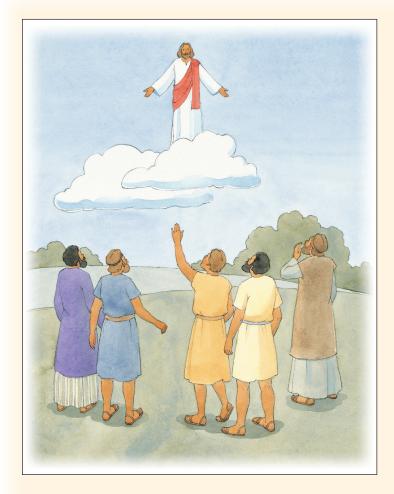


Jesus' Ascension

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11



After Jesus came back to life on the first Easter Sunday morning, he spent 40 more days on earth. During that time, Jesus showed himself to his disciples many times so that they would know he was alive. The disciples were able to see Jesus, touch him, and eat with him. Jesus also taught his disciples more of God's Word and his plan to save the world. He told them that God had sent him to earth to suffer and die to take away all people's sins.

One time when Jesus met with his disciples, he told them, "Wait in the city of Jerusalem. You will receive a special gift. I will send you God the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit would strengthen the disciples' faith. He would make them more ready to tell others about Jesus, their risen Savior.

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus met with his disciples on a hill near the town of Bethany. There he told them, "God the Holy Spirit will come to you and make you strong. Then you will go out into all the world and tell others about me."

When Jesus had finished speaking, he raised his hands to bless his disciples. As he was doing this, something very special happened. Jesus began moving up, up, up into the sky. After a while a cloud covered Jesus, and the disciples could no longer see him. Jesus had gone back to heaven.

Suddenly two angels dressed in white stood near the disciples. The angels asked, "Why are you standing here, looking

up into the sky? Jesus has gone into heaven, but someday he will come back, just as you have seen him go."

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



Forty days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven. We rejoice that Jesus is always with us, just as he promised he would be.

1. To *ascend* means to "go up." Have your child turn this page over and point to the one who is ascending into heaven.

Sing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Perhaps your child could make up some actions to go with the song!

Oh, Jesus went to heaven. Oh, Jesus went to heaven. His disciples saw him rise. Oh, Jesus went to heaven.

2. Read the memory treasure to hear Jesus' promise that he will always be with us. Then take turns naming times and places Jesus is with us. Have one person write down those examples, and then use them to fill in the blanks as you and your family say the following responsive prayer. One family member should read the leader's parts, and the rest of the family should say the response.

Leader: Jesus is with us _____.
Family: Thank you, Jesus!
L: Jesus is with us _____.
F: Thank you, Jesus!

(Repeat pattern until all examples have been used. Then continue as follows.)

L: Jesus is always with us.

F: Thank you, Jesus!

L: Amen.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth and doing everything needed to save us from our sins. Thank you also for your promise to always be with us. How happy we are to know that you, our risen Savior, are with us wherever we go! We love you! Amen.



Matthew 28:20