

STORY

The Ascension of Jesus - Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19.20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

1/8/04

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Savior, You have called your believing children to be witnesses of the Gospel. You have assured them that as they witness Your words, the Holy Spirit will cause them to be effective and never return to You void. Lord, give us this faith that we may be faithful witnesses to the students in our Sunday School. Let us witness with boldness and joy, for You ascended into glory, and will come again to receive us unto Yourself that, where You are, we will also be eternally. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Endued - Provided with, gifted with, endowed with.

Confirming - Establish the truth of that which was doubtful or uncertain, verify, support, strengthen, prove valid.

Opened their understanding - Human understanding (reason) is corrupted by sin and does not receive the truths from God, but rejects them. For example, God creating all things in six days. The Holy Spirit, working in the Word from God, causes our ears to hear, our eyes to see, our hearts and minds to understand by faith the things of God. The Spirit “opened their understanding.”

Comprehend - To grasp mentally, to understand, to catch on. When effected by the Word of God, we recognize this happens by faith, the work of the Holy Spirit.

Promise of My Father - With reference to the promise to send the Holy Spirit who will cause unbelieving hearts to believe the truth from God. Isaiah 44: “I will pour My Spirit on your descendants.. .one will say, ‘I am the Lord’s; another will write with his hand, ‘The Lord’s.’” Ezekiel 36: “...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes. . .“ Acts 2: (Quoting the Prophet Joel) “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh... I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Tarry - To linger, wait for, to stay longer than originally intended.

Infallible - incapable of error, never wrong, thus dependable, reliable, sure.

OUTER AIM

To record for our learning the Homecoming of Jesus in Glory after He had completed His saving work. To remind us that He commissioned all believers to be His faithful witnesses who, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, would share His saving Word with all people.

INNER AIM

That we who have been brought to Jesus may boldly and with great joy share the Good News with all people. God loved the world; Christ died and rose again for the world; by the witness of His Word, the world is to be called unto faith and be saved.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp.453-460)

For background to the Ascension account: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; I Corinthians 15:6-7. In these lessons we hear Jesus commission (call) His disciples to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them all things that He had commanded them. Jesus said: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul reviews the number of witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection: Peter, the twelve disciples, 500 Christians at one time, James, and then all the apostles.

The Ascension account: Mark 16:19.20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12. Jesus concluded His post-Easter work on earth (40 days) by leading His disciples to the Mount of Olives. There He underscored their call as His witnesses of the Good News to all nations. He assured them of His blessing, the gift of the Holy Spirit to make their witnessing effective, and then ascended into the glory of heaven.

Jesus continued to reinforce the faith of His disciples with many appearances and with teachings of Holy Scripture concerning His work as the Messiah, the Savior. As He prepared to return to His heavenly home, He commissions His disciples to be His witnesses to all people. Their works would be supported by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then He ascended to His Father.

Jesus prepared His disciples to be His witnesses, pastors, teachers, and missionaries. He promised them divine help with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Since God loved the world, and Jesus died and arose for the world, the world must also have the work of the Spirit of God in order to believe such Good News. By making all believers His witnesses, His word and Spirit does go forth into all the world, to call sinners to believe and be saved.

- ▶ Jesus had completed His Savior work by His death and resurrection.
- ▶ The sins of the world had been paid for in full and the Father transferred the perfect righteousness of His Son to every cleansed sinner.
- ▶ Those who were born in sin and lived their life in sin were now declared by God to be “not guilty”.
- ▶ As righteous children adopted by the heavenly Father, we brothers and sisters of Christ, are to be His witnesses on earth until it is the time of our Homecoming.
- ▶ Mark records Jesus’ ascension and tells us that the disciples (believers) “went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word...”
- ▶ Luke records that just before the ascension of Jesus, He reminded His disciples of the things that had been written about Him in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms.
- ▶ He further instructed them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...”
- ▶ Jesus concluded with the words, “You are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you...”
- ▶ Luke then tells how Jesus led His disciples toward Bethany.
- ▶ There He blessed them, was parted from them and carried up into heaven.
- ▶ The disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ In the Book of Acts, Luke refers to the promise of the Holy Spirit: “You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses of Me.”
- ▶ Luke tells us a bit more about the ascension of Jesus: “While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”

STUDENT PRAYER

Lower: Dear Jesus, You went back to Your home in heaven. You told Your children on earth to tell about You. Help us to be faithful in telling others that You are their Savior. Amen

Upper: Dear Jesus, You ascended to your home in glory. You called the believers on earth to be Your witnesses. You promised to bless their witness with Your Holy Spirit. Make us faithful witnesses and bless us in like manner. Amen

PRESENTATION

Tell the story with the same emotion and excitement as if you were there. Tell the story in your words, but be faithful to the account that God wrote through His evangelists Mark and Luke.

