

The Risen Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Mark 16:12-16, 19-20)

1. Why did Jesus scold His disciples?

2. What is the Ascension?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Wild Stories About Jesus and Max7.org): This episode of WILD STORIES ABOUT JESUS retells Mark 16:12-16 and 16:19-20, detailing Jesus' appearance to his disciples after rising from the dead. This video is suitable for showing in schools, kids' clubs and churches and could be helpful for family devotions.

Dramatically read the account and help the student visualize what is happening:

After this, he appeared in a different form to two of them walking on their way into the country. And they went and reported it to the rest, who did not believe them either.

Later he appeared to the Eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table. He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw him after he had risen. Then he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

So the Lord Jesus, after speaking to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the accompanying signs.] (Mark 16:12-16, 19-20, CSB)

Show the video.

1. Why did Jesus scold His disciples?

Help the student understand why Jesus scolded His disciples. The disciples had been with Jesus for three years and witnessed thousands of miraculous healing of illnesses, healing the blind, healing the lame, and healing the demon possessed.

On resurrection morning, Sunday, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, and Salome find an empty tomb and tell the disciples what they saw and what the angels told them.

Reminded, the disciples remembered Jesus' words, "It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day."

Simon Peter and John run to the tomb to see for themselves that it's empty.

Mary Magdalene, returning with Simon Peter and John, meets Jesus outside the tomb who leaves before being seen by Simon Peter and John.

Two traveling disciples on the way to Jerusalem Sunday afternoon meet the risen Jesus and tell the Eleven disciples.

But the Eleven still didn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead until they could touch, talk, and eat with Him!!

Ask the student: If the disciples had to touch, talk, and touch Jesus to believe in His resurrection, how do we believe in the resurrection if we can't touch, talk, and eat with Jesus?

There is the testimony of other Believers.

There is the testimony of God's word.

There is the testimony of God's work of miracles.

You can see and hear the above and it makes logical sense.

2. What is the Ascension?

Share with the student what Jesus told Mary Magdalene:

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” (John 20:17)

When Jesus and the Eleven disciples went up to Mount Olivet, He said good by and they watched Him go up to heaven

After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-12)

Show the video again.