

28. Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

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28

Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Goes Back to Heaven" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with the following prayer or your own words:

Dear Jesus, we praise you. You are Lord of both heaven and earth. We thank you! We feel safe knowing that you will always be with us through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #139* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.

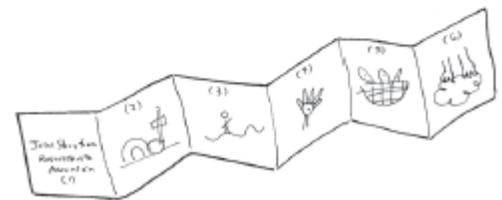
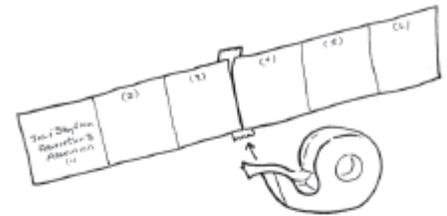
*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.

Easy Extra

Guide the kids in creating wordless books they can use to tell Jesus' story from resurrection to ascension to their families and friends. Print or email a copy of the [book template](#) for each child. Have the [story symbols](#) from sessions 24-28 available (pgs. 24-28).

- Cut the page apart on the dotted line.
- Tape the paper together on the back side, creating a story strip that is 22" (56 cm) long.
- Starting with the title page on top, fold the strip like an accordion on each line, making six pages.
- Look at the story symbols and then draw your own version in this order:
 - Page 2: cross and empty tomb
 - Page 3: winding road with stick figure
 - Page 4: hand with a nail hole
 - Page 5: net bursting with fish
 - Page 6: feet above a cloud

Help younger children draw the symbols by breaking them down into simple shapes, demonstrating how to draw them on your own paper so that they can follow your example.



Story: Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

[Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11](#)

Open your Bible to Matthew, showing the children that your story begins there. Begin by reading [Matthew 28:16](#).

The Bible tells us that Jesus invited his disciples to meet him on a certain mountain. He had something very important to tell them—just like when your parent has something important to tell you.

All the disciples were there. Then Jesus came and spoke to them. He told them something important. This is what he said. *Read Matthew 28:18b-20.*

There were three important ideas in what Jesus said to them. Let's read the last verses again so you can think about what those three ideas are. (*Read Matthew 28:19-20 again.*)

What are those three ideas? (*Pause for responses: Go and tell everyone about Jesus, baptize the people who believe, I will always be with you.*)

Does what Jesus said make it sound like he is going away? What makes you think that? (*Pause for responses.*)

Let's find out. (*Turn to the book of Acts and show that you will continue the story at the beginning of the book of Acts.*) For 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples sometimes, proving that he was alive. He had so much to tell them! For those 40 days Jesus told them about the kingdom of God.

One night at supper he told them something important—and very surprising! It wasn't a suggestion or a passing thought—it was a command. Jesus said, "Do not leave Jerusalem. Wait for the gift my Father promised you—I've told you about it before. John baptized people with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Oh my! **I wonder what they thought about that. If you were there and Jesus commanded you to wait for a special gift—the Holy Spirit— what questions would go through your minds?** (*Pause for responses.*)

When they met together again, the disciples had some questions too. So much had happened lately—Jesus' death, his resurrection, his appearances out of nowhere—and now Jesus promised this new and unusual gift. So they asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to set up your kingdom right here in Jerusalem?" After all, they had always hoped that Jesus would be an earthly king.

Jesus said, "It's not for you to know when I will come to rule the earth. But you will receive very special power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. You will be my witnesses and tell everyone about me—here in Jerusalem and throughout the whole world!"

After Jesus said this, he was taken up into the sky right in front of their eyes. A cloud covered him, and that was the last time they saw Jesus on earth.

If you were there and saw that happen, what thoughts would go rushing through your minds? (*Pause for responses.*)

The disciples were still straining their eyes to see Jesus when suddenly two men dressed all in white stood beside them. They spoke to the disciples. "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there? Why are you looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will come in the same way that you have seen him go."

Imagine that you are a disciple. Think about everything you've seen and heard in the last few days. What is the most surprising thing that you will tell your family about when you get home? How will you explain the wonder of it all? (*Pause for responses.*)

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Goes Back to Heaven](#)
 - [4th-5th Grade: A Mountaintop Goodbye](#)
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