

The Ascension of the Lord

May 21, 2020

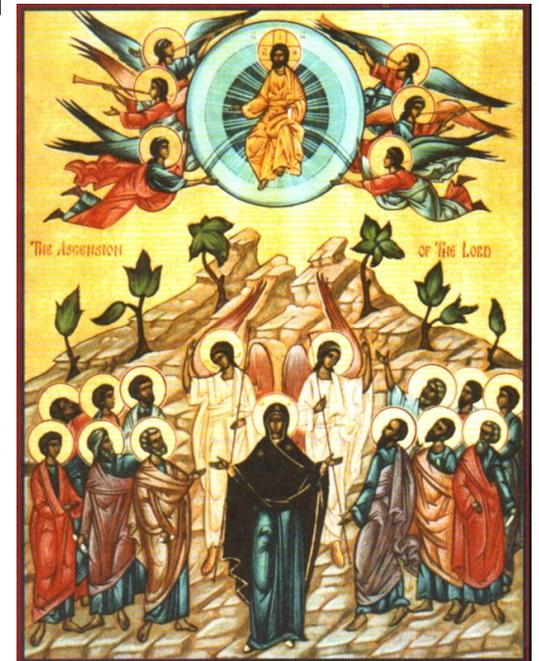
A Family Bible Study



Luke 24:44-53

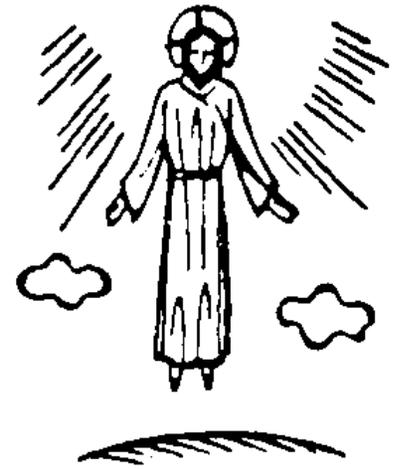
Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”



So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Things you will need for this study:

- Bible or previous page of Bible stories
- Something to write with
- Something to color with — pencils, crayons, markers
- You can print out this study or use your own paper to do the activities.
- Your imagination!

This study is...

- Something you can do on your own.
- Something you can do as a family.
- Something adults can do.
- Something kids can do.
- A creative way to learn about a Holy day in our church calendar year.



Part One

- Have each person fill in the chart on the next page. If you don't want to or can't print the chart, fold a regular sheet of paper into quarters and fill in each block following the instructions.
- Read the two Scripture stories out loud together. These are from the NRSV translation however you are welcome to use any translation you'd like. If you're doing this with children, consider using a children's Bible.

Write or draw what you think

Ascension means....

Write or draw where you think

Jesus is right now...

Write or draw what you think the
Holy Spirit looks like...

Write or draw where you think the
Holy Spirit is right now...

Part Two

Read Together Out Loud:

Ascension means to lift up or be lifted up. On Ascension Day we celebrate and tell the story of Jesus being lifted up to Heaven to be with God. This is important because it is exactly what Jesus said would happen. Jesus promised he would be with us for a little while but that eventually, he would be lifted up and leave us. But we are not alone! Jesus also promised he would leave someone to be with us always, to help and guide us. When Jesus was lifted up to Heaven he sent the Holy Spirit to be here with us!

The **Holy Spirit** is Jesus' representative on Earth. What does the Holy Spirit look like? Anything! Sometimes we think *she looks like the wind, a dove, a flame, or even a person. However, the Holy Spirit can look like anything you imagine. The Holy Spirit is here to remind us Jesus is always with us.

*Fun fact: the word 'spirit' in both Greek and Hebrew (the languages of the Bible) is female. Often in Bible studies, we refer to the Holy Spirit using feminine pronouns.

Part Three

Pick your favorite image from below and share why you like it the best. Share why you think it is what the Holy Spirit looks like. You can also draw your own new image now that you have learned a little about her.



Part Four

Share or write something you have learned today in the box below.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be here with us. We are grateful to have you around us all the time. Today we remember the promise that Jesus made to us to never leave us alone and we celebrate that we are here together with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.