

Sunday School 3rd-4th The Ascension
May 24th, 2020

Based on Acts 1: 1-11

Today we are going to close the Easter season with a focus on the ascension of Jesus.

Read Acts 1:1-11 in the Bible.

Where did Jesus go? (to be with God). Who were those people in white robes? (angels). Why did they tell the disciples to stop looking up? (because they had work to do on Earth). How would you feel if you saw Jesus float up to heaven in a cloud??

Discussion

The Ascension story answers the child's question, "where is Jesus now?" His life walking around on the earth is over, but he lives with God and continues to love the whole world from there. As he left, he clearly passed the baton to his disciples – and to us.

Near the end of school many elementary schools have field days featuring, among other events, relay races. Describe the passing of a baton in a relay race. If you have the space and interest to do so, do a small relay in your living room or outside. Then explain that though Jesus did not actually pass a baton to his disciples, he did tell them very clearly that they were to take up his ministry on earth. His earthly part of the race was complete, but theirs was just starting.

The angels' point was that God/Jesus is not somewhere off in the sky or in heaven. God/Jesus is all around us, wherever we are. We are to look for signs of God at work everywhere we go and join in the work. And we are to witness to God's work in the world and Jesus' example to love our neighbor. Together talk about what a witness is and does. A witness tells what he or she saw happen. Discuss the difficulties of having witnessed something that is hard to share. For example, Jesus told us to love everyone and your friends are teasing a kid in a very unloving way. How is it hard to be a witness in this situation? List some of the ways your congregation witnesses. Be sure to include some in which children are active participants.

Activity: Ascension Spiral Prayers

Even though he has ascended to heaven and we cannot see him, he is still with us, hears us and helps us. Draw a circle and then draw a spiral inside it. Think about things you would like to pray to Jesus about- help, thanks, or blessings for others and write or draw them inside the spiral.



Cut the spiral out and thread a piece of string through the top so that you can hold the thread and the spiral will dangle down (see picture below). The spiral will spin slightly just by virtue of being held, but when held over a bulb or source of heat, the spiral will spin much more because of the rising of hot air. Even though we can't see the hot air, it is still there, rising up. The movement of the spiral gives a 'rising' or 'ascending' visual for the written or drawn prayers and a reminder that, even though we can't see him, Jesus is always with us.

