

This week we are learning about
The Ascension!



READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Ascension

from Acts 1:6-14.

Jesus asks us to share his story with others.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Witness
- Ascending
- Heaven
- Holy Spirit

Jesus and his disciples were on the Mount of Olives when he ascended into heaven.

The Mount of Olives is a mountain ridge on the east side of Jerusalem. The Garden of Gethsemane is at the bottom of the Mount of Olives.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 498-499

Spark Bible page 1203

Family Prayer

Dear Giving Father,

Thank you for giving your Son to everyone.

Thank you for giving special gifts to each of us.

Help us to use our gifts in your name. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Where did Jesus go in today's story?
- 2 How do you feel when someone you love leaves? How did the disciples feel after Jesus left?
- 3 Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples some directions. What were they? Do they still apply to us today? How?
- 4 What are some "to do" items that you would like to accomplish as a disciple or witness of Jesus? Make a family list and work toward completing one task each month.



Eye Spark

Do some cloud-watching this week. Spend time together picking out shapes and figures in the clouds and talking about what it must have been like to watch Jesus ascend into the clouds.



Ear Spark

Listen for compliments this week. Take notice when others tell you that you do something well or appreciate your actions. These compliments can tell you about your God-given gifts. Think about how you can use your gifts to glorify God.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Choose a quiet spot for a family walk where you can look for the Holy Spirit in nature. As you walk, take time to focus on the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of nature. Look at all the different plants and animals — each of them is special. Let them remind you that of us is special, too!

For younger kids

Use the gifts God has given you to spread the word of God to others. Make a card, draw a picture, or make a treat to deliver to a neighbor. When you deliver your art, tell them about God's love for all people.

