

## THE ASCENSION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 24:36-53



## The STORY

Read about the ascension in Luke 24:36-53.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What was the reaction of the disciples when they saw Jesus? (They were frightened, and still disbelieved that it was Him; they thought it was a spirit or ghost.)
- What did Jesus do to help them to believe He was real and not a ghost? (Jesus invited them to see His nail scarred hands and to touch Him. Then, to prove He was real, He asked them for something to eat and then ate a piece of fish.)
- What did Jesus teach the disciples? (After eating breakfast, Jesus taught the disciples the meaning of the Gospel: that Jesus suffered and died and rose on the third day so that repentance and forgiveness of sins could be proclaimed.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus is taken up into heaven. Read Acts 1:6-11 to complement the story from Luke. Engage the children by asking:**

- Where did Jesus go when He was lifted up? (Jesus went back to the Father in heaven.)
- What did the angel say to the disciples? (The angel said that Jesus would return to earth one day, the same way He left.)
- What do we learn about God from this passage? (No mere man can simply lift himself up into the heavens. Jesus was all-powerful God who surely defeated death in rising from the dead. He is more than a mere man.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why do you think the disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus? (People did not just rise up from the grave. The disciples didn't understand when Jesus told them He would rise again and so they were simply shocked.)
- Why do you think God included these kinds of stories in the Bible? (God included these types of stories to help us to believe that Jesus really did rise from the dead. If Jesus had been simply a man, He would not have been able to rise from the dead. As it is, He is not just a man but the Son of God.)
- What helped the disciples believe? (Jesus opened their minds. Even today there are people who hear all about Jesus but still refuse to believe because they see no connection to themselves. Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, still needs to open the minds of people today to believe.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

It is interesting to note the confusion of the disciples. They thought Jesus was a ghost or spirit. Once they began to believe, Jesus took time to share the most important information of all, the Gospel. He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. But not just any part of the Bible, Jesus wanted them to understand the Gospel.

The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name... (Luke 24:46-47)

Then He commissioned them to be witnesses of the Gospel. Opening their minds to the Gospel was the last teaching of Christ before He ascended into heaven.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*