

[LUKE] They stayed in Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit.

[THEO] Do you believe that after Jesus died, He rose, and He will come again?

[LUKE] Yes. I believe it. There is plenty of proof. I've even put it in writing in Acts 1:3-11.

[THEO] The defense rests.

[JUDGE] Dr. Luke, you may step down. *(Luke returns to his seat.)* Members of the jury, each of you must decide if you believe the witnesses that Jesus died, rose, and will come again. Check one of the boxes on your ballot and pass it in. *(Judge reads sample ballot as jurors mark their ballots.)*

[HEAD JUROR] *(Collects ballots and announces the results.)*

__Number of jurors believe Jesus died, rose, and will come again.

__Number of jurors need more proof.

__Number of jurors think Dr. Luke and witnesses imagined it.

[JUDGE] Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Some believe what they read or hear or see. Some need more proof than others. The Holy Spirit is the One who gives us what we each need to believe; all we have to do is ask. Keep searching for truth and you shall find it. Court is adjourned.

(THE END)

A Courtroom Drama for grades 3-5
THE CASE OF BELIEVE IT OR NOT
LESSON 1 - Acts 1:3-11
PROPHETS & PROMISES

Summary: Courtroom characters read their part. Then, the jury votes by secret ballot as to whether they believe the eyewitness accounts.

1. Print a secret ballot for each juror as follows:

SECRET BALLOT (Check the box to mark your answer.)

I believe Jesus rose again and is now alive in heaven.

I need more proof.

I think Dr. Luke and the witnesses imagined it.

2. Set up chairs courtroom style, placing a Secret Ballot and pencil on each juror's chair. You'll need a table and chair for the judge, 1 witness chair, 3 chairs for defendant (Luke) and 2 attorneys (Theophilus and Ima). Place a Bible on the judge's table.
3. Assign roles and distribute 5 copies of script.

DR. LUKE B. LEAVES: Defendant who sits with attorney Theophilus

THEOPHILUS: Defense attorney who sits on left facing the judge

MISS IMA DOUBTER: Prosecutor who sits on right facing judge

JUDGE J. HOVAH: Judge

HEAD JUROR: Teacher who sits with jury

JURORS: Remaining children who sit together holding secret ballots

[IMA] All rise. *(All stand; J. Hovah enters and sits at the judge's table.)* The court of the honorable Judge J. Hovah is now in session.

[JUDGE] Please be seated. *(All sit.)* Will the defendant rise? *(Luke stands.)* Dr. Luke, in the case of the People vs. Dr. Luke B. Leaves, you are accused of making up stories about Jesus. How do you plead?

[LUKE] Not guilty, your Honor!

[JUDGE] So noted. Dr. Luke, please take the stand. (Luke

walks to sit in witness chair next to the judge.)

[IMA] Please place your hand on the Bible. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[LUKE] Yes.

[JUDGE] Please be seated. Theophilus, you may ask the first question.

[THEO] Thank you, your Honor. Dr. Luke, why have you told others that this Jesus rose again and is now alive in heaven?

[LUKE] Because Jesus proved it.

[THEO] How did He prove it?

[LUKE] For 40 days, Jesus appeared to many people and gave many different proofs that He was alive.

[JUDGE] Ima, you may cross-examine the witness.

[IMA] Dr. Luke, who saw these proofs?

[LUKE] Witnesses.

[IMA] What exactly did the witnesses see?

[LUKE] Jesus appeared, He spoke, He taught, and He ate meals with people. Ghosts don't eat, so they knew He was not a ghost.

[IMA] What exactly did this prove to the witnesses?

[LUKE] They had seen Jesus die on the cross, but on the third day, His body was not in the tomb. Seeing Him for those 40 days proved He had risen just as He promised.

[IMA] Yes. Luke, what other things did the witnesses see?

[LUKE] They watched as He was taken up into the clouds of heaven. That's where He is now.

[IMA] What happened next?

[LUKE] Then two men in white appeared out of nowhere. They said Jesus would come back the same way He went up.

[IMA] I have no further questions your Honor.

[JUDGE] Are there any further questions for this witness?

[THEO] I have three final questions, your Honor. Luke, did Jesus say anything before He was taken up?

[LUKE] Yes. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit that He promised to send.

[THEO] What did the witnesses do then?