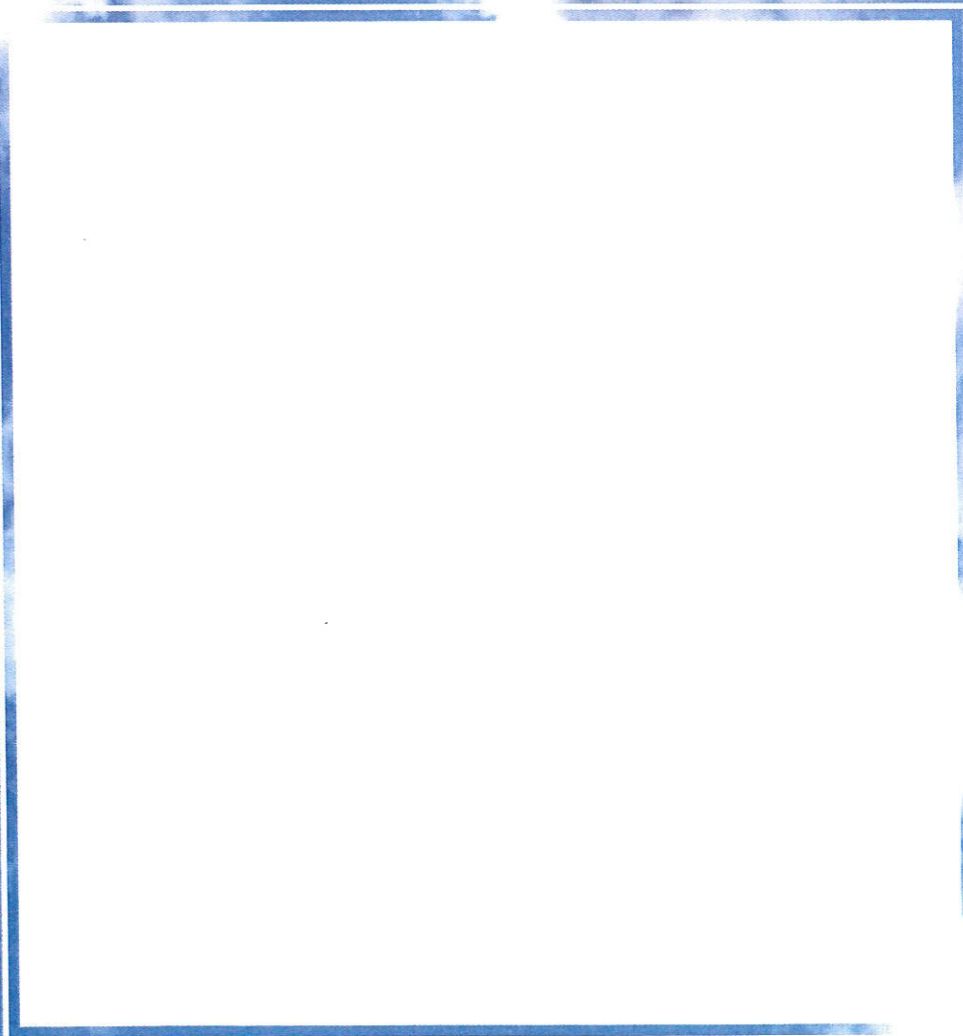
For older kids

With adult permission, use an online search engine to research charities in and around your hometown. Choose one charity that looks interesting to you and ask your family to help you serve that charity sometime soon.



A Heavenly Place

What does the Bible say about heaven?
Create your own picture of heaven.



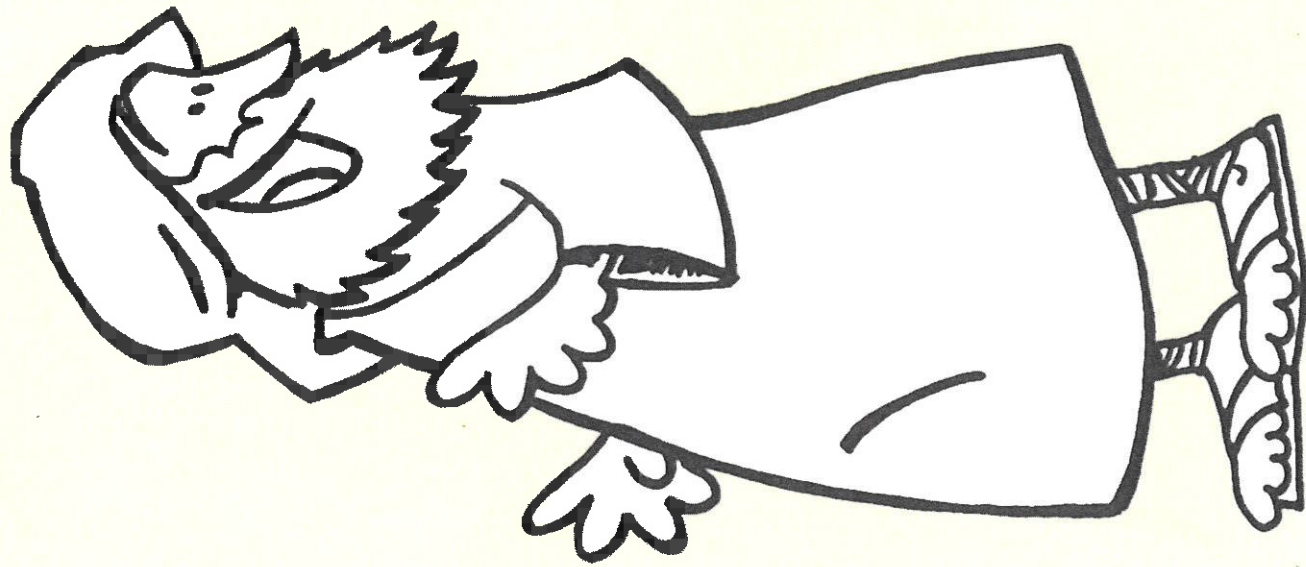
FAITHonthe**GO!**

Look at the clouds and imagine what it looked like
to see Jesus ascend. Talk about what you might see
when Jesus comes back.

PreK-K, Classroom, The Ascension Leaflet.
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Jesus Windsock

Finish the picture of Jesus. Use ribbons to turn your
leaflet into a windsock!



Then suddenly Jesus was rising — up in the air!



