

Play: Relay

Give each team a baton (rolled up newspaper is fine). When you give the signal to start the first person should run until they reaches the second person etc. The winning team is the first to get the baton to the end of the course. In a relay race the second person can't do their job until the first person has done theirs. It is also so in life - often you can't do your thing until the person before has done what they needed to. It was the same in the Bible - it wasn't until after Jesus had gone back to heaven that the disciples were able to start their work of telling everyone about him!

Discover: Mix 'n' match

Mix the endings and beginnings up, and see if you can match them together again. Which stories are made up and which are real? How do you know? Which stories end in a way that nothing else can happen? Which stories end with a sort of beginning? Sometimes new stories are written as sequels to existing stories because there is more that can happen after a story ends. When Jesus' story ended, really that was only the beginning!

(Three little pigs)

Once upon a time there were three little pigs ...

... And the big bad wolf was never seen again.

(The ugly duckling)

There was once an ugly Duckling ...

... And everyone said that he was the most beautiful swan they had ever seen.

(Joseph - not the end!)

A man called Jacob had 12 sons; but he loved one of his sons more than the others, and he gave him a beautiful coat ...

... Joseph was sold as a slave. His brothers watched him disappear into the distance. They would never see him again!

(Jonah)

Jonah was sitting under a tree when he heard the voice of God ...

... Nineveh was not destroyed because the people repented.

(Cinderella)

There was once a beautiful girl who lived with her wicked step mother and two horrible stepsisters ...

... The prince tried the shoe on Cinderella and it fitted!

(The Prodigal son)

There was once a man who had two sons. One day his father said to him, "Give me my share of your money now!"

Watch: Jesus' ascension <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo&t=2s>

Read: Story

when Jesus was ready to return to heaven, He took His disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to Him. He explained why it was important for Him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures had said about Him. He also told them that he was going to return to His Father in heaven and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them. At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed His disciples. While He was blessing them, He lifted up and was taken up into heaven "up, up and away." Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had gone up into heaven, the disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They stayed continually in the temple, praising God.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that He has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven. Amen.