Today we're exploring the most amazing lift-off ever. No rocket, no engine, no explosion and no vehicle were involved. The person who lifted off went from earth to heaven; He blazed a trail for us to follow and opened a path for a return visit.

It was 40 days since that amazing Easter morning. Jesus had kept appearing to his friends: on the road, in a room, one to one, one to 500 and by a lake. He really was alive again. But gradually they began to realize that it was time to say goodbye. I wonder how they felt?

One day Jesus asked the disciples to meet him in the Olive Garden at the hill. On the way they were still asking questions – why can’t you just stay? What will we do on our own?

Jesus said “God has it all organised. I am going back to heaven now to be a king in people's hearts. But I won’t leave you on your own. The Holy Spirit will come to be your friend. He will remind you of all the things I did and all the things I taught you. He will stay with you forever.

So here's what you must do.

**Go**(point forward with one arm and finger outstretched)**Into all the world**(describe a tiny circle with your outstretched finger and then make that circle bigger and bigger)**And share the good news**(cup hands together and offer 'the contents' around to people left and right)**With everybody, everywhere**(rapidly point to everyone in the whole group and beyond)

And I will be with you, just wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

The disciples didn’t want Jesus to leave them. But they trusted him. They waited to see what would happen. While they watched, it began to grow cloudy. The cloud grew thicker and thicker around Jesus. Soon the disciples could hardly see him at all.

Then the cloud began to fade into the sky and they could not see Jesus any more. The disciples stared and stared but they could no longer see him.

Although they knew they wouldn’t be seeing Jesus anymore, they were sure he was with them, he was still their friend.

Suddenly, they noticed two men in white clothes standing by them. Angels! Angels often come with an important message and the disciples wondered what they would say. “Why are you standing there looking into heaven?” the angels asked them. “Jesus will come back again in the same way that you have seen him go.” The disciples stopped staring at the place where Jesus had been. They went back to the house where they were staying. They had a lot to think about.

**11 amazed disciples, sitting very still,
Listening to Jesus, up on Olive Hill.
'Time to go', says Jesus and then a cloud came down.
‘I'll send the power that you need, just wait inside the town’.**