The Ascension

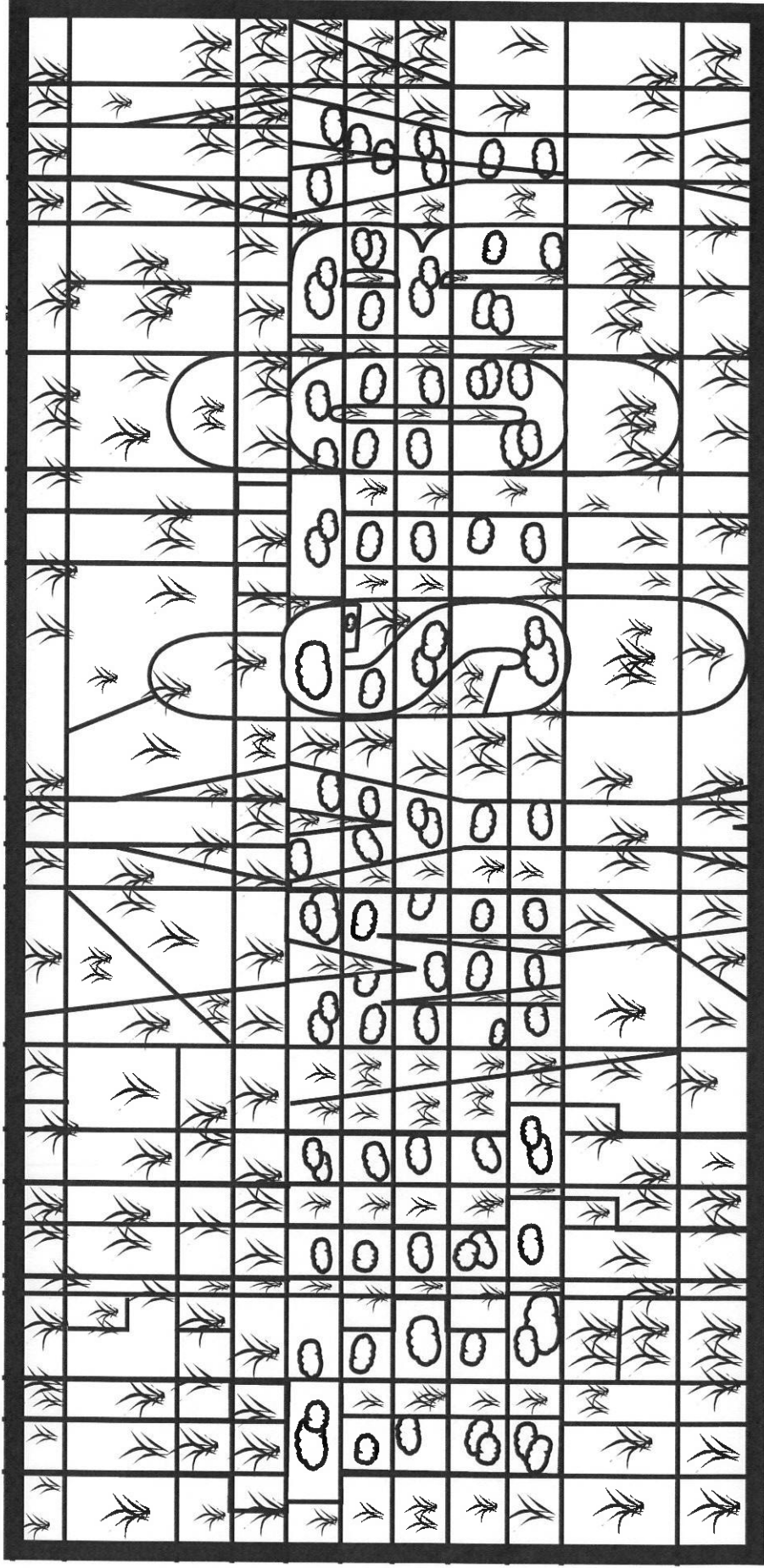
What was going on? Jesus was being lifted up into a cloud!



