

The Ascension



Ascension Day celebrates the ascension ((going up)of Christ into Heaven, and occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter.

The Ascension

*Watch this animated Bible story of
Jesus' Ascension into Heaven*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wLrw60bY5w>

*If you can't watch the story, read it
on the following page from the Bible.....*



After Jesus had been raised to new life, he told his friends,

"You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit. You will be my witnesses here in Jerusalem and all over the world."

As he said this, he disappeared from sight.

They realised that he had gone back to his Father as he had said he would.

Jesus said to his friends one day,
"Very soon I must go away,
Don't be sad because
I will come back again!
Jesus told his friends:
"Tell my story everywhere."
And then as his beloved friends
were standing there
Jesus went up, up, up
Into the sky!

**Based on Acts 1: 6-11
(God's Story 3)**

Can you act out the story of the Ascension?

- **40 days after Easter, Jesus climbed a hill with his friends** - *act out climbing up a hill.*
- **It was time for Jesus to go back to God in heaven but he left a very special promise: 'I am always with you'** - *count out these five words on the digits of one hand.*
- **And he gave them all a job to do: 'Go into all the world'** (*point forward with one hand and then describe a big circle*) **'and share the good news of God's love'** (*hold out both hands together as if offering a gift*) **'with everybody, everywhere'** (*point to everybody else in the room as rapidly as possible*).
- **And he promised them that the special power to do this would come from God very soon** - *look puzzled.*
- **And then Jesus disappeared before their very eyes** - *shade your eyes with one hand, looking intently as Jesus leaves and then react with amazement.*
- **And the story says that angels appeared, who said that Jesus would be back one day in the same dramatic way** - *show a reaction of shock and joy.*



Think and ponder...

Imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus left.

What did Jesus expect of the disciples upon his leaving?

Wonder- What does it feel like to say goodbye?

- I don't know how all of this looked, but in my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until he disappeared from view. Were the disciples sad?
- No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they stayed continually in the temple, praising God.



Task to do...

Read the story, imagine you are one of the disciples after Jesus had returned to his Father. Having witnessed how Jesus served others, how will you continue his mission?

Express how you would do this in action, giving reasons for your choices.

- **You could....** Draw the disciple and write around him all the feelings that he felt when Jesus left (amazed, disappointed, sad, scared..... I felt this way because)
- I can continue Jesus' mission by... (helping my mum by.....)
- **You could...**write a poem/ draw speech bubbles from a disciples mouth and write what the disciple is thinking
- **Extra activities...**why not try to make one of the crafts opposite to represent the Ascension?



Extension...

- How is it that Jesus can be in heaven and also with us at the same time?
- How will we know that Jesus is with us this week?
- How can I share God's love with someone this week?



A Blessing to say..

May...

God the Father watch over us - *hands reaching up high above the body*

God the Son walk with us - *hands reaching out wide either side of the body*

God the Spirit work through us - *hands crossed over the body*

Until we meet again - *shake hands or high-five each other*

Amen.



A prayer activity-

-
- The friends of Jesus were 'left behind' and now had to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Use this 'left behind' idea for prayers:
- Invite everyone to put their left hand behind their backs - *let's pray for all those who feel left behind because they have no job and no hope.*
- And Jesus promises (*speak out the following words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front*): "I am always with you".
- Invite everyone to reach out their left hand to the side - *let's pray for all those who feel left out because they are sick or afraid.*
- And Jesus promises (*speak out the following words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front*): "I am always with you".
- Invite everyone to put their left hand palm-down flat in front of them - *let's pray for all those who feel left alone because they have no friends or are sad.*
- And Jesus promises (*speak out the following words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front*): "I am always with you".
- To all of us, Jesus promises (*now count out the five words on the fingers of each other's hands*): 'I am always with you'.

Let's think
about this story
together....

- When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfil what the scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.
- At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.