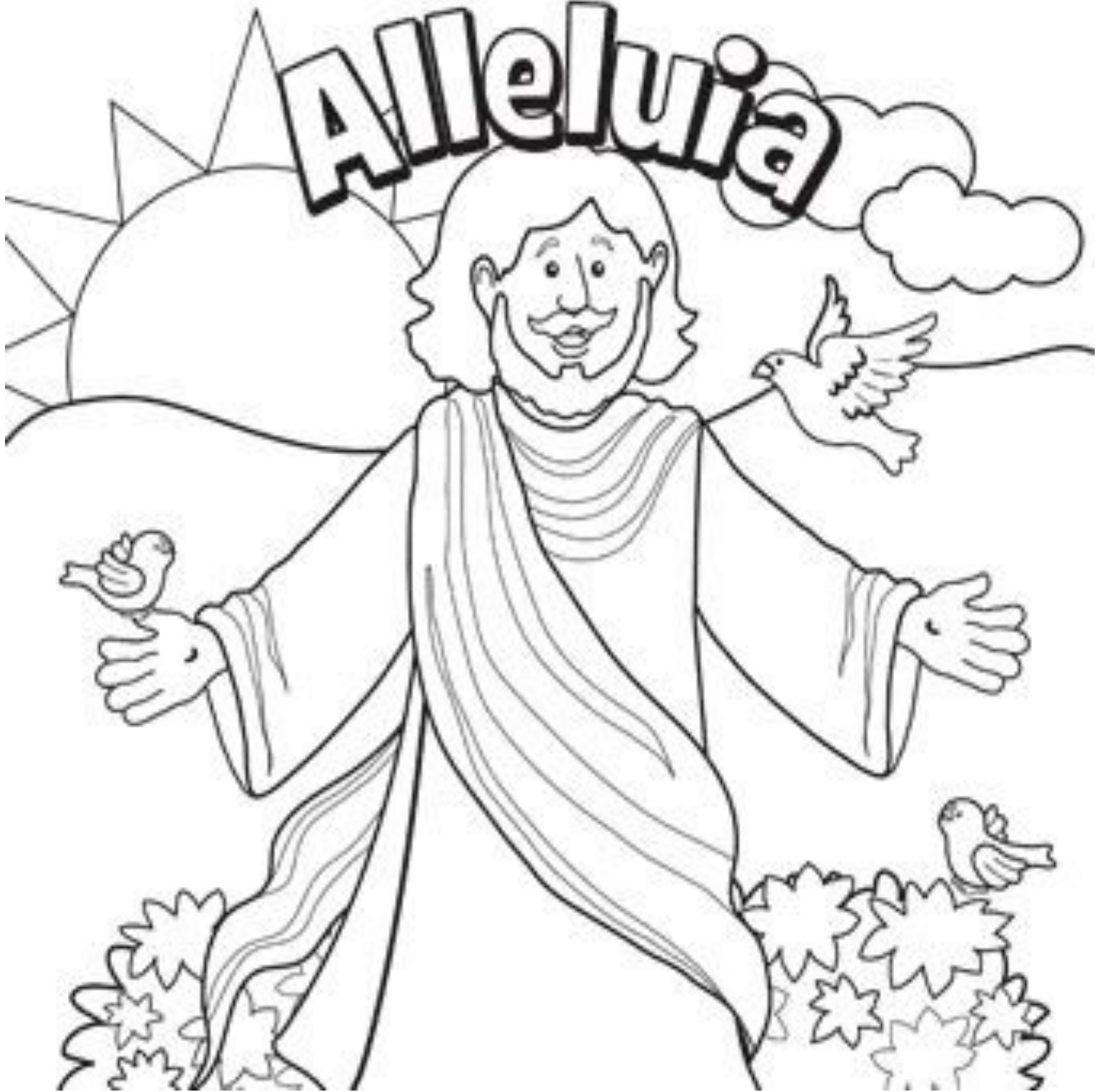
1. Gather small items (e.g. shoelace, button, pencil, sock, cracker, paper, glasses, etc.).
2. Place items in a shoebox and put on the lid.
3. **Say: Inside this box, I have a bunch of small items. I am going to take off the lid for 30 seconds so you can peek inside. Then, I am going to go over to the corner of the room where you cannot see what I am doing and take one thing out. When I come back, you will try to guess which item I have removed.**
4. Open the lid and have everyone look into the box. After 30 seconds, remove an item and see if they can guess what is gone.
5. Continue the process of giving them a short amount of time to look, removing an item and allowing them to guess what is gone.
6. When you have removed the final item, say: **I am sad that the game is over since the box is empty. Can anyone else tell me about something that was empty in our Bible story today? [The tomb.] When this box is empty, we feel sad. How did the women feel when the tomb was empty on Easter morning? [Confused, scared, amazed.]**
7. **We know that Jesus' resurrection was a good thing. In fact, it is some of the BEST news we could ever on Easter.** Have each person say "Alleluia!" then say it all together.

