# LESSON 1

# THE LORD JESUS RETURNS TO THE FATHER



**Aim:** **To teach the children that Jesus returned to the Father, but will come back to this world one day.**

**Scripture Reading:** **Acts 1:1–11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

**Memory Verse:** **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
**[T]he Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command … and with the trumpet call of God …**

## Presenting the Lesson

### Starting point

How do you feel when someone you love goes away for a long time? We often feel sad when we have to say goodbye, because we are going to miss the person who leaves us behind.

What questions do you ask the one who is leaving? A typical question is: "When are you coming back?"

### Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus' disciples were just like this. After Jesus had completed the task he had to do on earth – after he had been crucified and God had raised him from the dead – Jesus returned to the father. Show Picture 1. This picture shows the Lord Jesus being taken up into heaven. See how sad his friends are.
2. After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. He taught them, preparing them to continue God's work in this world. Jesus promised that they would receive his Holy Spirit and that the Spirit would strengthen them with God's power. They had to wait for this gift that would give them the power and wisdom to talk about Jesus, and what he had done for mankind (Acts 1:2–5, 8).
   **To help the children understand the working of the Holy Spirit, show them an inner tube of a tyre that is not inflated. Ask them if it is any good while there is no air in it. They will know that it is useless like that. If possible, bring along a pump and pump up the tube so that the class can see how it becomes useful once it is filled with air.**
   **Note:** The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. In Greek the words "spirit" and "air" are the same. Followers of Jesus need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, just like tyres have to be filled with air in order to be useful.
3. Jesus' friends asked him what was going to happen in the future. When would he return? Jesus made a promise: He would surely return to this world. However, only the Father



Look,Listen&Live_Book8.indd 10 2012/09/10 11:11 AM



knows when this will be. We know that his second coming will be announced with a great shout and that we shall go to meet him (Acts 1:6-7, 1 Th 4:13-18).

4. When Jesus had disappeared from their sight, two messengers from God brought the disciples a message. **Point to the messengers in the picture, then say the message in your own words (Acts 1:9-11).**
The messengers called the disciples "men of Galilee," because that was where the disciples came from. It was like saying "men of Equatoria". In the next lessons we shall see how the disciples obeyed Jesus' last instructions. From now on they would be called Jesus' apostles. All his other followers would become disciples.

## Our Response to the Story

Think about this question: Are you ready for Jesus if he should come again today? As we do not know when he will return, the only way to be ready is to follow Jesus faithfully every day.

## Instil the Memory Verse






Look,Listen&Live_Book8.indd 11 2012/09/10 11:11 AM