APPLICATIONS

You and I have been called to Jesus by the Holy Spirit. As believers in Jesus we are His disciples. All His disciples have been called to be His witnesses: in our family, neighborhood, school, place of work, recreation. And how about YOU becoming a pastor, teacher, or missionary witness? Why hesitate to become such a witness - He promises to bless those who are doing His work, giving them the ability, strength, guidance, and correction as needed. His Holy Spirit, abiding in the word we witness, assures success for those souls who need their share in Jesus success!

ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples? Near Bethany on Mt. Olivet
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be his? All authority in heaven and on earth
3. How did the disciples understand the Scriptures about Jesus? And (Jesus) opened their understanding (of the Scriptures)
4. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die? That repentance and remission of sins should be preached
5. Where and why were the disciples supposed to wait? In Jerusalem, for the gift of the Holy Spirit
6. What instructions did Jesus have for His disciples? Be witnesses, make disciples of all nations, baptize, teach, preach the Gospel
7. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth? He rose into the clouds
8. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension? Two angels
9. What message did they have for the disciples? Jesus will return.
10. Why is this message also a comfort for us? Jesus will take us to Himself in heaven some day
11. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth? Preach the Gospel to all creatures
12. How do we know that Jesus is still here, though we can't see Him? And lo, I (Jesus) am with you always, even to the end of the age

Review - Match the statement with the passage reference that best fits.

1. C Jesus had to suffer and die.
2. A Jesus reclaimed His rightful authority.
3. B Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
4. E The disciples were given clear instructions by Jesus.
5. D The disciples appreciated the blessings they had received.
6. F The disciples could be comforted that Jesus had left them only visibly.

A. Matt.28:18

B. Mark 16:19

C. John 24:46

D. John 24:52-53

E. Matt. 28:19

F. Matt. 28:20

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Acts 2:32 - This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

Hymn 215, Stanza 1: Draw us to Thee, For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Middle any of the above and...

Acts 1:9 - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Hymn 215, Stanzas 2-3: Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee, Oh, grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way Lest we should stray
And from Thy paths be driven.

Upper any of the above and...

Acts 1:11 - This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn 215, Stanzas 4-5: Draw us to Thee That also we
Thy heavenly bliss inherit
And ever dwell Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to Thee Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er Thy glory share,
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

We learned how Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away. After He became alive again on Easter, He met with His believers for 40 days, so they would be sure He was God's Son, the Savior. Today we will learn what happened the last day Jesus was on earth.

Jesus wants all believers to tell people about God's love for them. But God specially picked some men to learn from Him about His love. Then these men, called disciples, could be ready to tell about Jesus in other parts of the earth.

On Jesus last day on earth, He led these disciples to a big hill near Bethany. He told them to wait in the city of Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them in a special way. With the Holy Spirit's help, they were to tell all people everywhere that Jesus died for them, too.

Then Jesus lifted His hands, blessed the disciples, and slowly started rising up into the sky until a cloud hid Him from sight. God, His Father, received Jesus into heaven and made Him Ruler over everything.

The disciples were staring upward in surprise when two angels came and stood by them. The angels said, "This same Jesus Who went up into heaven will come back in the same way as you saw Him go."

Then the men praised Jesus and went happily back to Jerusalem. They kept going to God's house to praise Him while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them. We call this day Ascension Day.

Passage

"I go to prepare a place for you, and ... I will come again and receive you to Myself." John 14:2,3

Hymn - Hymn 215 v. 1

Draw us to Thee,
For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on
Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for sending Your apostles all over the earth so our parents could learn Your Word to give to us. Help us to tell others that Jesus is also their Savior. Thank You for going into heaven to prepare a place for us. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Read the question to the students. Help students draw lines to the correct face.