The Ascension

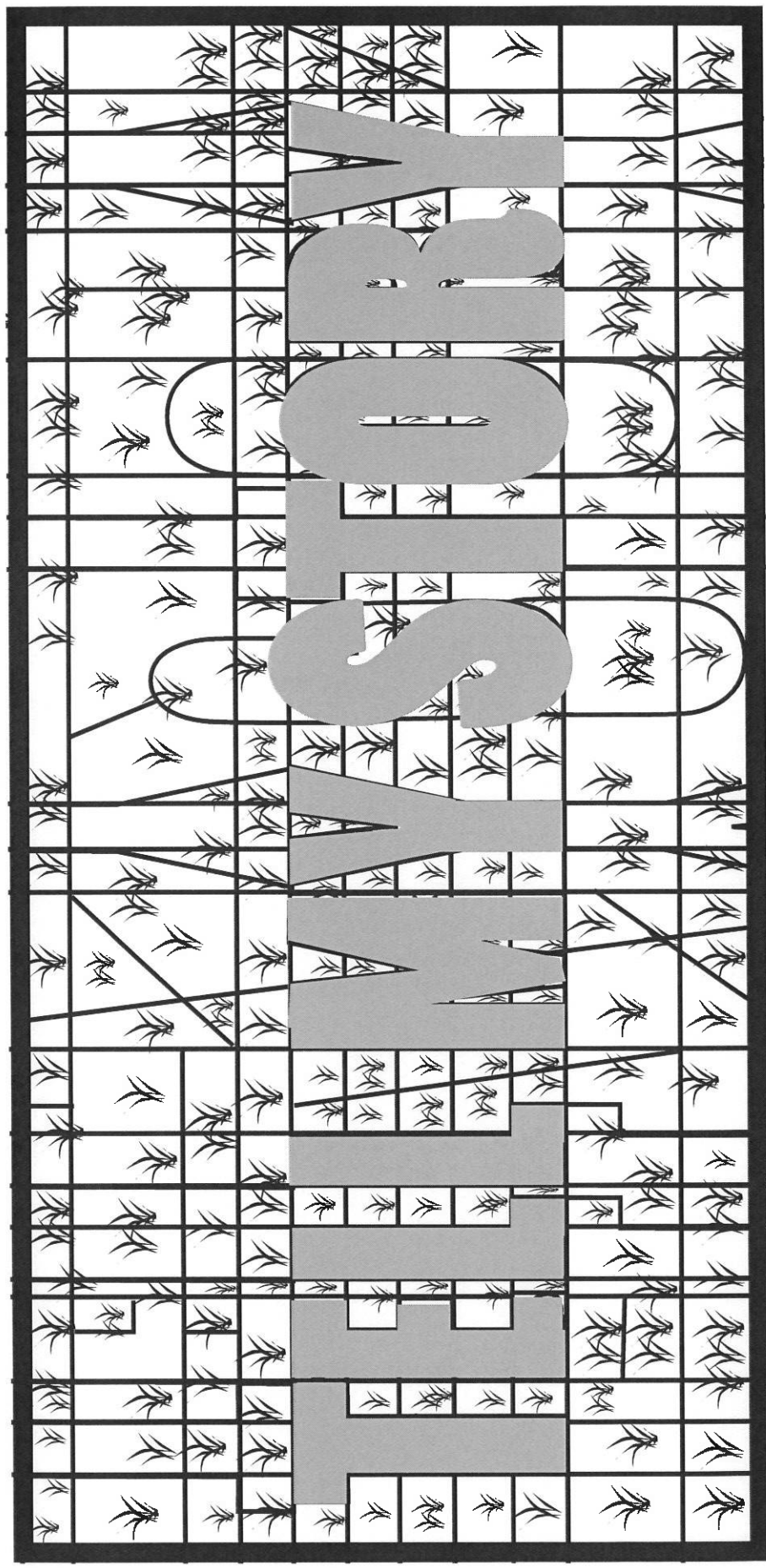
Listen to Jesus

Can you figure out Jesus' message to the disciples? Color in any areas that have a cloud in them. Leave any areas with grass blank.



Listen to Jesus Solution

Can you figure out Jesus' message to the disciples? Color in any areas that have a cloud in them. Leave any areas with grass blank.



