



After Jesus rose from the dead, he stayed on earth for 40 more days. During that time he showed himself alive to his disciples many times. He ate with them, walked with them, and talked with them. Sometimes he met with one person, sometimes with a group of people, and at one time with more than five hundred people at once! He did all this so that his followers would have no doubt that he was alive and that he was their Savior.

During this time Jesus also continued teaching his disciples. He wanted them to clearly understand God's plan for saving the world from sin because soon they would teach other people

how to be saved through him. He told them, "Don't leave Jerusalem. Wait there for the gift my Father promised—the one I told you about. For the Holy Spirit will be sent to you in a few days."

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus gathered his followers together for the last time. He met with them on the Mount of Olives, near the town of Bethany. The disciples still thought that Jesus might set up his kingdom here on earth. So they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you're going to make Israel a free nation again?"

Jesus told his disciples not to concern themselves about such things. He said, "My Father will decide when that time comes. It is not for you to know."

Jesus wanted his disciples to think only about the work that he had given them to do. He told them, "The Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power and strength. Then you will be my witnesses—men who will speak for me and tell people about me. You will begin right here in Jerusalem. Then you will talk about me in Judea and Samaria. Finally, you will witness about me to the farthest corners of the world."

After Jesus said this, he lifted his hands and blessed the disciples. As he blessed them, an amazing thing happened. Jesus began rising up into the air! The disciples saw him ascend higher and higher until a cloud hid him from their sight, and they could not see him anymore.

As the disciples stood there, staring up at the place where they had last seen Jesus, two angels suddenly stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand there looking up into the sky? Jesus has gone up to heaven. One day he will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven."

Then the disciples left the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. As they waited for the Holy Spirit to come, they spent much of their time in the temple, praising God and praying.



When the disciples saw Jesus ascend into heaven, their hearts were filled with joy. The reason? They trusted in Jesus' promises to be with them and to send his Holy Spirit to give

them strength for the work he had given them. Our ascended Lord still guides us through his Word and gives us power to continue his work.

**1.** During the course of this week, watch for two situations in which your child can look in God's Word for guidance. Help your child find a passage that gives guidance in each situation. Write below what happened. If possible, please send this sheet to class with your child next week so that the children will have more examples of how God's Word can guide us.

Situation	Bible Passage	What I Did
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____

**2.** Show your family a flashlight that has no batteries in it. Try to turn it on. Discuss why it won't work—that it has no batteries to give it power. Ask family members to name other things that need power to work. Then talk about how we are like those items: We need power to do the work Jesus has given us to do, the work of witnessing for him. Discuss where our power comes from—not from batteries but from the Holy Spirit, working through God's Word.

## Pray Together

Dear loving Jesus, thank you for always being with us and watching over us. Guide us through your Word, and bless us with your Holy Spirit. Amen.



★ **Matthew 28:19,20**

**1 John 2:1b**

## ★ 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.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

## Hymn 173:1

On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension.  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the head is, there as well  
I know his members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.