How did the believers feel when they saw Jesus alive again?●



How did the believers feel when they saw Him go to heaven?●



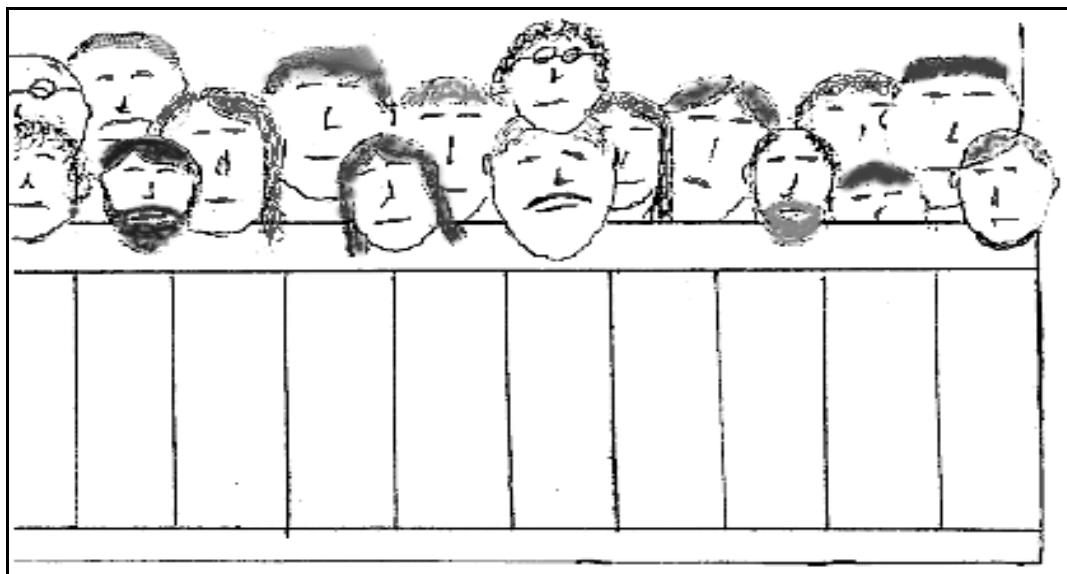
How did the believers feel after He went to heaven?●



How do people feel before they learn about Jesus' forgiveness?●

How do people feel after they learn about Jesus?●

Who needs to know about Jesus? Color the faces of people who need to know about Jesus' forgiveness.



Classroom Art Activity - Help the children color the Ascension picture. Glue cotton balls around Jesus to make clouds. Decorate with glitter glue around the passage.



"I go to prepare a place for you, and ... I will come again
and receive you to Myself." John 14:2,3

The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12



52-2



The Story

We learned how Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away. After He became alive again on Easter, He met with His believers for 40 days, so they would be sure He was God's Son, the Savior. Today we will learn what happened the last day Jesus was on earth.

Jesus wants all believers to tell people about God's love for them. But God specially picked some men to learn from Him about His love. Then these men, called disciples, could be ready to tell about Jesus in other parts of the earth.

On Jesus last day on earth, He led these disciples to a big hill near Bethany. He told them to wait in the city of Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to

them in a special way. With the Holy Spirit's help, they were to tell all people that Jesus died for them, too.

Then Jesus lifted His hands, blessed the disciples, and went up into the sky until a cloud hid Him from sight. God, His Father, received Jesus into heaven and made Him Ruler over everything.

The disciples were staring upward in surprise when two angels came and stood by them. The angels said, "This same Jesus Who went up into heaven will come back in the same way as you saw Him go."

Then the men praised Jesus and went happily back to Jerusalem. They kept going to God's house to praise Him while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Activity One

- Help students draw lines to the right faces.