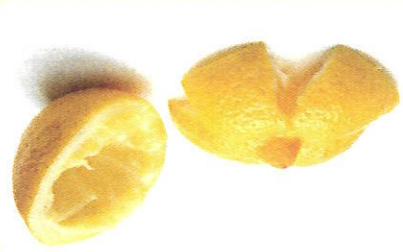
I'm going to Need More Lemons

Squeezing lemons. Limp like a rag doll. Deep breath in. Long breath out. Repeat.

Joshua is practicing ways to stay calm. Lately he's been having some issues with anxiety. When he's worried, his mind races and he can't sleep. When Joshua's tired the next day, everything seems worse and he feels more anxious, more worried. This cycle was getting to be a serious problem, so Joshua's mom suggested seeing a counselor. Tools for the toolbox of life, she says.

Jason is his counselor. He's teaching Joshua ways to deal with stress, fear, and anxiety. When Joshua feels tension in his body, he knows to squeeze all his muscles and then let them relax. When his mind is racing, he thinks about a happy place and takes slow, deep breaths.

Jason understands what it's like for a kid to see that everything around you is changing. Jason says it's normal to worry about change and the uncertain future, but that we can't let the worries control us or interfere with the regular, good stuff in life. So Joshua "squeezes lemons" and then relaxes. He takes deep, slow breaths. He prays too. Joshua knows that God is with him and people like his mom and Jason are there to help him through the tough stuff. Even as things change, it will be okay.



I wonder...

- What the disciples said when Jesus ascended.
- What it feels like to be taken into heaven.
- What the prayers of the disciples were about.



The Ends of the Earth Start Here

Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, starting in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. See how many other words you can witness from those three! Using each letter as many times as it occurs, make a list of new words below.

J E R U S A L E M J U D E A S A M A R I A

Summer

Rules

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Look it up!



What might the Holy Spirit look like? Read **Luke 3:21-22** to find out how it looked at Jesus' baptism.

Memory Verse



You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8b**

The word **heaven** means something like "God's house."

Martin Luther believed that **dogs** go to heaven.

People asked Jesus if they would still be **married** in heaven.

Saying "**Heavens!**" expresses surprise, perhaps because of what the disciples

saw at Jesus' ascension.

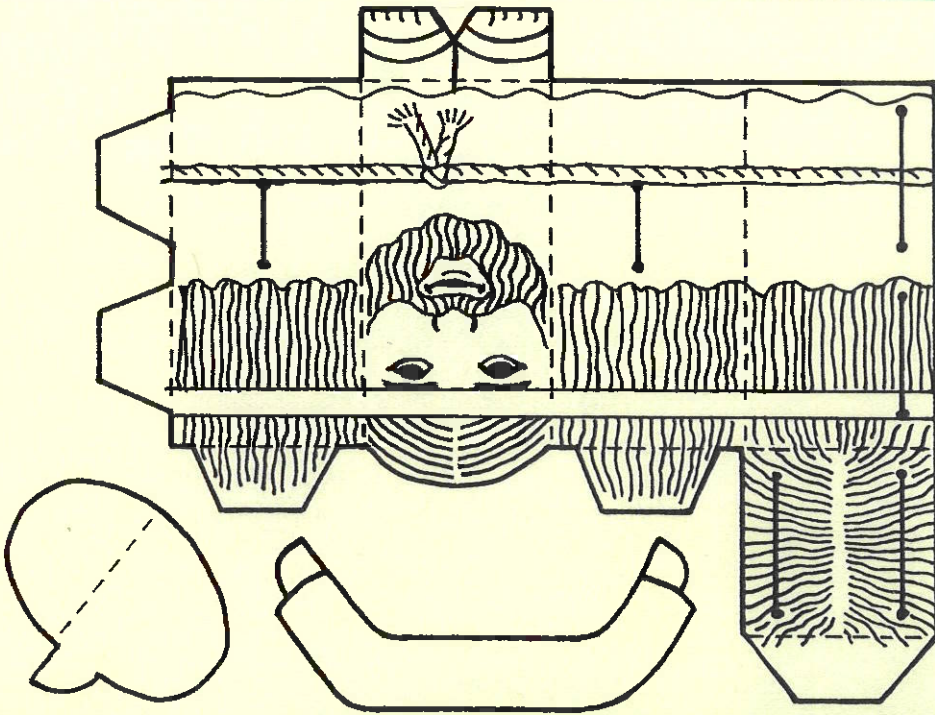
No one knows where the vast **universe** ends or if heaven is in a different realm.

