**The Ascension of Jesus**

**A Bible Story From**

**Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53**

**Bible Story Number: 2010520**

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**The Ascension of Jesus**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This is a brief story. It tells about Jesus speaking to his disciples and then miraculously leaving them to return to heaven. The event is commonly referred to as “the ascension.”

Jesus’ departure is an important step in the transfer of responsibility. Jesus makes it very clear that the task of spreading the good news about him and the forgiveness and salvation he offers belongs to his followers.

Today, followers of Jesus have the same task. The power given to the first believers is also given to his followers throughout the ages. Jesus did not abandon his followers; he entrusted them with the task of spreading the good news. He departed so they could go. He left them with a vital promise—he would send the Spirit of God to live within them and empower them.

**Story from the Bible**

**Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus walked and talked with his followers as they went to Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them.

While he was blessing them, he was lifted up out of their sight into heaven. They worshiped him there and then returned to Jerusalem. They were filled with great joy and began to spend much of their time in the temple complex, praising and worshiping God.

In heaven, Jesus took the place of highest honor. He sat down at the right hand of God.

The followers of Jesus ultimately went and preached everywhere. God worked through them and confirmed his presence by giving them power to perform many miracles.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What did Jesus say to his followers before he disappeared from sight?
* How did Jesus disappear from sight?
* Where does the Bible say Jesus went?
* What did his followers do after Jesus disappeared?
* How did God confirm what they were saying?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.