



### Luke 24:51 (NIV)

**“While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”**

After Easter Sunday, Jesus spends forty days on earth with his disciples.

A group of disciples would be together- maybe eating a meal together- and Jesus would suddenly be there with them.

The disciples touch Jesus, they probably hug him too (I would, wouldn't you?).

They put their fingers right into the holes in his hands where he had been attached to the cross. Jesus wants to make sure that the world knows he is not a ghost- he is really alive, really resurrected, really risen from the dead.

One time Jesus joins his followers for breakfast on the shore, and they feast together on bread and fish they catch together.

For forty days, the Risen Jesus shows his disciples how much God loves the world, and how much they should love a God that sends His Son to live and die with them.

For forty days, the disciples show the Risen Jesus that they are ready to share God's Love and Jesus' message.

For forty days, the disciples get to be with the Risen Jesus in person.

They learn even more about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus tells them that after he is gone again, they should expect the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Then one day, as Jesus and the disciples are walking from Jerusalem to Bethany, Jesus stops and blesses the disciples. While he is blessing them, Jesus is taken up into Heaven- right before their eyes. They watch until he is hidden by a cloud. Two angels appear to tell them that Jesus will return in God's time. The disciples go back to Jerusalem to worship God and pray.

Now they have seen the Ascension of Jesus. Jesus has gone to Heaven to be with his Father God. They know that Jesus is the Son of God. They know that Jesus is Risen from the dead. They know that Jesus is alive forever and will return in God's plan.

They will wait a little while in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to them. Then they will follow the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of Jesus everywhere.

