



LESSON -13

GRADE: 08

ASCENSION AND THE MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION

Objective (Learning Outcomes)

- To help children understand Jesus' ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the missionary call for every Christian to spread the Gospel through words and actions.
- To realize that every Christian is called to be a missionary.

Starter:

Begin with a simple question:

1. “If you had very good news that could make everyone happy, would you keep it to yourself or share it? Why?”
2. “What happens when your teacher leaves you with an important responsibility?” → Lead into: Jesus gave His disciples a big responsibility before going to heaven.
3. Allow students to share. Then explain: “Jesus gave the disciples the greatest news — salvation and eternal life — and asked them to share it with the whole world.”

Development:

1. “After Jesus rose from the dead, He didn't go to heaven immediately. For forty days, He kept visiting His disciples, talking to them, eating with them, and teaching them about God's Kingdom. He wanted them to be sure that He was really alive!”

2. Ascension Scene (Acts 1:6–11) On the 40th day, Jesus took His disciples to Bethany. They asked, “Lord, will you now restore the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know the time. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. Then you will be my witnesses – in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” He blessed them, and while they were watching, He was lifted into heaven. Angels appeared and told them: “Jesus will return one day, just as you saw Him go.” The disciples returned to Jerusalem filled with joy, praising God.

3. The Mission (Matthew 28:16–20) Jesus told them: “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go to all nations, make them my disciples, baptize them, and teach them everything I commanded you. I am with you always till the end of the age.” This is called The Great Commission. The Church’s mission = to teach, to baptize, to spread the Good News of salvation.

4. Pentecost – The Church’s Birthday – Ten days after Jesus went to heaven → Pentecost. Holy Spirit came as tongues of fire. Disciples became brave, spoke in many languages, and preached boldly. This day is called the Birthday of the Church.

5. The Mission Spreads (Acts, Apostles, Epistles)–Apostles spread the Good News everywhere (St. Thomas came to India, St. Paul preached with zeal). Early Church grew quickly under the power of the Holy Spirit. Letters (Epistles) guided the faithful.

6. Our Role – Each Christian a Missionary- Mission didn't stop with apostles – continues through us. Every baptized Christian is called to share Jesus by words and actions:

Kindness, Honesty, Helping others, Living like Jesus

Practical Application:

Children should understand that missionary work starts with small acts of love at home, in school, and among friends.

Examples:

Sharing with those in need instead of keeping everything for oneself.

Standing up for truth instead of lying.

Speaking kindly instead of hurting others.

Praying for people who do not yet know Jesus.

Bible Verse:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”— Matthew 28:19

Activity (Apply to Life):

1. Mission Map Activity

Give each child a sheet of paper with a simple world map or provide a world map. Mark places where apostles preached (Jerusalem, Rome, India for St. Thomas, etc.).

2. Write/draw one way they can be a missionary in their daily life (e.g., “helping a poor child,” “telling a friend about Jesus,” “praying for others”).

Conclusion:

Remind children: Jesus entrusted His mission to the Apostles, and now to us. We too are called to be missionaries through our words, actions, and love. The strongest way to proclaim the Gospel is by living like Jesus.