

## Jesus' Ascension- Acts 1:2-11

### THE POINT

Focus:

- Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of God
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit
- Jesus wants us to trust God's power instead of looking for our own power

Application:

- We trust in God's power and care instead of our own strength
- We believe the Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to us

\*Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

\*(remind your teachers what children studied recently for context)

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### HEART CONNECTION (3-4 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- none

**Content:**

**Most things we know with our senses- we can see, hear, feel, taste, and smell them.**

**Give a friend a high-5! How do you know your friend is here? You can see and feel them!**

**Close your eyes and hum me! How do you know everyone is still here? We can hear them!**

**How do you know there are cookies baking when the oven door is shut? You can smell them!**

**But how do you know that Jesus is real?** (Take a few answers... children may suggest prayer, the Bible, the church)

**In our story today, we'll hear about how Jesus returned to heaven, and he promised his followers- that means us!- that he would send the Holy Spirit.**



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## STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Great Commission Puzzle
- Illustrations of the Ascension, John the Baptist, and stories after the Resurrection (from online or a children's Bible)
- Bible

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

The stories of God's work in and through the early church are collected in the book of Acts. Luke, the doctor-disciple of Jesus who wrote the Gospel of Luke which tells us about Jesus' life, also wrote Acts. He wrote it like a letter to someone named "Theophilus" which means "Lover of God" as an explanation for his Christian faith.

### *Acts 1:2-11*

Before Jesus left, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen. He did this through the Holy Spirit. 3 After his suffering and death, he appeared to them. In many ways he proved that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. During that time he spoke about God's kingdom.

#### **Do you remember any of the things Jesus did after his resurrection?**

*(meeting the women in the garden, the road to Emmaus, breakfast with his disciples, appearing to Thomas, giving the Great Commission)*

4 One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. "Do not leave Jerusalem," he said. "Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. 5 John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and asked him a question. "Lord," they said, "are you going to give the kingdom back to Israel now?"

#### **Explain: The apostles were part of the nation of Israel.**

**The Romans had conquered Israel. The apostles wanted Israel to be in charge instead of the Romans, and they thought Jesus' Kingdom coming meant they would be in charge soon.**

**Jesus tells them that they will have a different kind of power.**

7 [Jesus] said to them, "You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."

9 After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven. The apostles watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 While he was going up, they kept on looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like to spend time with Jesus after the resurrection.

I wonder what he talked about with the disciples.

I wonder what they thought about the Holy Spirit coming.

I wonder how they felt when Jesus had disappeared and they were left standing on the mountain.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**