

Family Devotional

From May 8, 2016

Read: Jason was sitting out on the front steps of his house. It was a beautiful summer day. The sky was bright blue and full of white fluffy clouds. He shaded his eyes so He could up at the clouds and the funny shapes they made as the rolled across the sky.

"What do you see up there?" asked his dad as we got out of his car.

"An elephant," Jason responded.

"Show me!" his dad said as he took a seat on the step. Jason pointed to a cloud high in the sky that did have an uncanny resemblance to an elephant. "Look at that one over there, it looks like a train," Jason's dad pointed out.

They sat that way analyzing clouds for several minutes, then Jason blurted out, "You know what would be cool? If Jesus was sitting here with us."

"That would be cool buddy," responded his Dad. "What made you think of that?"

"The story mom and I read last night, that talked about Jesus hanging out with his friends before he went up in the clouds," Jason responded.

"That sounds like a pretty interesting story...will you read it to me?" Jason ran to grab his book.

Read "Going Home" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* page 318 or Acts 1:3-11

"Thank you for reading me that story. I can see why the clouds reminded you of Jesus. Can you think of another time clouds were used as an image of God's presence?"

"Oh, when those people were wandering in the desert for 40 years."

"That's right." said Jason's dad. "God led the Israelites in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, because his physical presence is too powerful for people to see. Jesus came to earth as a man, so the disciples got to see God in person. I agree it could be cool if we have Jesus over for dinner like they did in the story, but do you know why he choose to go back to heaven?"

"So he could prepare a place for us?" Jason answered tentatively.

"Yes, and so he could send all his disciples a special gift! Do you know what that gift is?"

"The Holy Spirit?"

"You got it. See, if Jesus had stayed on earth in his resurrected body we might be able to see him, but he would be limited just being in one place at a time. Instead, by sending his spirit to be with his followers, we can have him with us all the time, and so can every other believer around the world. Jesus also gave us a special task while we wait for him to come back. What did the story tell us about that?"

"Jesus wants us to tell everyone about him and how much he loves them!" Jason answered with enthusiasm.

"Exactly! Jesus gives us the Holy spirit so we can be his hands and feet on earth!"

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on John 14:12 this week.

"Anyone who believes in me will do the works I have been doing. In fact, they will do even greater things. That's because I am going to the Father."

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for going to prepare a place of us and giving us the Holy Spirit. Help us to be led by the Holy Spirit to share your love with those around us..... Amen!"