

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Acts 1:4-14

• **Change posture:**

Move your body as you tell the story. Begin sitting. During dialogue, turn one direction when the disciples speak and another direction as Jesus speaks. Stand as you tell about Jesus' ascension and the two men who appeared.

• **Use lighting**

effects: Begin telling the story with the lights dimmed and a spotlight on the Bible story picture. Raise the lights completely as you conclude the story.

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples over 40 days.

Now, Jesus gave His disciples important instructions.

He told them not to leave the city of Jerusalem. Jesus said the disciples should wait there until God kept His promise to give them the Holy Spirit.

Jesus reminded the disciples of John the Baptist. John had baptized people with water when they turned away from their sin and turned to God. **Jesus said that in a few days, the disciples would be baptized too. Not with water, but with the Holy Spirit.**

"Lord, are You giving the kingdom back to Israel now?" the disciples asked. God was with His people—the Jews—but they looked weak. The Romans ruled over them. The Jewish people wanted to have power over other nations.

Jesus did not say yes, but He did not say no. "The Father knows when the time is right," He said. Then **Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

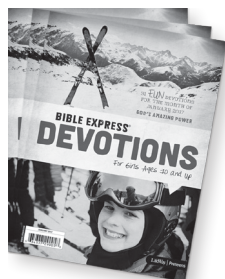
As Jesus' witnesses, the disciples would tell people what they knew to be true. They would tell people the good news about Jesus in the city of Jerusalem, in the surrounding area of Judea and the nearby area of Samaria, and all over the world. The Holy Spirit would be with them to help them.

After Jesus said these things, He went up into heaven. The disciples watched Jesus until a cloud hid Him from their sight. All of a sudden, two men appeared. The men were wearing white clothes. These men asked the

disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will return in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem, as Jesus had instructed them, to pray and wait.

Christ Connection: Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God's work. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Ascension Maze

Complete the maze from the disciples to Jesus.



Make It Right

Circle the correct words and then fill in the blanks.

Jesus left _____ (earth / home)

and returned to

_____ (school / heaven),

but He did not leave us

_____ (alone / hungry).

Jesus sent the

_____ (mail carrier / Holy Spirit)

to be with us and help us do God's

_____ (work / creation).

One day _____ (Jesus / Moses)

will return to make all things

_____ (old / new)

and to rule as Lord over

_____ (a few / all).

Shadow Matching

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line from each cloud to its matching shadow.

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

- Jesus told His friends to wait in the city for the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit would give Jesus' friends the power to tell people about Him.
- Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How does the Holy Spirit help us do the mission Jesus gave us?
- Revisit the ideas you talked about last week regarding how your family can pray, give, and go for the Great Commission.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Look at maps. Identify your town, your state, your nation, and other nations in the world.
- Find a grassy spot to lay outside. Look up at the clouds and talk about the cloud shapes. Imagine watching Jesus return to earth on a cloud.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 27, Session 5



Cut along dotted lines. Fold in half. Secure a craft stick handle with tape and seal edges together. Decorate the back. Identify clouds by looking in the sky through the opening.

fold here

Cirrus



High, wispy clouds

Stratus



Low, grayish clouds

Cumulus



Puffy, white clouds

Nimbus



Dark, rainy clouds

cut along the dotted line

What kinds of clouds do you see?

Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.