

Lesson: Apostles Witness Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:1-11)

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Comments

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This kids Bible lesson is based on the story from Acts 1 where the Apostles see Jesus ascend to Heaven.

This lesson plan was first taught in children's Sunday School but could be modified for children's church. Be sure to note the links at the end of this lesson for even more learning activities that go along with this passage.

Bible Story: Apostles witness Jesus' Ascension

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Target Age Group: Age 9 – 11 (U.S. 3rd – 5th Grade) you can adapt this lesson for younger children

Learning Context: Elementary Age Sunday School

Supply List: Butcher Paper, pencils, crayons or markers.

Learning Goal: The aim of this lesson is to help students to understand that believers are never alone because the Holy Spirit lives inside their heart.

Learning Indicators: Students will discover truth about Jesus' resurrected appearances by reading Scripture verses together. The review questions allows the students to demonstrate their knowledge of the key events and people in the lesson.

Learning Activity:

As students arrive have butcher paper taped to a table and provide Scripture references to Jesus' Resurrection Appearances for the students to choose. They can draw on the paper a picture representing the passage. The students can title the mural "Convincing Proofs". This activity prepares them for discussion in the Bible Lesson. (Scriptures: Matthew 28:10; John 20:11-18; Luke 24:13-15; Luke 24:33-34; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:24-29; John 21:1-14; Mark 16:14; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 1 Corinthians 15:7)

Test: Students will be able to answer the review questions.

Bible Lesson: Apostles witness Jesus' Ascension

The following is a guide to teach Acts 1. Provide Bibles for students who did not bring one.

(Pray for sensitivity to the needs of your students as you discuss abandonment. There may be students in class who have truly experienced abandonment from one or both parents. This lesson emphasizes that God never abandons His children.)

Let's turn in our Bibles to [Acts 1](#). Review with the class what they remember from last week's overview of Acts 1-9.

Before we get into Acts chapter one, I would like for you to think about if there has been a time when you felt abandoned and all alone? Maybe you have been in a store with your family and you were distracted by something you were looking at and when you looked around your family was gone. At that moment how did you feel? When a person is left all alone he/she may feel abandoned or deserted. For the few minutes you were deserted by your family members you may have felt very frightened. As soon as you were reunited with your family you were so relieved and comforted to not have been truly abandoned.

Jesus' disciples spent three years following Him. They heard Him teach about God's Kingdom and witnessed Him perform many miracles. When they saw the Son of God nailed to a cross and die they may have experienced feelings of abandonment. They believed Jesus was God's Promised Messiah and now He was dead and His body had been placed in a sealed tomb.

Feelings are not always the truth of what is really happening in a situation. If the disciples had felt abandoned when Jesus died it was not the truth. Jesus told them very clearly before He was nailed to the cross that He was going to suffer and would rise again. Matthew 26:32 "But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." ([Matthew 16:21](#), [Matthew 17:12](#), [Mark 8:31](#), [Luke 9:22](#))

Even though the disciples had been told by Jesus what to expect they were most likely frightened and overwhelmed when the things that Jesus said would happen were taking place. It would not have been easy to watch the innocent Son of God be treated like a criminal and be nailed to a Roman Cross. It was very traumatic and unsettling for Jesus' disciples.

Sometimes feelings of fear, sadness, or loneliness can cloud our hearts to the truth that Jesus has spoken to us from His Word. The Bible is full of God's instructions for His people to follow until He returns or calls them home. When we have feelings that seem to overwhelm us we need to find out the truth from reading God's Word.

Three days after Jesus was buried in a sealed tomb God raised Him from the dead! He did exactly what He told the disciples He would do.

To prove that Jesus was really alive and not a figment of the disciples' imaginations, Jesus stayed on the earth for 40 days after His resurrection. Let's look at [Acts 1:3](#). Luke tells us that over those 40 days Jesus gave many convincing proof of His resurrection.

This morning as you arrived our activity was to make a mural that records the different times that Jesus appeared to people in His resurrected body. (Allow students to share the different times that Scripture tells of Jesus appearing to someone or a group of people after He rose from the dead.)

It must have been so comforting to the once very frightened and discouraged apostles to have Jesus with them again.

Luke tells us what Jesus did during the period of forty days. Let's look at the last part of verse 3 and see what He did with the apostles. (He spoke about the Kingdom of God.)

Jesus gave His apostles a very important instruction. Read Acts [1:4-5](#). Jesus knew what God's plans were and He was preparing them for when He returned to heaven. The apostles didn't fully understand what was about to happen. Even though they didn't understand they needed to follow the instructions Jesus gave them.

God's plan was for Jesus to return to heaven. Jesus had chosen His apostles to be messengers for Him after He left. What message did Jesus want His apostles to tell others? [Matthew 28:19-20](#).

