

Luke 24:36-53 New Living Translation (NLT)

36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. **37** But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

38 “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? **39** Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” **40** As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he ate it as they watched.

44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **46** And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. **47** It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations,^[a] beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ **48** You are witnesses of all these things.

49 “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

The Ascension

50 Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. **52** So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. **53** And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

Footnotes:

- **24:47** Or all peoples.

Questions:

1. What did the disciples think Jesus was at first?
How did Jesus prove he was not a ghost?
2. What did Jesus say about himself in verse 46?
3. What does Jesus say the disciples and those gathered in Jerusalem will do according to verses 47.
4. What does Jesus promise to send to them in verse 49?
How will this change things?
5. Describe how the disciples and others are different after they see Jesus ascend to heaven.

Describe a time when you were filled with great joy and worshiped God.