

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Easter 7 – Ascension Sunday

Preparation:

Read [Acts 1: 1-11](#), and the Gospel, [Luke 24:44-53](#), for this Sunday over . Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out 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://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115869_ENG_HTML.htm

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

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

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#ea>

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

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

<http://children.ccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/284TheAscention.pdf>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Red cloth

Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the white cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!

Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!

Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Say surprise as loud as you can. Ask the children what their reactions to your loud surprise was. *Wait for their responses.* Ask the children what the best surprise was that they have ever had in their lives. *Wait for their responses.* Have everyone name one surprise that Jesus' friends and followers had while sharing the good news of God's love with others. (*Some possible responses: healing people, feeding lots of people, hearing God on a mountain, the resurrection.*) Explain to the children that Jesus' friends had still more surprises in store for them and that they will hear about one of them in today's story.

Story Time:

Materials needed:

A comfortable place to tell the story – around a table or on the floor with cushions

Teach the children the following chant to be used in the story:

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Jesus was with his friends. It had been 40 days since that wonderful Easter morning when God had raised Jesus from the dead. He gathered all his friends together.

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Jesus looked at his friends and said, “You all need to stay in Jerusalem. It will be a time for you to watch. It will be a time to pray. It will be a time to remember.”

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Jesus continued speaking, “Soon the Holy Spirit will come and bless you with great power. You will be to be my witnesses here in Jerusalem, throughout Israel and all the world and share with everyone what God has done for the world.”

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Then Jesus blessed his friends. As he was blessing them he was lifted up into the clouds and vanished from their sight. All of a sudden two men in white stood amongst them and said, “Friends why are you standing and looking for Jesus? Jesus has gone to heaven to be with God. Go and do what he told you to.”

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Then Jesus’ friends went and stayed together. They kept watch. They prayed. They waited. They remembered all the things that Jesus had taught them the last three years together.

Jesus will bless us

Jesus will be with us

Every day and everywhere

Response:

Idea #1: Cloud Picture

The idea of Jesus going up into the clouds is a bit of mystery for all of us. As a way for the children to begin to grasp this mystery have them make a picture of those clouds.

Materials needed: card stock, cotton balls, light blue and yellow tissue paper, fine line markers, glue sticks, glitter

Instructions: For younger children draw some clouds on to the card stock using the image at the end of the lesson as a guide. Give each child a piece of card stock and have them print across the bottom with the markers the following **JESUS WAS LIFTED UP OUT OF OUR SIGHT**. Then have older children draw clouds on to the card stock using the markers. Show them the other craft materials and invite them to fill in and decorate their clouds as they want. As they are working take the time to go over any questions that the children might have about the story they have just heard. When they are finished have everyone share their pictures with each other. Invite the children to think about a place at home they would like to put up their pictures.

Idea #2: Blessing Mobile

This response will be a good chance to review the stories the children have heard in the last 6 weeks and give them an interesting craft to take home.

Materials needed: all of the images used for the Easter Egg Poster from the 7 weeks of Easter (including the cloud image at the end of today's lesson), card stock or poster board, scissors, glue, fine line markers, glitter, hole punch, yarn, dowels or hangers

Instructions: Make enough copies of the images so that each child has a full set of images. Cut 7 pieces of yarn for each child measuring between 30 cm/12 inches and 10 cm/5 inches in length. Give each child their set of images. Have them decorate their set of images with the fine line markers, glue and the glitter as they want. Ask the children to name a blessing that goes with each image as they work on them. When they are done decorating help them to punch a hole in one part of the image and then tie the yarn into the images. Tie the other ends on to the dowel or hanger. Invite the children to think about a place to hang up their mobiles at home where they can be seen by others.

Idea #3: Easter Egg Poster – Clouds

This is a continuation of a project started in the previous weeks and will end with this week.

Materials needed: posters that the children started in the previous weeks, cloud image at the end of the lesson, scissors, glue sticks, cotton balls, glitter, small bowl

Instructions: Make copies of the cloud image at the end of the lesson. Give each child their poster from previous weeks. Place some glitter into the small bowl. Give each child a cloud image and have them cut them out and then glue into the centre right of the poster. Have the children spread the glue in the inside of the cloud shape. Show them how to spread some glue on one side of a cotton ball, dip that side into the bowl with glitter, shake off the excess and then glue the other side down onto the cloud shape. Have the children do this until the cloud is full. When they have completed take a look at their finished posters and go over each of the images starting with the butterfly and going through to today's image. Encourage the children to share their posters with their families and find a place at home to put them up.

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 loving us.

Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.

Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.

Amen.

Easter Egg Poster –Cloud Image