Although Jesus was returning to heaven He was not abandoning His apostles. God never leaves or abandons His children.

Let's look at [Acts 1:8](#). If you were here last week this was our memory verse. This verse helps the Apostles to know that they would not be abandoned and left alone. Jesus told them that God was going to send the Holy Spirit to give them His power to take the message to all people.

This message could not be taken to the people without God's power. It was important for the Apostles to obey Jesus' instructions and wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus finished instructing the apostles, His feet lifted off the ground and He began to ascend or go up into the sky. As He went up into the sky a cloud hid Him from the apostles' sight.

Let's imagine being there on that day. Do you think the apostles strained to see Jesus and try to get just one last glimpse of Him?

Let's read [Acts 1:10-11](#). Who do you think these two men were? (Angels)

As we read this passage we can see God's faithfulness to send these two men to give this message. I wonder how long they would have stood there staring up into the sky if they had not received this message from the 2 men.

The apostles had a job to do for the Lord Jesus. They had work to do but first they needed to follow Jesus' instructions. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.

They obeyed His instructions and went to Jerusalem. They went into a room where they were staying. Let's find out who was in this upper room. Read [Acts 1:13-14](#).

While they were waiting for the Holy Spirit what does verse 14 tell us these people did? (They joined together constantly in prayer.)

Instead of allowing the fear of abandonment overwhelm them Jesus' followers spent time praying and waiting for Jesus to send His Holy Spirit. Peter also spoke to the group that was gathered. Let's read [Acts 1:15](#) and find out how many were gathered together when Peter spoke. Peter told the believers that when Judas betrayed Jesus, he did exactly what God's Word said he would. Peter said that they needed to select another apostle to replace Judas. Peter told them what the requirements for an apostle needed to be. Look in [Acts 1:21-22](#) to find out what they were. (Someone who had been with them the whole time Jesus ministered on the earth until the time He ascended. He needed to be someone who witnessed Jesus' resurrection.)

Two men selected based on the requirements were Justus and Matthias. The apostles prayed and asked God which one He had chosen to replace Judas. The man chosen to replace Judas was Matthias.

It would have been easy for the apostles to sit around feeling sad that Jesus had returned to heaven. Instead they chose to obey Jesus' instructions and wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. They didn't just waste time as they waited, they spent their time praying and waiting.

The apostles would miss having Jesus walk with them and being able to see His face. Very soon God would be sending the Holy Spirit to them. The Holy Spirit will always be with them and go wherever they go. The Holy Spirit would give them power to do the important job of sharing the Good News with other people.

After reading about the early days before Jesus returned to heaven we can be encouraged that Jesus has not left us alone. He has not abandoned us. If we believe that He died on the cross for our sins and was raised to life on the third day, the moment we believed His Holy Spirit came to live inside our hearts. We will never be alone and wherever we go, Jesus goes with us. If we ever feel sad, alone or confused we have the entire Book of the Bible to instruct us how to live our lives while we wait for Jesus to return or until He takes us to be with Him in heaven.

Next week our lesson will be about when God sends His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We hope you will not miss it!

Close in prayer.

