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# Lesson 20: Jesus is Taken to Heaven

## BIG IDEA

Before Jesus was taken to heaven, he told his disciples that he would be with them by his spirit, and help them tell people about him. One day he will return as judge and saviour.

 **Acts 1:3; 8-11 (paraphrase)**

Jesus appeared many times to his disciples for 40 days after he came out of the tomb.

The last time Jesus appeared to them he said, 'God's spirit will come to you. He will give you power. He will help you to tell people everywhere in the world about me.'

When Jesus had finished speaking, God took him up into heaven. As the disciples watched Jesus, a cloud hid him from them and they could not see him. The disciples were looking at the sky when two men in white robes stood beside them. They said, 'Do not look at the sky. God has taken Jesus into heaven. One day he will return in the same way.'

## Teachers Preparations

### Read Scripture

- Acts 1:3, 8:-11 in your Bible
- Acts 1:3, 8:-11 paraphrase (on page 213)

### Read *Meet Jesus Book*

- Chapter 20 – Jesus is Taken to Heaven

### Print Resources

- APPENDIX 20.1 – Print 1 sheet for the group. Cut into blank cards.
- APPENDIX 20.2 – Print 1 large picture to display for the whole group.
- APPENDIX 20.3 – Print 1 text (A & B) for each pair of students. There are 2 copies per page.
- APPENDIX 20.4 – Print 1 for each pair of students.
- APPENDIX 1.5 – Reuse print from lesson one.
- APPENDIX 20.5 – Print 1 copy of the text for each student. There are 2 per page.

### Other Equipment

- Whiteboard / table
- Whiteboard markers

## Activate Prior Knowledge and Build Vocabulary

Say, 'Many of you have had to say goodbye to people you love.'

Ask, 'If you were saying goodbye for the last time, what would you want the people you love to know about you?'

APPENDIX 20.1 – Print 1 sheet for the group.  
Cut into blank cards.

**About me** - Write 1 sentence about yourself on the board e.g. I play the flute, I have 3 children.

Give each student a blank card (Appendix 20.1).

Ask them to write something about themselves on it.

Collect the cards, shuffle them, and place them in a container or face down on the table.

Choose one at a time and read it aloud.

The class guesses who wrote it – 'I think it's....'

### Pre-teach relevant vocabulary

Appeared: showed himself to people

Tomb: a place where a dead body is placed

God's spirit: the spirit of God sent to people

Disciple: a follower of Jesus

## Predict the Content

APPENDIX 20.2 – Print 1 image for the group.

Say, 'Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he said goodbye to his friends for the last time.'

Ask, 'What do you think he might say about himself?'

**OWN HEART LANGUAGE**

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit [bible.com](http://bible.com) or [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to find a number of international translations.

 **Read and Comprehend**

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- Read the passage of scripture to them;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.

 **Activities**
**Activity 1: Half the story**

APPENDIX 20.3 – Print 1 text (A & B) for each pair of students. There are 2 copies per page.

Give part A of the text to half the students and part B to the other half. Invite the students to read it silently to themselves.

Put the students in pairs so that each pair has one student who has read part A and the other part B. Invite the students to read their part aloud to each other.

**Activity 2: Retelling the narrative**

APPENDIX 20.4 – Print 1 for each pair of students.

Circle the words in version 2 that have the same meaning as the underlined words in version 1.

Invite pairs to retell the narrative in their own words.

## Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

- Are there any new words?'
- What questions might someone have about this text?
- What comments might someone have about the text?

## An Important Question

Ask, 'what do you think Jesus wants all people in the world to know about him?'

## Concluding Statement

Before Jesus was taken to heaven, he told his disciples that he would be with them and help them tell people about him. One day in the future he will return as judge and saviour.

## Lesson Series Wrap Up

The teacher may say this at times throughout the lesson series and at the end of the series:

*'We have been learning about Jesus. It is possible to become his friend. If you would like to find out more about Jesus or become his friend, talk to me (or another teacher) or join an Easy English Bible study group.'*

If you don't already run an *optional* Easy English Bible study, it might be good to consider offering this alongside the lessons or as an option for interested students when the lesson series is finished. Some English classes have an Easy English Bible Study for half an hour after class or at other times.

Mike Raiter's 'Meet Jesus' book can also be used to read the Bible one on one with an interested student. You may have people on your ESL ministry team or in your church who would be prepared and available to do this.

## What is a Christian?

APPENDIX 20.5 - Print 1 copy of the text for each student. There are 2 per page.

Print this guide for each student.

You may choose to read this together as a group, or give space for each student to read and respond with any questions.




**Part A**

Jesus appeared many times to his disciples for 40 days after he came out of the tomb. The last time Jesus appeared to them he said, 'God's spirit will come to you. He will give you power. He will help you to tell people everywhere in the world about me.'

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**Part B**

When Jesus had finished speaking, God took him up into heaven. As the disciples watched Jesus, a cloud hid him from them and they could not see him anymore. The disciples were looking at the sky when two men in white robes stood beside them. They said, 'Do not look at the sky. God has taken Jesus into heaven. One day he will return in the same way.'

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Work with your partner to find the underlined words in version 1, and to circle the words with the same meaning in version 2

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### Version 1

Acts 1:3, 8:-11

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When Jesus had finished speaking, God took him up into heaven. As the disciples watched Jesus, a cloud hid him from them, and they could not see him. The disciples were looking at the sky when two men in white robes stood beside them. They said, 'Do not look at the sky. God has taken Jesus into heaven. One day he will return in the same way.'

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### Version 2

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

Jesus showed himself many times to his followers for 40 days after he came out of the burial cave. The last time Jesus showed himself to them he said, 'The Holy Spirit will come to you. He will give you power. He will help you to witness in the world about me.'

When Jesus had finished speaking, God took him up into heaven. As his followers watched Jesus, a cloud covered him, and they could not see him. The disciples were looking at the sky when two men in white robes stood beside them. They said, 'Do not look at the sky. God has taken Jesus into heaven. One day he will come back in the same way.'

## What is a Christian?

The Bible tells us that a **Christian is someone who believes in Jesus as their saviour, friend and lord** (Romans 10:9-10).

But how do we do that? Here are four simple steps to making that commitment.

**Turn** your focus from living life your way to living life God's way. If Jesus is lord, he's lord of every part of your life.

**Trust** that Jesus died to take away your sins\*. Believe in your heart that when Jesus died and was raised from the dead, your sins were paid for, forgiven and removed.

**Take** the gifts of forgiveness, salvation, renewal and the Holy Spirit (God living within you), knowing that these only ever come from God.

**Talk** to God. Tell him that you want to be in his family and ask him to take control of your life. Talk to another Christian too. Tell them that you've heard the good news about Jesus and decided to follow him.

\*What is sin? The bad you've done, the good you've not done, and all the times you've made yourself number 1 .

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