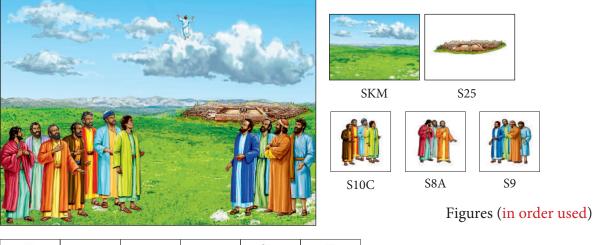
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In the weeks leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples repeatedly what would happen to Him. However, it appears that only Mary of Bethany really understood. She anointed Jesus' in preparation for His burial a week before His death!

Can you imagine the shock? Was Jesus really dead? They would never forget the awful sight of the crucifixion—was it really over? Had it really been Jesus on the cross—He was unrecognizable! Then it was over.

What were the disciples to do now? Locked in a room somewhere in Jerusalem—they waited. How could this have happened? Judas had betrayed Jesus—then committed suicide! Peter had followed Jesus that night—but later denied he even knew who Jesus was! All of them had deserted Jesus and run away—all except perhaps John.

Then a man named Joseph had gone to Pilate and gotten permission to bury Jesus in his family tomb. Some of the women had prepared spices to give Jesus a proper burial, but now soldiers guarded the tomb. What could they do—they waited. Two days—then the Sabbath—they waited.

Early Sunday morning—a few of the women decided to go to the tomb, but returned with wild stories! No soldiers—no body—an empty tomb—they said they saw angels—they said they saw Jesus! Crazy! Peter and John left to go to the tomb—what could have happened? Two disciples left for the city of Emmaus. Later that night they came back—they claim they saw Jesus too—they just did not recognize Him at first! What could have happened? Suddenly Jesus Himself steps into the room! He is alive! Can you imagine their joy?

This story takes place forty days later. All of the disciples have seen Jesus—not just the eleven—hundreds of his followers—not once, but many times—in many places.

It has been weeks—what now? Jesus took His eleven disciples to the top of the Mount of Olives. The disciples all remember what happened the last time they were there. What an exciting day that was—thousands of people all crying out, "Hosanna, blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Could this be the time they had waited for?



And when Jesus had gathered His eleven disciples around Him, He said to them, "Do not leave Jerusalem —wait for the One the Father promised to send to you—the One I told you about. For John baptized you with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit—not many days from now."

And while they were all together, the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the Kingdom to Israel now?

Jesus answered them and said, "It is not necessary for you to understand the time—that fixed season that the Father has already determined by His own authority. But, you will receive power—when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses on to death—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria—even to the ends of the earth."

And when Jesus finished saying these things—while the disciples watched, (Remove)











(Replace with) Jesus was taken up into the heavens—



until a cloud took Him out of their sight. (Remove)



And while the disciples continued to watch intently as Jesus was taken away,



two men appeared before

them dressed in white.



And the messengers said to them, "Men of Galilee—why do you keep staring up

at the heavens? This same Jesus, who has been taken away from you into heaven—will return the same way He

left!" (Remove)





So the disciples went back down the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem. (Remove)





