

JESUS GOES TO HEAVEN

BIG IDEA

Jesus couldn't stay on earth for always – God's plan was for him to return to heaven as King with authority over every other king.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy marshmallows

Cut 6 cloud shapes with coded words from appendix – one cloud for each person

Get 10 cotton balls

Get straws (one per child)

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent 40 days with his disciples before the day came for him to return to heaven.

On this extraordinary day he was taken up into the clouds.

TAKE ONE OF THE 'CLOUDS' OUT OF THE BOX AND GIVE IT TO ONE CHILD TO HOLD.

*Each person takes turns holding the cloud and sharing about one day that was a really **good** day for them, and one day that was really **bad**.*

Today we are going to talk about a day that was both a good day and a bad day for Jesus' disciples.



GAME

Cotton Ball Competition

PUT 10 COTTON BALLS IN ONE BOWL AND PLACE AN EMPTY BOWL NEXT TO IT. GIVE EACH CHILD A STRAW.

Choose the child with the longest hair to go first, then time each child as they suck the cotton wool ball onto their straw then drop it into the empty bowl.

The winner can pass out marshmallows at the end.

Now hand out the rest of the 'clouds' from the box to everyone, and have them decode the message and write it on the back of the cloud. (Younger children will need help from parents.)

Read out the message.

*"The head that once was
crowned with thorns Is
crowned with glory now."
- Thomas Kelley*

READ

As you read, let the children hold a cotton ball against their skin and feel how comforting it is.

“After he was raised from the dead, until the day he said good-bye, Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples. During this time he met and ate meals with them and told them about many things concerning the kingdom of God...

When they were together for the last time the disciples asked Jesus, “Master, are you going to bring back the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words... Then as they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared – in white robes! They said, “You Galileans! – Why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come back, as certainly – and mysteriously – as he left.” ”

Acts 1:1-11; My First Message, Eugene Petersen, page 321, NavPress © 2007

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

How was this day a really good day for the disciples?

How was it a really bad day?

After Jesus rose from the dead and God had given him his new 'kingdom' body, he sometimes appeared out of nowhere. He could enter a room even when the doors were locked.

He was now getting ready to go home to heaven to reign with God as the King.

This was amazing for the disciples to see – so it was a **great** day. But they knew now that he was going to go away – so it was a **sad** day.

Imagine the disciples trying to catch a last glimpse of Jesus in the sky! Wow!

Maybe they would have stayed looking up into the sky all day, if it hadn't been for the angels appearing.

QUESTIONS

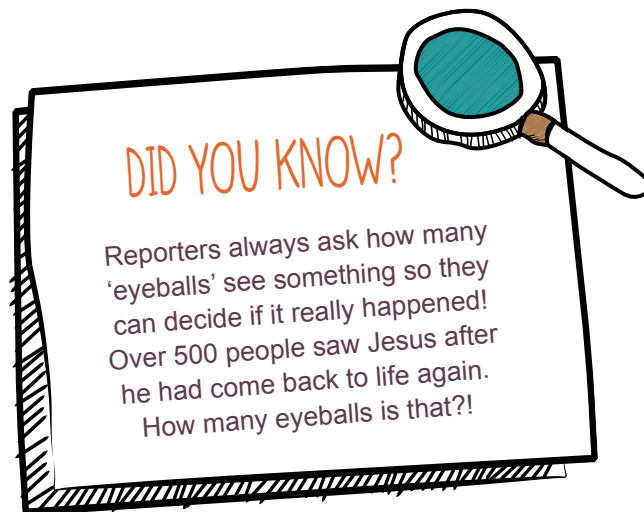
Do you think you could float up into the sky?

What other things can go up in the sky? (rockets, planes, skyrockets, helium balloons, birds)

What about a cushion?

Try throwing cushions in the air. What happens? Why won't they stay up? Because of a thing called gravity.

Ascend means to go up – so the Ascension is when we remember Jesus going up into heaven.



PRAY

Thank you God that we are never alone – thank you that Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and live inside us. Amen.

LIVE

Glue cotton wool balls around the edge of the cloud shapes with the words “Jesus will come again” on them, and hang them up to remind everyone about the Ascension.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 **Let a Helium Balloon Go!**

You have to hold on to the balloon tightly or it will float away. But it can be lots of fun to let it go outside and watch it as it floats up, up, up into the sky. Higher and higher it goes, until it finally disappears from sight. But to be able to watch it fly, you must be willing to let it go. As you let the balloon go, talk about how it felt for the disciples letting go of Jesus and seeing him float into the sky.

2 *Celebrate the Ascension with a special ‘cloudy’ treat such as marshmallows, white candy floss, white chocolate mousse, whipped cream or the Ascension cake below.*

3 **Make an Ascension Cake**

Decorate it with white marshmallows to represent the clouds. Place a small doll’s chair wrapped in tinfoil in the middle and small jelly babies around it to represent the people worshipping at the throne.

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Cardboard/paper to make crown
- Packet of plastic jewels
- A treat (mallow puffs)



SESSION TEN

CLOUD PUZZLE

10, 5, 19, 21, 19
23, 9, 12, 12 3, 15, 13, 5
1, 7, 1, 9, 14

Here is the code: a=1, b=2, c=3, etc

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