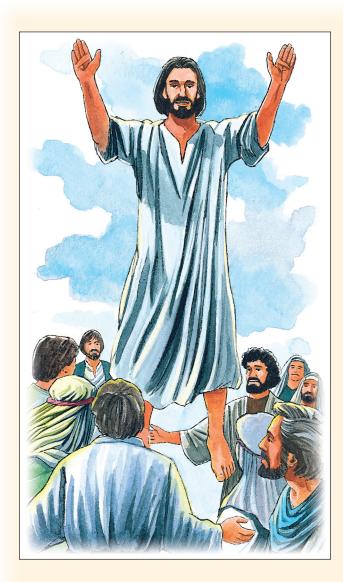


Jesus Ascends Into Heaven

Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11



After Jesus rose from the dead, he stayed on earth for 40 more days. During those days he met with his disciples many times. He ate with them, walked with them, and talked with them. He wanted them to know for sure that he had risen from the dead.

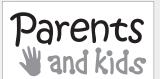
Whenever Jesus was with his disciples, he taught them the meaning of God's Word. He told them, "God had a plan for saving the world from sin. That's why he sent me, his Son, to earth as a man. I came to suffer and die on a cross to take away the sins of the world."

One time Jesus told his disciples, "After I am gone, you must go to Jerusalem. Wait there for God the Holy Spirit to come to you. He will give you the power you need to tell people how to be saved. Then you will go and tell people everywhere in the world that I am their Savior."

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus met with his disciples for the last time. He led the disciples to a hill near the town of Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. When Jesus had finished speaking to his disciples, he lifted up his hands to bless them. As he blessed them, an amazing thing happened. Jesus began to rise into the sky! The disciples watched as their Lord went up, higher and higher. At last a cloud hid Jesus from their eyes.

Even though the disciples could no longer see Jesus, they kept staring up into the sky. Suddenly, two angels stood next to them and asked, "Why are you standing here and looking up into the sky? You have seen how Jesus went up to heaven. Someday he will come back to earth again in the same way." Then the angels left them.

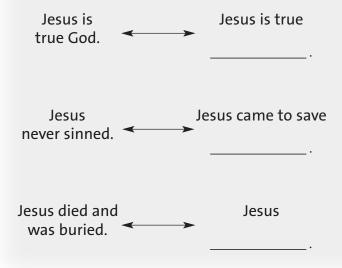
The disciples went back to Jerusalem with great joy in their hearts. There they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them as Jesus had promised. They spent much of their time in the temple, praising God.



Before Jesus left this earth by ascending into heaven, he taught his disciples and promised to send them the Holy

Spirit to guide them as they began his church. We trust that our risen and ascended Savior will also teach and guide us through his Word and send the Holy Spirit to help us share that Word.

- **1.** Look up the memory treasures. Find the memory treasure that can make you feel better during a storm, when you have to go to a doctor or hospital, or when you need to make new friends. Who is speaking in this passage, and why does it make you feel better?
- **2.** Can you ascend right up to the ceiling? Go ahead and try. Of course you cannot. But our all-powerful Savior ascended into heaven. He left this world in a miraculous and spectacular way, just the opposite of the humble way he came into this world. Complete the following "opposites" in the life of Jesus.



Pray Together

Jesus, you returned to heaven; You rule from up above. And though you're there, you care for me. Thank you for your love. Amen.



* Matthew 28:20b

* The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.