

## Jesus goes back into heaven.

**Resources:** Memory stick with song words, laptop (check cable), projector (check 2 cables), extension lead, spare t-shirt, 3 scripts, 2 costumes, fill-in cards for Intro.

**Passage:** Luke 24:45-51; Acts 1:9-11

**Theme:** Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening.

**Person 1:** Intro, Disciple 2

**Person 2:** Disciple 1, Questions

**Person 3:** Talk, Prayer, intro song actions

**Before you start:** Get persons 1 and 2 to have completed the situation cards ready to read out in the intro. Each team member needs to write a situation which was happy, sad, sacred and strange.

**Intro:**

Hello [name of School], we are so pleased to be back with you again! We're the Christ Church Schools' Team, I am \_\_\_\_\_, and this is \_\_\_\_\_ [Intro team].

Many different things happen in our lives; some are happy, some sad, some scary and some are a little strange. At the end of this term, most of you will be changing class and teacher. Some of you might be moving school or to a new house. That might be happy, or sad, or scary or strange...

We have four situations that are true for one of the team members, if you think it is true for [person 1 – say name] then put your thumbs up. If you think its true for [person 2 – say name] then put your hands on your head.

[Other two team stand either side of person 1. Intro keep pace up for this.]

e.g. Whose happy situation was? [Read one from each of four categories. After each one, team member owns up to it]

Well done if you got those right. Our story from the Bible today is about two of Jesus' friends talking about a time that was a bit sad, a bit happy, a bit scary and a bit strange. This happened after Jesus had died and come back to life again.

### Story/Drama:

[Pace is important here. Start slower, get faster and more excited. Pause. Start slower, get faster etc.]

Disc 1: Do you remember how Jesus told us that he had to die and come back to life again; that it was all part of God's rescue plan?

Disc 2: Oh, yes! Jesus also said that we had seen and heard him do lots of amazing things, so we should go and tell people about him.

Disc 1: He then told us something I will never forget! It was an amazing promise.

Disc 2: He said that we were to wait in Jerusalem until God sent us a special helper from heaven – the Holy Spirit!

[Look at each other]

Disc 1 &2 Woah!

[Then look at children. Pause]

Disc 2: We didn't really know what he meant but we were very excited and happy about what it might be.

Disc 1: Jesus took us to a place called Bethany and he began to pray for us.

Disc 2: Something amazing happened there! [Point up] Jesus went up into heaven, right in front of us!

Disc 1: We could not believe it, [Pause] but it was happening!

[Pause, amazed then disciple 1 shakes head sadly]

Disc 1: Jesus was leaving us...

Disc 2: [Pointing to Disc 1] Then 2 angels appeared and stood beside us, they said:

Disc 1: "Men of Galilee..."

Disc 2: That's where we're from!

Disc 1: "Men of Galilee, why are you staring into the sky? You have seen Jesus, God's special King, going into heaven and one day he will come back in the same way."

Disc 2: We thought it was all a bit strange, but we had seen some strange things, so we decided to believe the angels.

Disc 1: Then we headed back to Jerusalem to wait for the promised gift from heaven, the Holy Spirit, God's helper.

Disc 2: Before he went back into heaven, Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of the world! [Pause] That's a long time.

## Talk:

What a strange story from the Bible – Jesus going back to heaven. I wonder how Jesus' friends must have felt? First, they saw Jesus die and they were very sad and confused. Then Jesus appeared to his friends, showing them he was alive again. They were very happy and wanted to tell everyone that Jesus was alive. Then 40 days later, as Jesus was praying for them, he went up into the sky to go back into heaven. Wow! That is a strange situation.

Jesus had told them to wait for a gift that was coming. That he would send them a special helper from God – the Holy Spirit who would be with them forever. Jesus promised his friends this just before he went back into heaven, that he would be with them until the end of the world. Now that's a long time! Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening.

Christians today still believe this promise from Jesus. Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening. [You might want to name some of the things that people mentioned in the introduction] In any situation, whether it's a happy one, a sad one, a scary one or even a strange one, Jesus promises God will be with us. We will never be alone.

So, if we are scared about moving classes, moving to a completely new school or even if we are moving to a new house, we can remember from this story from the bible and that Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening.

**Song:** You are in the City.

**Quiz**

We've got a little quiz for you now, so put your hand up if you think you know the answer:

1. What was the gift that Jesus said his friends had to wait in Jerusalem for?

*The Holy Spirit/God's special helper*

2. For how long did Jesus say he would be with his friends?

*Until the end of the world/forever*

3. When we are in a scary or a sad situation, what can we remember from the Bible story that Christians believe?

*Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening.*

**Prayer:**

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. Before I do that, let's spend a moment thinking about what this assembly means for us. As we pause, why don't you think about the people who are there for you. You may want to close your eyes, so you are not distracted or focus on the candle on the screen. If you want to agree with my prayer, you can say 'amen' at the end with me....

[flickering candle on PowerPoint – wait for a minute]

Dear God, thank you so much for ..... school. Thank you that we have learnt from this story - that Christians believe that God will be with us forever, whatever is happening. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

**Close:**

Thank you for having us today, and we hope you have a great summer.