

## Bible Story 1: JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:8

### BIBLE STORY:

Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave. Then Jesus appeared to His disciples and many others over the next forty days. Jesus did many marvelous signs to show that He was alive. Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God.

On one of these appearances, Jesus was eating with His disciples. He told them to remain in Jerusalem where they would receive the Holy Spirit.

One day Jesus and His disciples were on the hill called the **Mount of Olives** outside Jerusalem. Jesus said to His disciples, “*You are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.*”

Then Jesus began to rise. Jesus was moving upward towards the clouds! His disciples watched until a cloud hid Jesus from their sight.

Two men dressed in white stood by them and asked, “*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? One day Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.*”

The disciples then returned to Jerusalem, a little over half mile away.

#### ***Mount of Olives***

*was a range of hills, about 2,676 feet high located around a kilometer or half mile east of Jerusalem.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Ask questions appropriate for your group of listeners.)*

### PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

### **GENERIC QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face? What happened?
5. What does the story tell about God?

### **SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:**

1. Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave, appearing to many over the next forty days. Who were some of the people Jesus appeared to after his resurrection?
2. Jesus told His disciples to be His witnesses to all the world. What does it mean to be His witnesses to all the world?
3. How can you be a witness for Jesus?
4. What happened when Jesus began to rise? Where did Jesus go?
5. When Jesus disappeared in the cloud, what promise did the two men dressed in white say?
6. How does Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension to heaven affect your life?

### **LIFE LESSONS:**

*(Choose Life Lessons appropriate for your group of listeners.)*

**1. Jesus commands His believers to be His witnesses around the world.**

*Just before ascending to heaven, Jesus told His disciples to be His witnesses. Share Jesus with others by the words you say and by the way you live your life. Help share the Good News worldwide.*

**2. Jesus will return.**

*After Jesus ascended to heaven, two men in white told the crowd that Jesus would return the same way as they saw Jesus go into heaven. We have the promise that one day Jesus is returning!*

## PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES:

*(Choose an activity or activities appropriate for your group of listeners.)*

**DRAMA:** First tell the Bible story. Then designate people to take the parts and act out the story, saying the appropriate words at the appropriate time.

**PANTOMIME:** First tell the Bible story. Then designate people to be certain people in the story. The leader retells the story with the participants acting out their part without speaking.

<b>DRAMA: JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN</b>	
PERSON	WORDS TO SAY
<b>NARRATOR 1:</b>	<b>“Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave. Afterwards, Jesus appeared to His disciples and many others for forty days.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 2:</b>	<b>“Jesus did many marvelous signs to show that He was alive.”</b>
<b>NARRATORS 1 &amp; 2:</b>	<b>“Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 1:</b>	<b>“On one of these appearances, Jesus was eating with His disciples. Jesus said,”</b>
<b>JESUS:</b>	<b>“Stay in Jerusalem where you will receive the Holy Spirit.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 2:</b>	<b>“One day Jesus and His disciples were on the hill called the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. Jesus said to His disciples,”</b>
<b>JESUS:</b>	<b>“You are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”</b>
<b>NARRATORS 1:</b>	<b>“Then Jesus began to rise.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 1 &amp; 2:</b>	<b>“Jesus was moving upward towards the clouds.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 2:</b>	<b>“His disciples watched until a cloud hid Jesus from their sight.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 1:</b>	<b>“Two men dressed in white stood by and asked the disciples,”</b>
<b>1 OF 2 MEN DRESSED IN WHITE:</b>	<b>“Why are you standing here looking into the sky? One day Jesus will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 2:</b>	<b>“The disciples then returned to Jerusalem,”</b>
<b>NARRATOR 1:</b>	<b>“About half mile (or one kilometer) away.”</b> <i>(*Use either mile or kilometer, depending upon the location where you tell the story.)</i>

### **MISSION ACTIVITY: FRUIT BASKET**

- Each person brings fruit to put in basket(s). Could include healthy snacks too. Place an encouraging Bible verse in each basket.
- Take the basket(s) to the elderly, person/child in the hospital or homebound, etc.