1. How did the believers feel when they saw Jesus alive again?



2. How did the believers feel when they saw Him go to heaven?



3. How did the believers feel after He went to heaven?

4. How do people feel before they learn about Jesus' forgiveness?

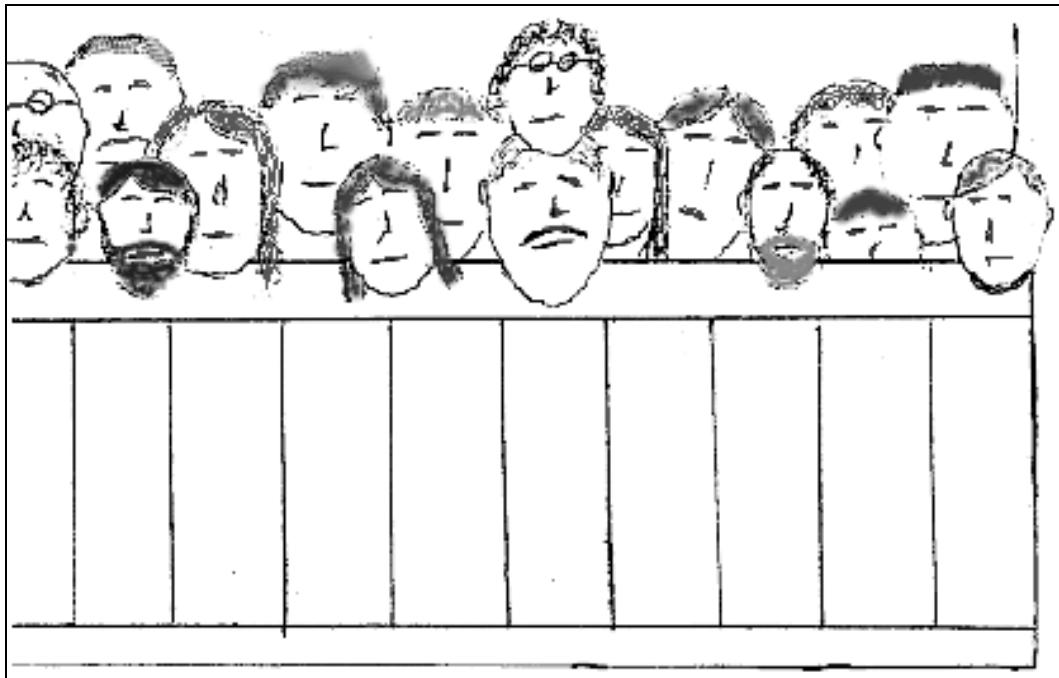
5. How do people feel after they learn about Jesus?



How can we make people really happy?

Activity Two

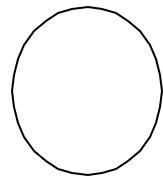
- Color the faces of people who need to know about Jesus' forgiveness.



Prayer

Dear Jesus,

**Thank you for taking our sins away. Help us to make people
(Make a smile face.) by telling them about Your love. Amen.**



Passage

- Help students color, cut, and glue the world and Bible for this memory passage.

Jesus said, "Go into all the

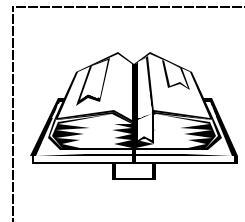
World

and preach

the

Bible

. Mark 16:15



The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12



The Story

We learned how Jesus died on the cross for the punishment of our sins. After He arose from the dead on Easter, He met with believers for forty days. Jesus wanted them to know for sure that He was God's Son, the Savior. Today we will learn what happened the last day Jesus was on earth.

Jesus wants all believers to tell all people what He did to save them. But He picked some men called apostles to learn more about His work. They were to become ready to witness or tell about Jesus to others around the earth.

On His last day on this earth, Jesus led the apostles to Mount Olivet near Bethany. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them in a special way.

The Holy Spirit would lead them to tell all people that Jesus is their Savior.

Then, while Jesus lifted His hands and blessed them, He ascended, or was slowly lifted up until a cloud hid Him from sight. God, His Father, received Jesus into heaven and gave Him all power in heaven and earth.

While the apostles gazed up into the sky, two angels stood by them and said, "Why are you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who went up into heaven will come again in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." Then the apostles praised Jesus and went joyfully to Jerusalem. They kept going to God's house to praise God while they waited to receive the Holy Spirit as Jesus had said.

Jesus returned to heaven after His work of redemption was finished. Jesus' last message to His disciples was to direct them to spread His Gospel message throughout the world.

Review - Fill in the blank, underline or mark an "X" by the correct answers below.

1. Jesus rose from the dead on (Good Friday, Easter, Ascension).
2. Jesus met with many believers for _____ days.

3. Jesus wanted ... (*3 answers are correct*)
 - () to show that He was the Savior.
 - () to teach them about His work for sinners.
 - () to get an army together.
 - () to tell them to teach all people.

4. Jesus led His apostles toward (Bethany, Bethlehem, Jerusalem).

5. Jesus ascended into heaven ... (*2 answers are correct*)
 - () to be Ruler over everything and everyone.
 - () to rest forever.
 - () to make a place ready for all believers.

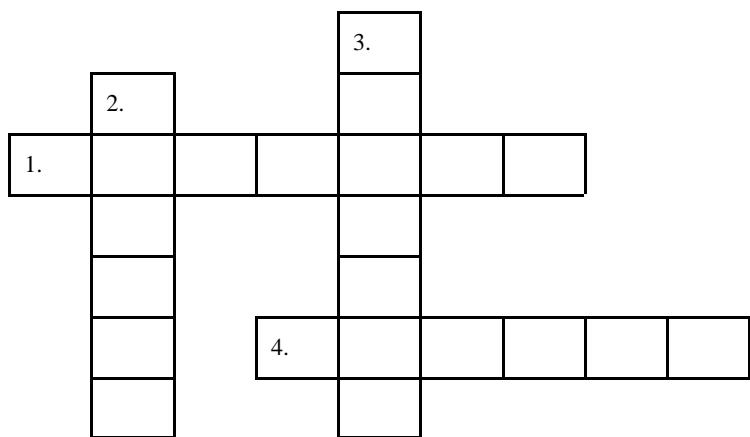
6. The apostles were to wait in _____.