Closing Prayer

Say "Alleluia!" after each line in the prayer.

Dear God,
Your love is so wonderful. "Alleluia!"
Thank you for sending Jesus to live and die for us! "Alleluia!"
His resurrection is the best news ever! "Alleluia!"
We will share the God news of your love! "Alleluia!"
Amen.

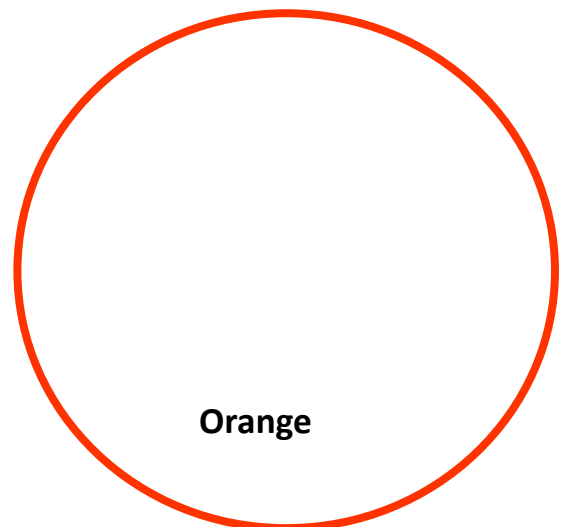
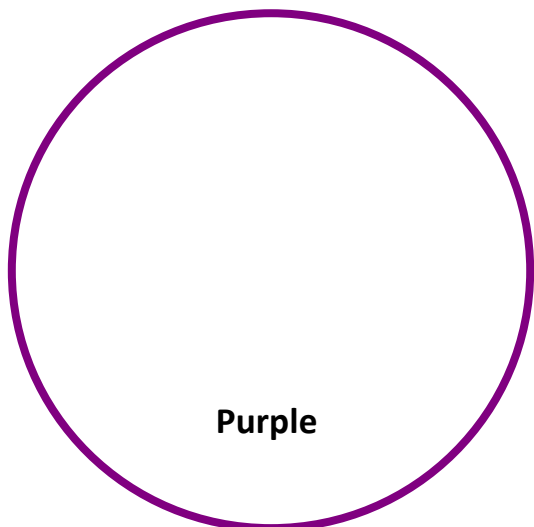
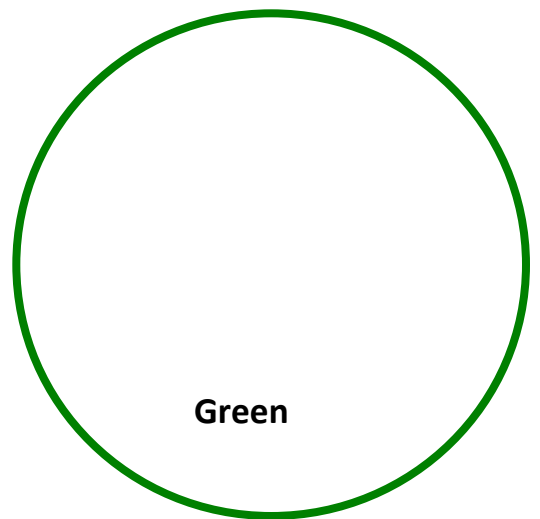
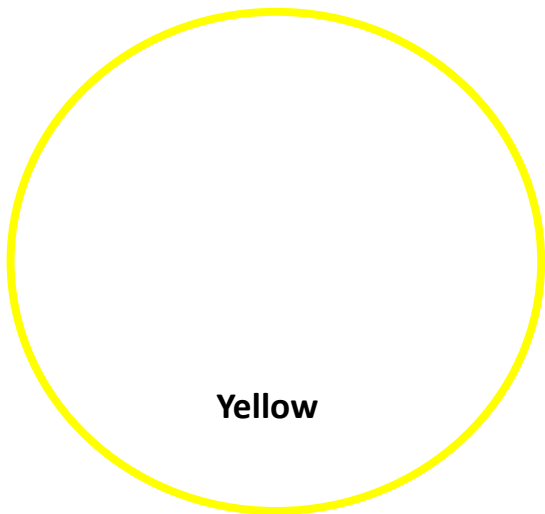
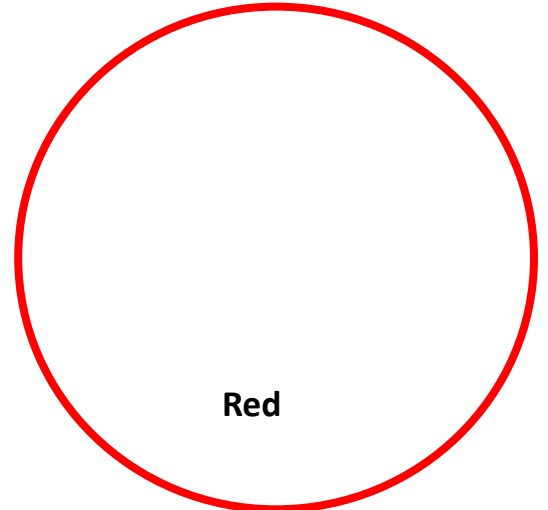
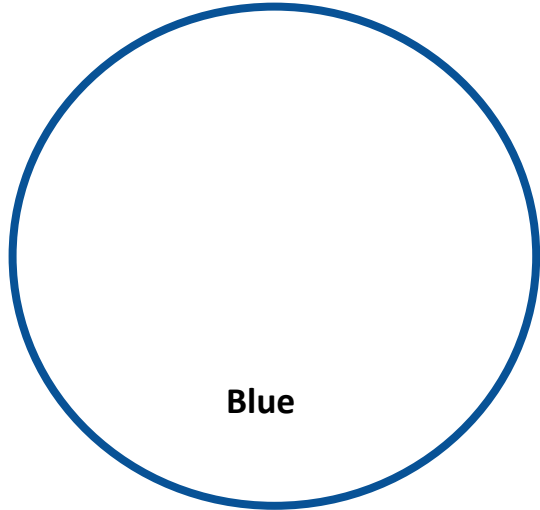
Alleluia



Find ALLELUIA in your backyard!

Find something in your backyard that is each of these colors—how can these things be used to say Alleluia to God?

Either put the item in the circle, or draw it in the circle.



The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 28:16-20



M X H H S W K T E A C H I N G
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 G I V E N D K B T H D I B R S

OBEDIENT	DISCIPLES	EARTH	AUTHORITY
JESUS	MOUNTAIN	ALWAYS	TEACHING
BAPTIZING	HEAVEN	COMMANDED	ELEVEN
NATIONS	MAKE	WORSHIPED	GIVEN