



## Bonus Lesson: *The Ascension* (Condensed Version)

**Objectives:** To explain that:

- Jesus spent 40 days with many of his disciples after his resurrection and gave them a command to preach the Gospel to all nations.
- Jesus promised the disciples that the Father would send them the gift of the Holy Spirit to give them power to tell others about Christ.
- The disciples watched Jesus ascending into Heaven, where he reigns as the Forever King. One day he will come back to reign on earth.

**Scripture reference:** Luke 24, Acts 1

**"I Wonder":** \*What do you see in this picture? (Jesus in the clouds, the earth below his feet etc) \*Is there anything you wonder about?

\*I wonder why Jesus is going up in the clouds. \*I wonder why there is a bright light coming from him. Let's find out more in our story...

### Lesson Summary:

Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days after his resurrection. He ate with them, showed them that he was real and continued to teach them about God's wonderful Kingdom. Jesus wanted his Kingdom to grow, not just in Jerusalem, but throughout the whole world and in the hearts of all people. Jesus said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you." Jesus also told his disciples of the Father's promise to send the Holy Spirit to them. The Holy Spirit would give them power to tell others about Jesus and to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Then Jesus had to leave and return to Heaven. He lifted up his hands and blessed the disciples. As he did this, he was taken up into Heaven. The disciples watched until a cloud hid him from their sight. While they were looking up at the sky, two men dressed in white clothing suddenly stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "Why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into Heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go." We call this event the Ascension because Jesus ascended, that means he was taken up into Heaven, into God's glorious light. Jesus sat down on his throne in Heaven beside his Father and began to rule as the Forever King. One day Jesus will come back to reign on the earth and his glorious Kingdom will be everywhere for all eternity. After the disciples saw Jesus going up to Heaven, they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. There they worshipped, prayed, and waited for the Father to send the Holy Spirit, just as he had promised.

### Suggested Questions:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He went up to Heaven, he wants his disciples to share the Good News and make more disciples. He is reigning in Heaven now and one day we will come back to earth.)
- How did Jesus leave the disciples to go back to heaven? (up in a cloud)
- What is this called? (the Ascension)
- What commandment did Jesus give his disciples at this time to help grow God's Kingdom? (Read the Bible Memory Verse)
- What was the gift that God the Father promised to give Jesus' disciples? (the Holy Spirit)
- How would the Holy Spirit help the disciples to do as Jesus commanded? (give them the power and courage they needed)
- Will Jesus come back to the earth? (Yes, he will come back the same way he left. One day he will come in the clouds to reign forever on the earth.)

### Bible Memory Verse:

Jesus said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you." (Matthew 28: 18-20 NIRV)