No one knows where the phrase "**Heavens to Betsy!**" came from either.

Can I Take the Stairs?

The disciples had seen some strange things in their time

with Jesus, but watching his ascension to heaven must have surprised even these experienced believers. Create a mini-disciple by coloring in the face and clothes of the fellow below. Then follow the cutting, folding, and gluing directions from your leader. What were they thinking, watching Jesus' ascent to heaven? You decide and write it in the thought bubble!



Lie on the ground and **look up** at heaven for several minutes.

Pray to the Holy Spirit.

Help **lift someone up** from a fall or a bad mood.

Practice relaxation techniques.

Be a witness to the goodness of another person being bad-talked.



clouds calling

At the Ascension, Jesus said goodbye to his disciples and went to wait for them in heaven. To decode the message below, cross out the letters that are in the word 'CLOUD':



clouds calling solution

At the Ascension, Jesus said goodbye to his disciples and went to wait for them in heaven. To decode the message below, cross out the letters that are in the word 'CLOUD':



H E W A S T A K E N
A W A Y B Y H I S
F A T H E R I N
T H E S K Y



The Ascension

Acts 1:6-14

When Jesus **rose**, he took us to **new** heights.

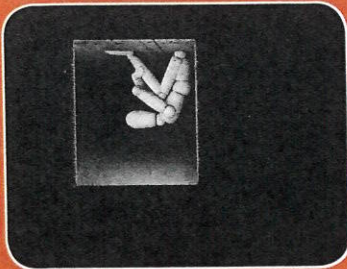


How do you say
goodbye to someone
you'll never forget?

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Grades 5-6, Classroom, The Ascension Lection, Spark, Activate Faith

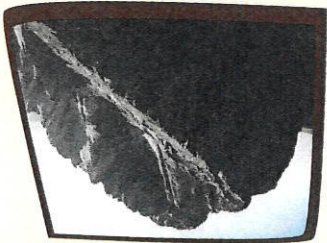
Sad Goodbyes

We've all had them—times we had to say goodbye to someone when we didn't want to go, or didn't want them to go. Share a story about a sad goodbye you've faced, and how you dealt with it.



High and Holy

When Jesus rises to heaven, he's following a tradition in Judaism, Christianity and other faiths that associates holiness with great heights. Some holy places associated with high elevations include:



Mt. Sinai: This 7500 foot (2,286 m) peak in the Sinai Peninsula is where Moses received The Ten Commandments from God.

Mt. Hira: On this mountain near Mecca in the year 610 C.E., Muhammad was visited in a cave by the angel Gabriel, marking the start of the Islamic faith.

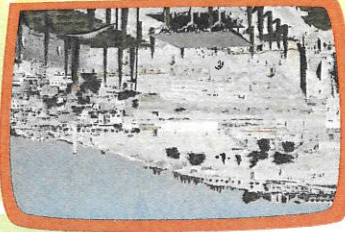
Mt. Olivet: Also known as the Mount of Olives, this is the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem—and where he ascended into heaven.

Mt. Olympus: Greece's highest mountain, which rises to 9,577 feet (2919 m), was home to Zeus and the Greek gods.

Mt. Tai Shan: This sacred Taoist mountain site in Shandong province, visited by some 72 Chinese emperors, contains a "stairway to heaven" to the summit. Chinese tradition states those who scale this mountain will live to be 100.

Did You Know?

The Mount of Olives, where Jesus ascended, contains an estimated 150,000 graves. Among those biblical figures buried there, by tradition, include Zechariah and Absalom. Also buried there: Menachem Begin, the sixth Prime Minister of modern-day Israel, who died in 1992.



Besides the Ascension, the Mount of Olives is associated with many other biblical events and prophecies. One prediction

has God splitting the mountain in two, with one half shifting north and the other shifting south. To find out where this is recorded, turn to **page 1049** in your Spark Bible.