7. The apostles would then ...
 - () get money for preaching trips.
 - () receive the Holy Spirit.

8. Jesus wants us believers ... (*there will be more than one answer*)
 - () to tell everyone we can about Him.
 - () to learn His Word, the Bible.
 - () to praise Him for saving us.
 - () to help send others to preach where we can not go.

Matching and Puzzle - Match list A with list B by drawing lines, then put list A in the puzzle.

List A	List B
1. Apostle	Holy
2. Spirit	tell about
3. Witness	go up
4. Ascend	person sent



Jesus has called us to teach all nations because we are His disciples too. We are to spread the Gospel message that Jesus died for all sins. Jesus has promised to be with us until He takes us to be with Him forever.

Passages

"Jesus sits on the right hand of God. " Mark 16:19

God put Jesus on His right side. What does this mean?

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth ... I am with you always even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18, 20

Why should we not be afraid to tell others about Jesus? (2 reasons)

"I go to prepare a place for you, and ... I will come again and receive you to Myself." John 14:2,3

What is Jesus promising here?

When will Jesus come to receive all believers?

The Second Article: He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick (*living*) and the dead.

Map Activity - Color the places on the globe where people need to hear of Jesus.

Hymn - Hymn 215 v. 1

Draw us to Thee,
For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on
Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.



Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for sending Your apostles all over the earth so our parents could learn Your Word to give to us. Help us to tell others that Jesus is also their Savior. Amen.

The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

Have you ever had a friend move away? When people are going to be away from each other for a long time, they often promise to keep in touch.

Jesus made some very special promises to His disciples, and us, when He ascended into heaven.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, help us to give careful attention to Your word so that we can learn of the important promises Jesus made to His disciples and to us. Help us to grow in Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus had shown Himself alive to many of His followers, He spoke to the eleven. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

"Thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead...that

repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Then Jesus commanded that the disciples were to remain in Jerusalem "until you are endued with power from on high." By this, Jesus meant the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus took the disciples out near Bethany. He reminded them that He had all authority in heaven and on earth. Now He wanted the disciples to be His witnesses to all the world. "Go into all the world and



preach the gospel to every creature," Jesus told them. He instructed His disciples to make new disciples of all the nations. They should baptize in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus also promised to be with His disciples as they carried out His work. "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus lifted up His hands in blessing over His disciples and an amazing thing happened! He began to ascend into the air. Jesus rose until a cloud took Him from view, and still the disciples stood staring!

Suddenly, two angels in white appeared and reminded the men that Jesus would return one day. "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jesus was then triumphantly received into heaven and sat down on the right hand of God, the Father.

Then the disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They praised and blessed God for all that He had done for them and they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Recalling Details - Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples?
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be His?
3. What things did Jesus instruct His disciples to do?
4. Where were the disciples supposed to stay?
5. What were they supposed to wait for?
6. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth?
7. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension?
8. What message did they have for the disciples?
9. Why is this message also a comfort for us?
10. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth?

Outer Aim - Jesus returned to heaven after His work of redemption was finished. Jesus' last message to His disciples was to direct them to spread His Gospel message throughout the world.

Review - Mark each statement as (T)rue or (F)alse.

1. _____ Jesus and His disciples met at Bethlehem.
2. _____ Jesus rightfully claimed all power in heaven and on earth.
3. _____ Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations.
4. _____ The disciples were supposed to go out immediately into all the world.
5. _____ Jesus did not tell the disciples what they were to wait for.
6. _____ As Jesus ascended, a cloud blocked Him from view.
7. _____ Two angels told the disciples they would never see Jesus again.
8. _____ The disciples were happy after Jesus' ascension.
9. _____ Jesus' command to teach all nations is for us also.
10. _____ We aren't sure how Jesus will return to earth on the Last Day.

Inner Aim - Jesus has called us to teach all nations because we are His disciples too. We are to spread the Gospel message that Jesus died for all sins. Jesus has promised to be with us until He takes us to be with Him forever.

