

## The POWER of Jesus' Ascension

### **Luke 24:50-53**

When [Jesus] had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Has a best friend ever moved away from you? Or maybe you had to move away from your best friend? If so, you know what a sad thing it can be. You can talk to them online, but that's not the same thing as actually being able to spend time with them.

Jesus' first disciples got to spend lots of time with Jesus, their best friend, for three years. They traveled with him and ate meals with him. They listened to him teach. They got to ask him all their questions.

But then the time came, after Jesus' death and resurrection, for Jesus to return to his heavenly home. He took his disciples to a hill outside of Jerusalem, blessed them, and ascended into the sky until they couldn't see him anymore.

Jesus was their best friend. More than that, he was their Savior. How do you think they felt when he moved away? They must have felt some sadness. But our Bible reading tells us they returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Great joy?! Why were the disciples filled with joy and happiness after Jesus ascended into heaven?

It's because the disciples understood, at least a little bit, the great power of Jesus' ascension.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, it showed that his mission was complete. There wasn't anything else that Jesus had to do to save us from our sins. We can be absolutely sure that our salvation is a done deal.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, it showed that he had conquered all our enemies. Jesus' ascension into heaven was his victory parade. We don't have to be afraid of sin or death or the devil because Jesus has defeated them all. He showed that he had authority over the universe. Jesus went to heaven to rule over everything, everywhere, forever. And he promises to use his authority to work all things for our good.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, it showed that one day, we will ascend too. He promised that he was going to prepare a place for us. Once everything is ready for us, Jesus will come back to take us to be with him forever.

No wonder the disciples were filled with great joy! Now it is your turn. May Jesus' ascension into heaven give you great joy!

*The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.*

### **Questions for the Younger Children**

- After Jesus died and rose again, he returned home. Where was home?
- What is Jesus doing right now in heaven?

### **Questions for Elementary Age Children**

- Even though Jesus ascended into heaven, how is he still with us all the time?
- When you feel scared or lonely, how can it be helpful to remember that Jesus has ascended into heaven?

### **Questions for Middle School and Above**

- Agree or disagree: Jesus is "trapped" up in heaven and can't come to be with us or bless us in this world.
- Jesus told his disciples that it was a good thing for them that he was going away (John 16:7). Can you think of more reasons why Jesus' ascension was a good thing?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Jesus, our ascended King, we praise you for accomplishing our salvation, defeating our enemies, ruling over all things for our good, and promising to return to be with us forever. Amen.