

# HEAVENBOUND

*by Al Schneider*



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# Heavenbound

A children's play for  
Ascension Sunday

by Al Schneider

*CAST OF CHARACTERS*

PASTOR

Not fully convinced that doing a panel discussion with kids during the worship hour is a good idea.

RACHEL

Moderator. Capable, with much self-confidence.

NORMAN

A new kid, outgoing, recruited at the last minute to fill in.

JONATHAN

Bright, attentive, but no Bible scholar.

KATIE

Outgoing, but a little clueless.

HEATHER

Very shy, but bright and knows her Bible.

### *PRODUCTION NOTES*

Ascension Day is an important time in the life of the church. Ascension Day occurs on the fifth Thursday after Easter, so this presentation may be performed on the Sunday before or after it. A light dramatic presentation is helpful not only in bringing out the meaning of this event, but for injecting variety into the worship service. People will long remember the message when presented in this format.

This program has been designed for use during the worship service to replace or augment the sermon; however, it is readily adaptable to other settings such as a fellowship gathering or the prelude to the Sunday school hour. No props are required.

The cast is comprised of the pastor and five elementary-grade students. Normal garb is recommended. Third-graders performed in the original production. Lines will be more effective if memorized, but the scripts may be tucked into the children's Bibles if needed.

The playing time is approximately fifteen minutes.

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1           *(The panel is seated in a semicircle, front and center. At far*  
 2           *left, NORMAN; then JONATHAN; at the center, RACHEL*  
 3           *(moderator); then KATIE; and at the far right, HEATHER.*  
 4           *PASTOR is seated directly behind RACHEL.)*

5   **PASTOR:** *(To the congregation)* **Happy Ascension Sunday to**  
 6           **all! This morning's message will be presented in a**  
 7           **special format. I have engaged a panel of experts to**  
 8           **offer new insights into the meaning of Ascension Day.**  
 9           **In the center, seated in front of me, is Rachel. She will**  
 10           **act as our moderator. Rachel, would you introduce the**  
 11           **panel, please?** *(Sits.)*

12 **RACHEL:** *(Stands.)* **Sure. On my far right is — is — what's**  
 13           **your name again?**

14 **NORMAN:** Norman.

15 **RACHEL:** Yes, that's it. He's new here. See, Mike was  
 16           supposed to be —

17 **PASTOR:** *(Stands.)* Uh, just go on with the introductions.  
 18           *(Sits.)*

19 **RACHEL:** Sure. The next one is Jonathan. *(JONATHAN*  
 20           *waves.)* Then over here next to me is Katie, *(KATIE*  
 21           *offers a hint of a smile)* and on the end, Heather.  
 22           *(HEATHER shyly lowers her head.)*

23 **PASTOR:** *(Stands.)* Good, Rachel. Ladies and gentlemen,  
 24           before I turn things over to the panel, I would like to  
 25           read a short passage of Scripture from the Acts of the  
 26           Apostles, chapter one, verses seven through nine. Shall  
 27           we stand? And please follow with me in your Bibles.  
 28           Bear in mind that his disciples had just asked Jesus  
 29           whether he would, at this time, restore the kingdom.  
 30           Let's begin reading. "He said to them: 'It is not for you  
 31           to know the times or dates the Father has set by his  
 32           own authority. But you will receive power when the  
 33           Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses  
 34           in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the  
 35           ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up

1 before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their  
2 sight.” May God bless this reading. Please be seated.

3 OK, Rachel, it’s all yours. (*PASTOR sits.*)

4 RACHEL: OK. First of all, who can tell me why we celebrate  
5 Ascension Day?

6 NORMAN: No clue.

7 JONATHAN: I forgot. What does “ascension” mean?

8 RACHEL: Where were you when we went over this? It  
9 means “to rise.” Jesus left the ground and ascended to  
10 heaven.

11 JONATHAN: Yeah, now I remember.

12 NORMAN: Wow, he did that? He must be like Superman.

13 JONATHAN: Or a Power Ranger.

14 KATIE: I remember Grandpa telling me about a magician  
15 who made a lady rise up from a table.

16 NORMAN: That’s nothing. My grandpa knew this guy who  
17 could float out one window and come back in through  
18 another window.

19 PASTOR: (*Stands.*) We seem to be losing our focus. (*Sits.*)

20 RACHEL: I was getting ready to say that. All right, guys. So  
21 Jesus rose into the clouds and out of sight. Where do  
22 you think he went?

23 NORMAN: No clue.

24 KATIE: Well, I’m not sure, either. But it must have been  
25 something to see.

26 HEATHER: I know where he went. (*All eyes are now on*  
27 *HEATHER.*) He went to be with God.

28 JONATHAN: Good choice!

29 RACHEL: Very good, Heather.

30 KATIE: But I thought he already did that. You know, like,  
31 on Easter. He went somewhere then, didn’t he?

32 JONATHAN: Oh, that’s good, Katie. Everybody has to be  
33 somewhere.

34 RACHEL: I thought we went over all this. This was forty  
35 days after Easter. Jesus spent quality time with his

1           disciples during those days.

2   **PASTOR:** *(Stands.)* Panel, tell us some of the things he did  
3           during those forty days. *(Sits.)*

4   **RACHEL:** We were getting to that. Who can tell us what  
5           Jesus did during the forty days?

6   **NORMAN:** No clue.

7   **KATIE:** Walk on water?

8   **JONATHAN:** Why would he do that?

9   **HEATHER:** I know what he did. He taught them and ate  
10          with them.

11   **RACHEL:** Good, Heather.

12   **PASTOR:** *(Stands.)* Don't forget to mention the significance  
13          of the forty days. *(Sits.)*

14   **RACHEL:** We were getting to that. Who can tell us why  
15          Jesus chose to wait forty days?

16   **NORMAN:** Don't look at me.

17   **KATIE:** He needed the time to practice flying?

18   **RACHEL:** No, Katie. Jesus didn't fly. He just ascended.

19   **NORMAN:** I don't see a whole lot of difference.

20   **JONATHAN:** I don't either. But I don't think he had to  
21          practice. Jesus could do all kinds of amazing things.

22   **NORMAN:** Why don't you ask the girl at the end? She  
23          knows everything.

24   **RACHEL:** Heather, do you know?

25   **HEATHER:** I think so. The number forty is used a lot in the  
26          Bible. They are often times of preparing or testing. Like  
27          with Noah, Moses, and the children of Israel.

28   **JONATHAN:** Wow. How do you know all that? Maybe you  
29          should be a Sunday school teacher or something.

30   **PASTOR:** *(Stands.)* Don't forget to say something about the  
31          benefits of Jesus' departure. *(Sits.)*

32   **RACHEL:** We were just getting to that. Who can tell us why  
33          it was good that Jesus left us?

34   **NORMAN:** I sure don't know. I didn't even know he was  
35          here.



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