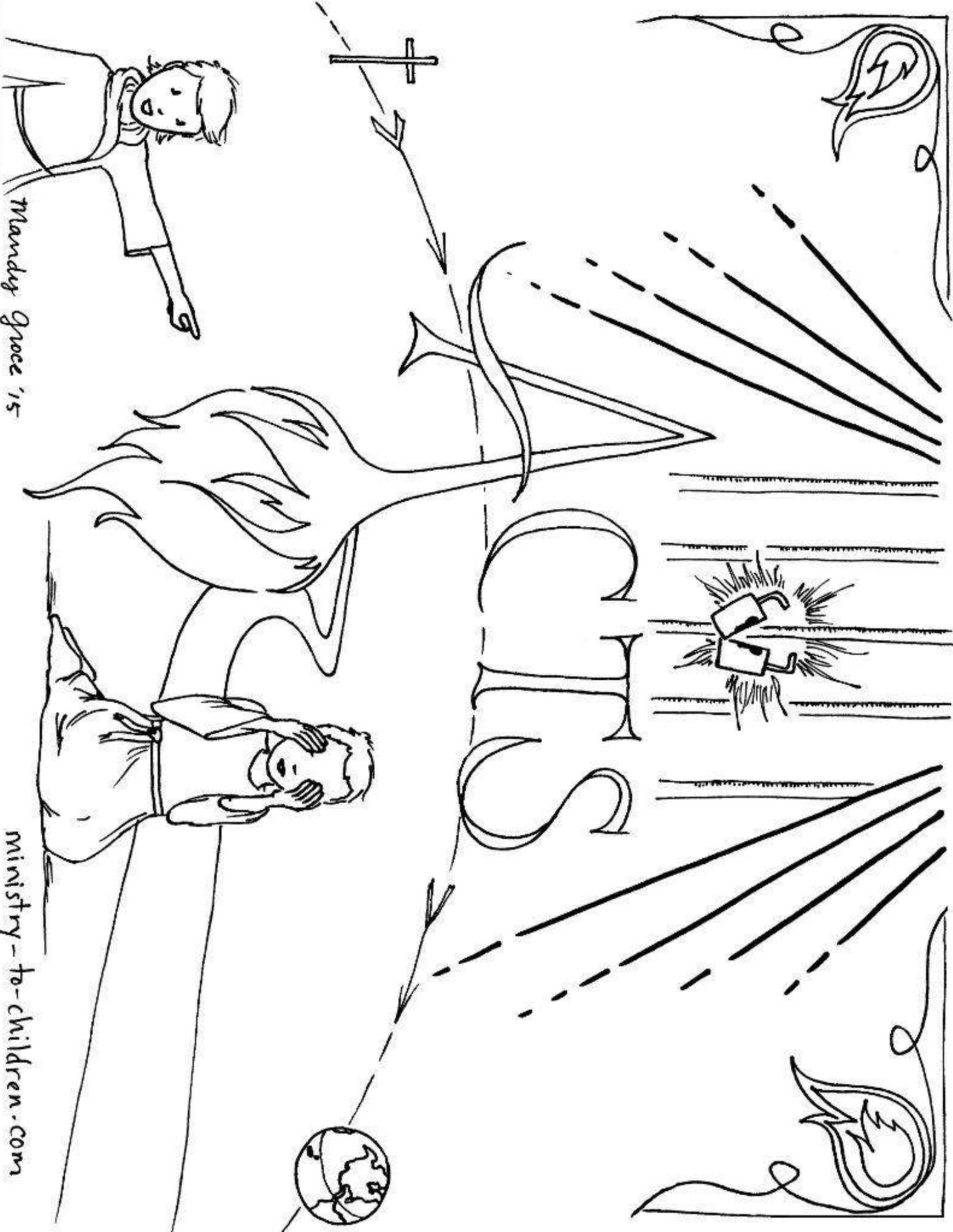
Review Questions:

1. How many days did Jesus stay on the earth after His resurrection? (40)
2. Who are some people that Jesus appeared to in His resurrected body?
3. What instructions did Jesus give His disciples before He returned to heaven?
4. Why did Jesus say they needed to wait for the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:8)
5. Why were the apostles staring up at the sky?
6. How did the 2 men say Jesus would return?
7. Where did the apostles go after Jesus ascended?
8. Name some of the people who were gathered in the upper room.
9. What did the apostles do after Jesus returned to heaven?
10. Who was chosen to replace Judas as an apostle?

Additional Sunday School Resources:

[Jesus' Ascension Puzzle \(Craft\)](#)

Need More Ideas for Sunday School? Then browse our list of [kids Bible crafts](#) or find a [Bible Coloring page](#) to accompany this lesson.



Mandy Grace '15

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Bad and Good

Paul had many adventures as he traveled around as a missionary.

Read each sentence. If something bad happened, color the frowning face. If something good happened, color the smiling face.



Before Paul became a Christian, he was mean to the Christians and tried to kill them. (Acts 8)



Paul saw a bright light and heard Jesus speaking to him, and Paul became a Christian. (Acts 9)



The Holy Spirit chose Paul and Barnabas to become missionaries. (Acts 13)



Barnabas and Paul traveled to Cyprus and other places to tell people about Jesus. (Acts 13)



God helped Paul to heal a crippled man in Lystra. (Acts 14)



Some people who didn't want Paul to preach tried to kill him. (Acts 14)



Paul went on another missionary trip with Silas. (Acts 15)



In Philippi a woman named Lydia became a Christian. (Acts 16)



Paul and Silas were thrown in jail for preaching about Jesus. (Acts 16)



In Ephesus Paul healed many sick people. (Acts 19)



Paul was arrested and taken on a ship to Rome. (Acts 27)



Even in prison Paul kept telling people about Jesus. (Acts 28)

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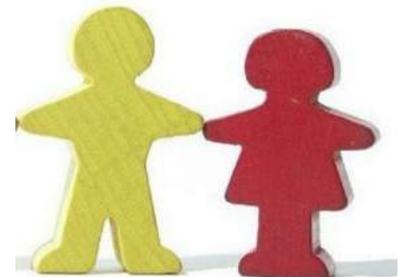
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