

Jesus goes back to Heaven

Bright
Sparks

IGNITE

DNA

Introduction

- ▶ In this session we are going to be thinking about when Jesus goes back to Heaven, and the important mission he gives to His disciples.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE
HELPED YOU?

Game - Charades

- ▶ Take it in turns to act out a job for the rest of your family to guess.
- ▶ Remember: actions only - no speaking and no props.
- ▶ Here are a few suggestions if you are struggling for an idea:
 - ▶ Police Officer
 - ▶ Teacher
 - ▶ Mechanic
 - ▶ Gardener
 - ▶ Scientist
 - ▶ Musician
 - ▶ Truck Driver
 - ▶ Supermarket Worker



Bible Story - Jesus' Ascension

- ▶ Today's Bible Story is from the book of Acts. Why don't you grab your Bible and have a go at finding Acts? Some children's Bibles don't have the individual books of the Bible, so you could try finding the story about Jesus going back to Heaven or the stories about Easter.
- ▶ The book of Acts is after the Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John) and it starts by telling the story of when Jesus ascended (that means goes up) to Heaven and the important job He tells His disciples to do once He has gone back to Heaven.
- ▶ The story is from Acts chapter 1 verses 1-11 and I've used the Contemporary English Version as I think the words are a bit easier to understand. Acts was written by Luke - that's right, the same person who wrote the Gospel of Luke.
- ▶ For today's story you are going to make a story timeline. For each part of the story you need to write or draw something. You can go into as much detail as you like. At the end of the story I've given you an example of a timeline, in case you aren't quite sure or need any ideas.

Bible Story - Jesus' Ascension

Theophilus, I first wrote to you about all that Jesus did and taught from the very first until he was taken up to heaven.

Part 1 - On your timeline write/draw something Jesus did or taught during His time on Earth.

But before he was taken up, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit. For forty days after Jesus had suffered and died, he proved in many ways that he had been raised from death. He appeared to his apostles and spoke to them about God's kingdom.

Part 2 - On your timeline write/draw a time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His death.

While he was still with them, he said "Don't leave Jerusalem yet. Wait here for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, just as I told you he has promised to do. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." While the apostles were still with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, are you now going to give Israel its own king again?" Jesus said to them, "You don't need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls. But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power.

Part 3 - On your timeline write/draw the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit and then the Holy Spirit giving coming and giving them power. Do you know anything about this event?

Bible Story - Jesus' Ascension

Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.”

Part 4 - On your timeline write/draw about the disciples telling people about Jesus. Can you remember any of the stories about other towns and countries being told about Jesus? (If you are in Ignite we did about this last year!)

After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky.

Part 5 - On your timeline write/draw Jesus going back to Heaven.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. They said, “Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.”

Part 6 - On your timeline write/draw about the two men appearing.

Bible Story - Story Timeline

- ▶ What does your story timeline look like? Here's mine.

Jesus healed people, calmed a storm, and told parables 

When the Holy Spirit comes  flames appear above the disciple's heads and then they can speak in other languages

Jesus went up to Heaven 

Part 1 

Part 3 

Part 5 

Part 2 

Part 4 

Part 6 

Jesus appeared to Thomas and also to some disciples and gave them breakfast 

Paul was one person who told people about Jesus. He wrote lots of letters to help believers in other places (e.g. Corinth and Ephesus) 

Two men appeared 

Discussion - Go and Tell!



- ▶ Jesus told the disciples to go and tell everyone about Him. Can you look back in the story and remember what Jesus said?

(“Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.”)

- ▶ Do you know any ways the disciples, and then other believers, told the amazing news about Jesus?

(Travelled to other places and told people about Jesus. Wrote letters to tell people about Jesus, and to encourage and support new believers.)

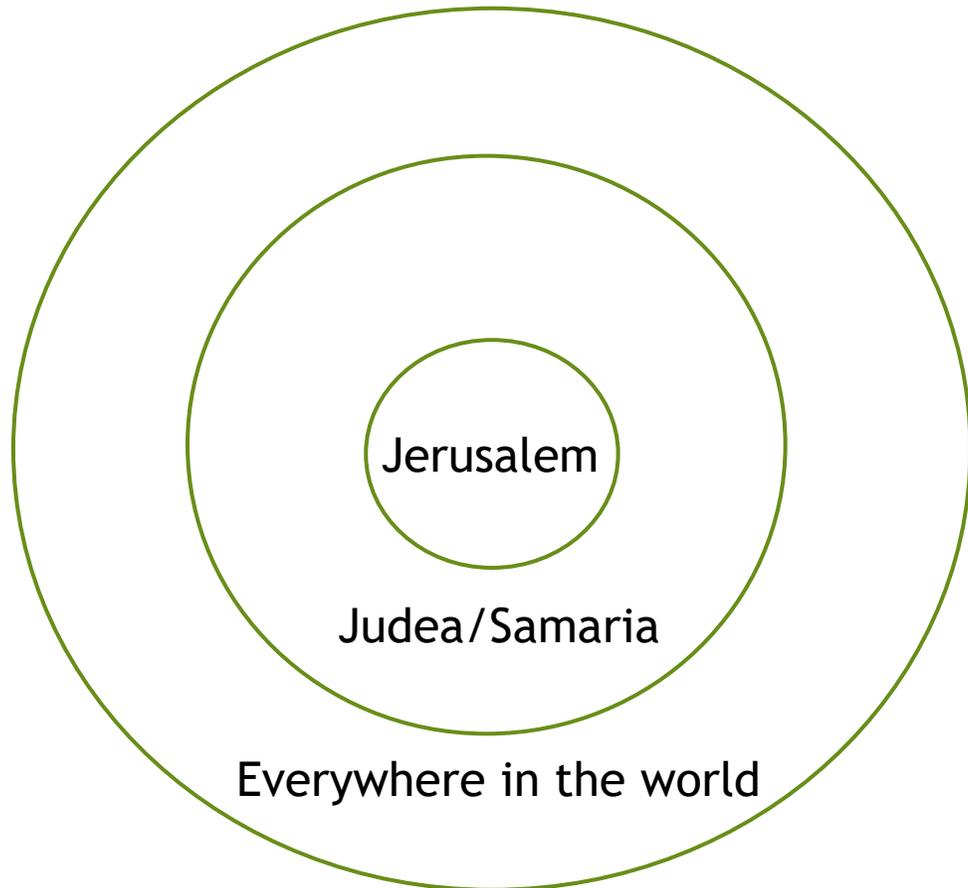
- ▶ How can you tell people about Jesus now?

