

Jesus Goes Home

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 28:8-10 or John 20:10-21:15

STORY OVERVIEW: When the women who went to Jesus' tomb saw that it was empty, they ran to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive, but the disciples did not believe them at first. So Jesus showed Himself to Peter, James, and John while they were fishing and proved to Thomas that He was truly alive by letting him touch the scars in His hand. When the disciples realized it was Him, they were overjoyed. Jesus also appeared to many others during the 40 days after His resurrection, but one day Jesus told His friends goodbye and rose into the clouds. While they were looking up into the sky, an angel appeared and told them Jesus had gone to live in heaven.

TEACHING TRUTHS: Jesus gave His life so we can live with Him in heaven.
Jesus told us to tell others about Him.

MEMORY VERSE: But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

MEMORY VERSE SONG: Romans 5:8
(You can find the link to the song on the Watermark Kids Kit page.)

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While we were still sinners
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ACTIVITY 1: BIBLE TIME

1. Read to your children from The Beginner's Bible, "Jesus Returns" and "Jesus Goes to Heaven" (p. 459-461 and 466-472) or the Jesus Storybook Bible, "Going Home" (p. 318-325). Pray a short, simple prayer thanking God that **Jesus gave His life so we can live with Him in heaven.**
2. Use the questions below to review the story with your children.
 1. How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus?
 2. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
 3. Where did Jesus go?
 4. What were the people waiting on?
 5. What do you think God wants us to learn from this story? (Let the kids answer and then bring them back to today's Teaching Truths.)
3. Finish this time by having your children repeat today's Teaching Truths with you:
 - **Jesus gave His life so we can live with Him in heaven.**
 - **Jesus told us to tell others about Him.**

MATERIALS:

- Lesson
- The Beginner's Bible or The Jesus Storybook Bible (*If you don't have one of these, you can read the story from Matthew 28:8-10 or John 20:10-21:15.*)

ACTIVITY 2: STORY – Jesus Ascends

1. Have everyone sit in a circle on the floor, along with several stuffed animals, and close their eyes. Choose one animal to be "Jesus".
2. While everyone's eyes are closed, move "Jesus" under the table and cover with a bed sheet.
3. Everyone opens their eyes and tries to guess which animal is missing.
4. When they guess the right animal, flip up the sheet to reveal who was missing.
5. You can talk to your children about Jesus appearing to the disciples for 40 days after Easter Sunday before He went to heaven to be with God.

MATERIALS:

- Bed Sheet
- Several stuffed animals

ACTIVITY 3: TEACHING TRUTH – Jesus gave His life so we can live with Him in heaven

1. Explain to everyone that you are going to play “Warmer/Colder” with a hidden cross. The cross will represent Jesus and what He did for us.
2. Choose one person to be the “hider.” Everyone else will close their eyes as the “hider” hides the cross somewhere in the room.
3. Once the cross is hidden, everyone can open their eyes again.
4. Everyone starts to look for the cross and the “hider” gives clues by saying, “warmer” or “colder,” depending on how close the people are to finding the cross.
5. Once the cross/Jesus has been found, remind everyone that if we seek Him, we will find Him. Talk about how **Jesus gave His life so we can live with Him in heaven.**
6. Continue playing the game by choosing another person to hide the cross.

MATERIALS:

- Small cross to represent Jesus

ACTIVITY 4: MEMORY VERSE – Romans 5:8 – Rock Star

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

1. Give one person a toy microphone or a wooden spoon “microphone” to be the “Rock Star”.
2. While the memory verse song is playing, the everyone sings along, but the Rock Star gets to sing and dance with the microphone.
3. When the song is over, pass the “microphone” along to the next person so they can sing with it.
4. Repeat until everyone has had a chance to be the Rock Star.

MATERIALS:

- Toy Microphone or wooden spoon
- Memory Verse Song