Different Views of Ascension

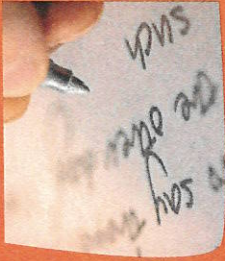
The Ascension as recorded in Acts has been differently understood and related over the centuries in Christianity. There's even one different Bible account of it!



- in the Gospel of Luke, Bethany is mentioned as the spot of Jesus' rise into heaven.
- Some Gnostics apparently believed the Ascension happened 18 months after the Resurrection.
- Eastern Orthodox Christians believe the Ascension completes the union of God and man, and raises humans to a higher level—even than that of humans before the fall in the Garden of Eden.
- Catholics believe the Chapel of the Ascension in Jerusalem, which shares its space with a mosque, contains a stone imprinted with Jesus' footprints before he rose.
- Presbyterians believe that Jesus rose to sit at God's right hand, as stated in the Westminster Confession: "He ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father."

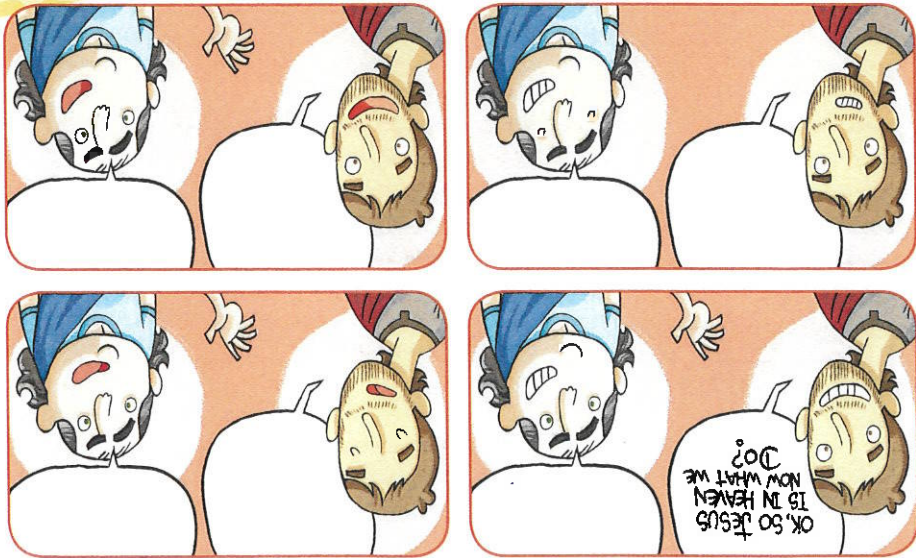
Disciple Ascension Diary

Like the disciples who said goodbye to Jesus, we're awaiting the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised. What would you say to Jesus today? Write your thoughts here.



Walk the disciples' Talk

It's a lonnngng walk back from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem and boy are the followers tired ... and hot ... and confused ... and lonely ... and excited. Complete this four-frame cartoon with the first bubble filled in.



Faith on the Go!

The Ascension shows us what the disciples are ready to do with Jesus gone. They haven't received Holy Spirit power yet ... but they're ready to pray and walk together until they get it. What do you pray for fervently, and who's walking with you? Jesus, who's still in heaven, is willing to hear.

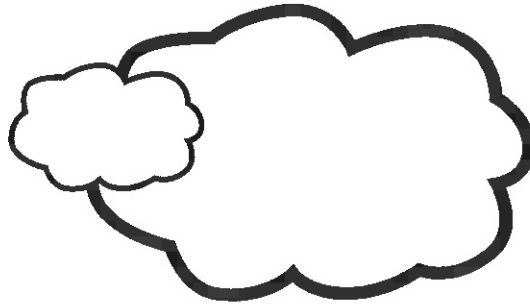
Memory Verse

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. Acts 1:8



cloudy with a chance of Paradise

Lots of people think they can see things in the clouds. When Jesus ascended to heaven, his disciples watched him in the sky. What do you know about different kinds of clouds? Try to match these facts in the Cloud Quiz to find out!



often look like a mushroom.

called "middle cloud" because of where they are in the atmosphere.

are usually puffy.

clouds that form from jet plane exhaust.

cloud that forms on the ground.

are often seen before extreme weather like tornadoes.

rarely lead to rain.