(Talk to a friend: invite them to the online church services)

Where and when?

- ▶ Below is a brief outline about where and when some people spread the Good News about Jesus. Have a go at finding some of the countries on a map/globe, if you have one, or find a world map online. This information is reproduced from the Energize online resources by Urban Saints.
- ▶ **Early missionaries: The Disciples:**
 - ▶ Andrew - went to Bulgaria and Georgia.
 - ▶ Bartholomew - India.
 - ▶ Thomas - Northern India.
 - ▶ Matthew - died in modern day Iran.
 - ▶ Philip - died in Turkey.
- ▶ **By 406AD Christianity had spread along the Mediterranean coast. During the fourth century Constantine the Emperor became a Christian and Christianity flourished throughout the Roman Empire.**
- ▶ **Early missionaries:**
 - ▶ Denis - who went to France in AD250.
 - ▶ Frumentius - who went to Ethiopia around 390.
 - ▶ Theophilus - was a missionary in Southern Arabia during the fourth century.
 - ▶ Cyril - went to Russia during the fifth century. He invented the Russian (Cyrillic) alphabet!
 - ▶ Alopen - went to China. He arrived there in 653.
- ▶ **After the Roman Empire ended, monks became the main missionaries:**
 - ▶ Julian - went to Nubia (Southern Ethiopia) in 543.
 - ▶ Augustine - went to England in 593.
 - ▶ Alopen - went to China in 653.
 - ▶ Jacob Bard - established churches between Syria and India during the sixth century.
 - ▶ Brendan - sailed to North America and founded a church there in the sixth century.
 - ▶ Boniface - went to Germany and Holland during the eighth century.
 - ▶ Anskar - went to Sweden in the ninth century.
- ▶ **During the Reformation Europe was busy fighting, and missionary work went quiet. Jesuit priests went to Central and South America and the Philippines during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, spreading the word of God in the Spanish empire.**
- ▶ **In the nineteenth century missionaries started again to spread God's word.**
 - ▶ 1814 - Samuel Marsden went to New Zealand.
 - ▶ 1822 - Betsey Stockton was one of the first female missionaries to Hawaii.
 - ▶ 1840s - David Livingstone went to Zambia central-southern Africa.
- ▶ **Even today not everyone has heard the Gospel, or don't have the Bible available in their language.**

Prayer - Go and Tell!



- ▶ Make three concentric circles using string (or whatever you have in your house) and the middle circle should be large enough for you to all stand in.
- ▶ All stand in Jerusalem - this represents your local area. Pray about telling people about Jesus in your local area.
- ▶ All stand in Judea/Samaria - this represents the UK. Pray for church leaders and those working for charities/organisations who are telling people about Jesus.
- ▶ All stand in Everywhere in the world - this represents the whole world. Pray for missionaries going to places people have never heard about Jesus, and those translating Bibles into other languages.



Creative time

Have a go at one or more of the activities below:



- ▶ Draw a picture of Jesus going up to Heaven - you could use cotton wool for the cloud.
- ▶ On small pieces of paper write down all the ways you, and others, can tell people about Jesus - hang the ideas up on your washing line using pegs.
- ▶ Draw a map of your local area and think of all the places you could tell people about Jesus (within the rules of social distancing/lockdown or in the future).
- ▶ Find out about some missionaries who are telling people about Jesus around the world today. You could look on the Baptist Missionary Society website.



Memory Verse

- ▶ Write the memory verse below on a piece of paper.

“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.” Matthew 28:19-20a

- ▶ Roll up your paper to make a megaphone shape and tape in place.
- ▶ Shout the memory verse through the megaphone!



Reflection

- ▶ What did you learn about in the story today?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ How will you tell someone about Jesus this week?

- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you, God for our time together learning about when Jesus went back to Heaven and the important mission He gave for His disciples, and us, to do. Help us to tell others about Jesus and about all the amazing things you have done. Thank you for loving us and looking after us. AMEN!

Something extra:

The rest of the book of Acts is full of exciting stories about the early disciples going out and telling people about Jesus. Acts has 28 chapters - why not read a chapter a day for the rest of the month or read it together as a family?