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~ **Enthroned at God's Right Hand** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:44-53, John 21, and Acts 1:1-12.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

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Matthew 28:16-20 NASB	Matthew 28:11-15 NLT
<p>¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped <i>Him</i>; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”</p>	<p>¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!</p> <p>¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”</p>
Luke 24:44-53 (NASB)	Luke 24:44-53 (NLT)
<p>⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”</p> <p>⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising God.</p>	<p>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, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all these things.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p>
John 21:1-23 (NASB)	John 21:1-23 (NLT)
<p>After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested <i>Himself</i> in this way. ² Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the <i>sons</i> of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter</p>	<p>Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. ² Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee,</p>

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*said to them, "I am going fishing." They *said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

⁴ But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ So Jesus *said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a *catch*." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved *said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish.

⁹ So when they got out on the land, they *saw a charcoal fire *already* laid and fish placed on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus *said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus *said to them, "Come *and* have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus *came and *took the bread and *gave *it* to them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.

¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to *go*." ¹⁹ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death He would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!"

²⁰ Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who

and two other disciples.

³ Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing."

"We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

⁴ At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. ⁵ He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?"

"No," they replied.

⁶ Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

⁷ Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped *for work*), jumped into the water, and headed to shore ⁸ The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. ⁹ When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

¹⁰ "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn.

¹² "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. ¹⁴ This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

¹⁵ After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you."

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

¹⁶ Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you."

"Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.

¹⁷ A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love

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<p>betrays You?”²¹ So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?”²² Jesus *said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what <i>is that</i> to you? You follow Me!”²³ Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but <i>only</i>, “If I want him to remain until I come, what <i>is that</i> to you?”</p>	<p>me?”</p> <p>Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”</p> <p>Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.</p> <p>¹⁸ “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.”¹⁹ Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”</p> <p>²⁰ Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?”²¹ Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”</p> <p>²² Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”²³ So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”</p>
<p>Acts 1:1-12 (NASB)</p>	<p>Acts 1:1-12 (NLT)</p>
<p>The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,² until the day when He was taken up to <i>heaven</i>, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.³ To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a <i>period of</i> forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” <i>He said</i>, “you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”</p> <p>⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”</p> <p>⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand</p>	<p>In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.³ During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.</p> <p>⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”</p> <p>⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”</p> <p>⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.¹⁰ As they</p>

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looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”	strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”
¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.	¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.

2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

- Rising on the third day – Where in Israel’s Scripture did it say that Messiah would rise on the third day? The reference is actually a reference to Israel in Hosea 6:2-3. “He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.”

G.R. Beasley-Murray says that this passage, “is but part of a body of literature in Judaism in which note is taken of God’s acts on the third day. In the Midrash on Genesis 42:17 there is a famous comment, ‘The Holy One, blessed be He, never leaves the righteous in distress more than three days.’ He then provides a lengthy quote from the Midrash Rabbah emphasizing *third day deliverances* within the history of Israel. With this mindset in God’s covenant people, it makes perfect sense why Jesus would emphasize a *third day resurrection* for it would be the day of His deliverance and vindication from God. See *Jesus and the Kingdom of God*, G.R. Beasley-Murray, 246-47.

- Why would God take a prophecy of Israel and apply it to the Messiah? In the ancient world, a common way of thinking is that the king, or leader of a nation encapsulated the nation in himself. What was true of the king was true of the nation, and vice versa. Jesus, represented Israel in his death and resurrection.

Answer these reflective questions.

1 Corinthians 15:7 says that Jesus appeared to James, his brother. What do you think they talked about especially in light of James unbelief during the ministry of Jesus? See also Mark 3:20-21 and John 7:1-5 for more references to the unbelief of Jesus’ brothers and sisters.

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In John 21 we have a conversation between Jesus and Peter about love. Why do you think Jesus talked to Peter about this? Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times about love?

Jesus said that all things written about him in the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets would be fulfilled. Read these passages and see what they said about the Messiah.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 –

Psalm 22 –

Isaiah 53 –

Explain how Luke describes Jesus' activity during the 40 days after his resurrection in Acts 1:1-3.

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Read the Great Commission passages in all the Gospels. What do they teach you? How do they affect your life?

Matthew 28:18-20 –

Mary 16:15-16 –

Luke 24:46-47 –

John 20:21-23 –

Acts 1:6-8 –
