

Ascension Sunday – year C

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preparation

Read [Psalm 47](#) and [Luke 24: 4-53](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/festivals/ascension.htm>

<http://talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/view.asp?ID=24>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/ascension.htm>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/284TheAscension.pdf>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/ascles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/Seasonal/Ascension/K-Ascension-c.html>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/up_up_and_away.htm

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/Ascends.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White or yellow cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Print the word “**Witness**” up on a piece of newsprint.

Ask the children if they know what this word means. *Wait for their responses.*

Explain that the word ‘witness’ can be used in a number of different ways but it generally means that someone has seen or been at something and can tell other people what they have seen or been a participant in. Ask the children if they can tell you when they have been a witness to something – say a movie, television show, a special event that they went to. *Wait for their responses.*

Tell the children that in today’s story Jesus asks all of us to be witnesses and ask them to pay attention for when that happens in the story.

Story Time

During this season a paraphrase of a verse of the psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following phrase for use during the story:

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

It had been many, many days since God had wonderfully raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus had come and spent time with his friends. Jesus shared how he wanted his friends to continue to follow in the way of the love, peace and justice of God.

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

Jesus' friends were all together in Jerusalem. They were talking about what had been happening. They were wondering what the future was going to bring for them. All of a sudden, there was Jesus in the midst of them. Jesus said to his friends, "Peace be with you."

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

Jesus' friends were so happy to see him again. They all crowded around him so that they could get closer to him and hear what he had to say. Jesus said to them, "Remember all the stories and words that I have shared with you about God. Remember that everything written in God's Holy Scriptures must come to pass."

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

Jesus went on to say to them, "Remember that it is written that God's Son, the Saviour, was to suffer and then to rise from the dead on the third day. Remember that you are to ask people to turn back to God and that you are to tell all the world about God's loving forgiveness of anything that they have done wrong. You are to remember to do all this in my name and to start from here in Jerusalem. You are the witnesses to all of these things!"

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

"I want you all to stay in Jerusalem," said Jesus. "You are to wait for the Holy Spirit. Who will come and give you the gifts you need to share all of this with the whole world. You will be given power from God."

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

Then Jesus led his friends out of the city to the town of Bethany. When they got there Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed his friends. As Jesus was blessing his friends he left them and then Jesus was carried up to heaven. All those left were worshipping Jesus and they returned to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit. They were all filled with joy and went to the temple every day worshipping God and the salvation that had come to the world.

Clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!

Response

Project Idea 1: Ascension Picture

This response will give the children to be witnesses to the story that they heard today.

Materials needed

- Ascension picture at end of lesson
- cotton balls
- markers or pencil crayons
- construction paper
- glue

Instructions

Copy the ascension picture at the end of the lesson, making one for each child. Invite the children to colour it in with the markers or pencil crayons except for the clouds. When they are done colouring have them glue it on to a piece of construction paper, so that it can act as a frame for the picture. Have them glue some cotton balls on to the clouds in the picture so that it has a more three dimensional shape to it. If they want they could come up with a title for the picture that describes what happened at the ascension and then print that at the top of the page. Encourage the children to share this with their families and to tell them the story of Jesus' ascension as a witness to the story.

Project Idea 2: Witness Paper Quilt

The children can share how they are witnesses together by working on this paper 'quilt' and sharing it with the rest of the congregation.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- stapler with staples
- tissue paper
- glitter
- glue
- yarn
- odd bits of fabric
- ribbon
- cotton balls

Instructions

Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them print across the top “**We are Jesus' witnesses**”. Then invite the children to make a picture that witnesses to Jesus and his message by using the craft materials that are provided. When they are finished their pictures work together to staple them together to make a paper 'quilt' that can be hung up. Have the children share what is going on in their picture as it is stapled into the 'quilt' and then choose a place together that it can be hung up and shared with others and be a witness to Jesus' loving presence in our lives.

Project Idea 3: Free Art Response

The story for today can be a difficult one for children to comprehend – this free art response gives them a chance to explore their feelings and thoughts about it a constructive way.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- tissue paper
- pipe cleaners
- cotton balls
- glitter
- odd bits of fabric
- yarn or ribbon
- streamers
- stickers
- scissors
- glue
- hole punch
- anything else you think might be used or that you have on hand

Instructions

Lay out the materials in an attractive manner. With the children think about the story that was presented for today. Ask them to think about what the highlight of today's story was for them. Invite the children to come up with their own response to the story using the craft materials that have been set before them. When they are finished with their creations invite them to share their responses with each other and then to share the story of Jesus' ascension with their families when they get home.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us. Amen.

Ascension Picture

