

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR EASTER 7

SUNDAY 24th MAY 2020

This week's story is about Jesus' Ascension to Heaven. Ascension means going up or rising.

Forty days ago we celebrated Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead and during this time Jesus has been with his disciples teaching them and preparing them for when he will leave them. Ascension Day is celebration which marks the end of Jesus' ministry on earth and the time when he returns to be with God the Father in heaven. Before he leaves them Jesus gives his disciples his final instructions and promises that he will send them a special helper, we'll find out more about the special helper next week.

Getting Started – Make a mini cloud!

Here is a great science experiment from Messy Church. Please ask a grown up for help, or you can watch this video clip, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehW_F94ifRY but don't eat the ice!

You will need: a glass jar with a lid; four ice cubes; warm water; hairspray/deodorant or similar aerosol spray.



Warm your jar up by putting the warm (not boiling) water in it. (Find an adult to help).

Squirt a blast of hairspray or deodorant into the jar and put the lid on as quickly as you can.

Put the ice cubes on top of the lid, like in the picture.

You should see a 'cloud' start to form in your jar.

Take the lid off and release your cloudy pillar!

If you want to know how it works. Clouds are formed when water on earth evaporates (turns into an invisible gas) and rises up into the sky. Higher up where the air is colder, the water condenses: it changes from a gas to drops of water or crystals of ice. We see these drops of water as clouds. To make a cloud you need three things – warm, moist air, something to cool it down and something to form the nucleus of a droplet. Usually in a raincloud, the nuclei would be provided by specks of dust – here it's the hairspray or aerosol.

In the Bible there are lots of examples when God is present in the cloud. One of the famous stories is when God guides the people through the desert and they follow the pillar of cloud. In today's story, a cloud takes Jesus away from the disciples as he ascends into heaven.

The Story



'I have done all God wanted me to do' Jesus said to his friends. 'Go and tell everyone about me. Tell them everything that I have told you: how God wants to rescue them and make them safe.

'Wait here until God sends his Special Helper. Then go and tell the whole world about me'.

It was nearly time for Jesus to go home to God, his Father. 'Will you soon be King?' asked his friends. 'When will you come back?' 'God will decide' said Jesus. They were

all together on the Mountain of Olives, near Jerusalem. A cloud came over the mountain. They couldn't see Jesus now, where had he gone?

But two men were there, two angels in shining clothes. 'Why are you looking up at that cloud?' they said. 'Jesus has gone home to God, his Father. He will come back – one day – but not now'

Thinking about it

Jesus' friends were still struggling to understand the big picture, they thought that Jesus had come to free the Israelites from Roman rule, they were probably confused and scared when Jesus left them again. Jesus had told them to wait for a helper, but they didn't really understand what was happening.

We know that Jesus had a much bigger plan. Jesus' plan was for everybody, all those who were in the earth at the same time as him and all those who were going to live on the earth in the future. Jesus had come and died on the cross to take the punishment for all the sins of the world, so that everybody could receive eternal life and know God as a father and friend just like Jesus did. The Holy Spirit was coming to be a helper for Jesus' followers forever, more on that story next week.

Activity 1

As his disciples watched, Jesus was lifted up into the sky and hidden behind a cloud. Spend some time looking at the clouds. Do they move fast or slow, what colours are they, can you see any shapes or picture in the clouds?

Activity 2



Jesus told his friends that they needed to be patient and trust in God's timing while they waited for the helper God had promised.

Can you find someone to play the minute game with? Person A has a stop watch or phone timer and tells person B when to begin. Person B has to count silently and decide when one minute is up. How close were you? Swap over to see who can get the closest to the minute.

Prayer

Can you find any bubbles, if you can, blow some bubbles and pick one bubble to watch until it disappears from view. When you can't see it or it bursts, say a prayer for your family, friends for our country or government. Did you watch your bubble carefully to make sure you knew when it disappeared? Jesus' first disciples were watching him carefully when he disappeared from sight in the story today

Or, Jesus promised a helper who would help his followers carry the gospel message to all the countries of the world. How many countries can you name in one minute? Pray for some or all of these countries, for the people in charge, those who do not have enough to eat and those who are sad.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that He has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven. Amen