Stratocumulus clouds

Cumulus

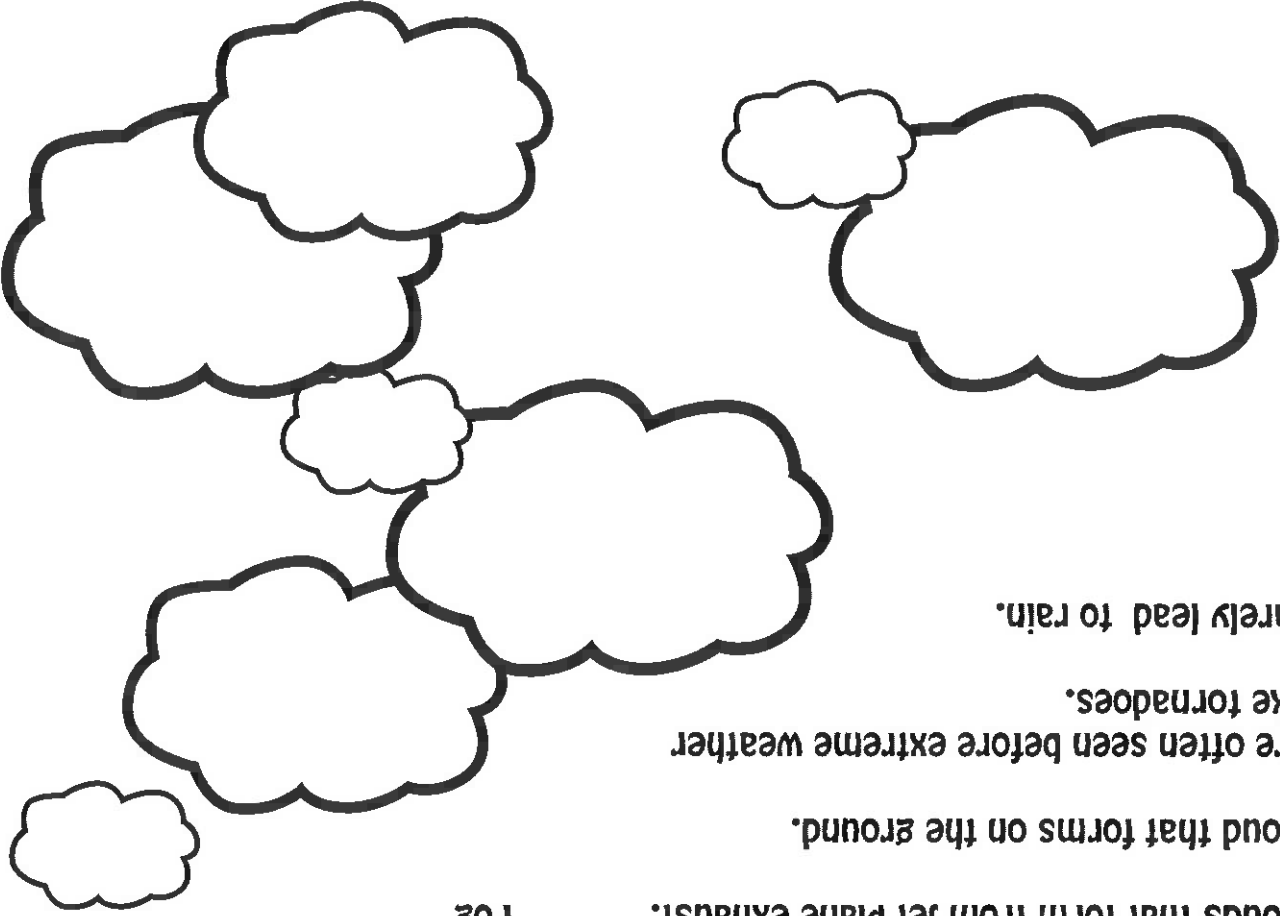
Green clouds

Cumulonimbus clouds

Contrails

Altostratus clouds

Fog



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