Passages

Mark 16:15b – Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:11 – This same Jesus ... will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn - Read or sing Hymn 215:1-3.

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior	Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.	Draw us to Thee; Oh, grant that we May walk the road to heaven! Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.
--	--	--

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to take away all sins. Help us to learn Your Word so that we may spread the Good News of Jesus' saving work to all we meet. In our ascended Jesus' name. Amen.

Answers

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples? **On Mt. Olivet near Bethany**
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be His? **All authority in heaven and on earth**
3. What things did Jesus instruct His disciples to do? **Teach all nations;baptize;preach the Gospel**
4. Where were the disciples supposed to stay? **In Jerusalem**
5. What were they supposed to wait for? **The gift of the Holy Spirit**
6. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth? **He rose into the clouds**
7. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension? **Two angels**
8. What message did they have for the disciples? **Jesus will return**
9. Why is this message also a comfort for us? **Jesus will take us to be with Him some day**
10. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth? **Preach the gospel to all creatures**

Review Mark each statement as (T)rue or (F)alse.

1. F Jesus and His disciples met at Bethlehem.**(Mt. Olivet near Bethany)**
2. T Jesus rightfully claimed all power in heaven and on earth.
3. T Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations.
4. F The disciples were supposed to go out immediately into all the world.**(They were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit).**
5. F Jesus did not tell the disciples what they were to wait for.
6. T As Jesus ascended, a cloud blocked Him from view.
7. F Two angels told the disciples they would never see Jesus again.**(This same Jesus...)**
8. T The disciples were happy after Jesus' ascension.**(Lk. 24:52,They returned to Jerusalem with great joy)**
9. T Jesus' command to teach all nations is for us also.
10. F We aren't sure how Jesus will return to earth on the Last Day.**(This same Jesus ...will so come in like manner)**

The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

Have you ever seen a movie that showed a king's triumphal entry into a city? The loyal subjects shout and cheer for joy at their king's return.

Jesus had such a triumphal entry when He returned to heaven. May the Holy Spirit bless our study of Jesus' ascension.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, send us Your Holy Spirit that we may rightly understand Your Word.

Teach us the importance of Jesus' ascension and the mission He has prepared for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus had shown Himself alive to many of His followers, He spoke to the eleven. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

"Thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead...that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Then Jesus commanded that the

disciples were to remain in Jerusalem "until you are endued with power from on high." By this, Jesus meant the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus took the disciples out near Bethany. He reminded them that He had all authority in heaven and on earth. Now He wanted the disciple to be His witnesses to all the world. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Jesus told them. He instructed His disciples to make new disciples of all the nations. They should baptize in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus also promised to be with His disciples as they carried out His work. "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Jesus lifted up His hands in blessing over His disciples and an amazing thing happened! He began to ascend into the air. Jesus rose until a cloud took Him from view, and still the disciples stood staring!

Suddenly, two angels in white appeared and reminded the men that Jesus would return one day. "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jesus was then triumphantly received into heaven and sat down on the right hand of God, the Father.

Then the disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They praised and blessed God for all that He had done for them and they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples?
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be his?
3. How did the disciples understand the Scriptures about Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?
5. Where and why were the disciples supposed to wait?
6. What instructions did Jesus have for His disciples?
7. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth?
8. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension?
9. What message did they have for the disciples?
10. Why is this message also a comfort for us?
11. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth?
12. How do we know that Jesus is still here, though we can't see Him?

What the Story Tells Us

Jesus ascended into heaven triumphantly, having completed all that was necessary to save mankind. He instructed His disciples to spread this saving message to all the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Review - Match the statement with the passage reference from the box that best fits.

A. Matt.28:18

B. Mark 16:19

C. John 24:46

D. John 24:52-53

E. Matt. 28:19

F. Matt. 28:20

1. _____ Jesus had to suffer and die.
2. _____ Jesus reclaimed His rightful authority.
3. _____ Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
4. _____ The disciples were given clear instructions by Jesus.
5. _____ The disciples appreciated the blessings they had received.
6. _____ The disciples could be comforted that Jesus had left them only visibly.

What God Tells Us

Our Lord Jesus has commanded us to spread the Good News that He has conquered sin and death. He has promised to be with us as we carry this message to all the world.

Passages

Matt. 28:18 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 28:20b – And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 1:11 – This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn - Read or sing Hymn 215 1-5.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live and die for us. Make our faith strong, reassure us by Your Word that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we spread the Good News of Jesus' salvation to all we meet. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.