



KIDS FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for May 22nd - May 28th
Acts In 30: Up, Down, Now All Around

Family Activity: Freeze Tag

To help demonstrate how Jesus took "captivity captive", we'll play a game of Freeze Tag. Appoint one member of the family to play the part of Jesus (yes!) everyone else will be "captivity." If you want, you can appoint each person as something that can take us captive in life (i.e. jealousy). Designate a playing area that isn't too big but gives some playing room. Everyone has to stay in the designated playing area. Once the game starts, the person playing Jesus will begin tagging the other players until everyone has been taken captive.

FOCUS: READ Acts 1:8-10

Up: Jesus Is In Heaven Leading His Church

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

BIG IDEA 1 – After Jesus was raised from the grave, he remained on the Earth for 40 days and he was seen by over 500 people. After the 40 days were over, Jesus told his disciples that it was time for him to go. He was taken up into the sky in a cloud of glory. Jesus had given them orders to stay in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit and he appointed some of them as Apostles or leaders of the community. Jesus' ascension into Heaven shows us that he has authority over all the earth and that he is seated on the throne in Heaven. It's from his throne that Jesus leads his Church to this very day.

Q1- What do you think the disciples were thinking as they watched Jesus ascend into the sky on a cloud? What biblical feast happened 10 days after Jesus ascension that Jesus told them to wait for and what did they receive there? (Hint: it's a Spring feast) How does Jesus lead us from Heaven, doesn't he kinda need to be here on earth in order to lead?

FOCUS: Ephesians 4:9-12

Down: Jesus Went Down To The Earth But Came Back With Victory

"Therefore, it is said, When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and He bestowed gifts on men. Now what can this, "He ascended", mean but that He had previously descended from heaven into the lower parts of the earth?"
(Ephesians 4:8-9)

BIG IDEA 2 – Jesus didn't have to come to the Earth and die for our sins, but he did it anyways because he loves us dearly. So the one who was above all of us went to the lowest place possible, on behalf of you and me, and removed the things that used to hold us captive, even the consequences of death. Jesus showed us that he is bigger than anything that used to hold us down. The things that used to control of us, Jesus now controls them. To summarize, you can just say "Jesus is the biggest!"

Q2- What does it mean when something is held "captive?" How did Jesus set us free from our captivity? Verse 9 says that Jesus gave us "gifts" in the form of different leaders in a church community, how can people in our lives be like gifts?

FOCUS: Mark 16:15-20

All Around: Jesus Gives Us A Mission To Spread His Kingdom

"When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs." (Mark 16:19-20, NLT)

BIG IDEA 3 – So, we've seen Jesus come **DOWN** and we've seen him go **UP**... Now what? NOW, he has given each of us an invitation into his great mission to redeem the earth back to the way it was in Eden. Jesus removed the things that held us captive, he gave us gifts in the form of church community, and he's given us the biggest gift of all —THE HOLY SPIRIT! Now, just like this passage says, we can spread the gospel **everywhere** like the disciples did and perform miracles through God's power so that everyone can see how great God is! Anyone who is a disciple of Jesus is called into this great mission!

Q3- What is the great mission Jesus has called his disciples into? Are you a disciple of Jesus and how does one become a disciple of Jesus? How can you participate in Jesus' great mission in your own life?



