

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD IS WORKING IN THE WAITING

Acts 1:1-14 Jesus ascends to Heaven

Each child will need:

→ Scissors, pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ Several artistic images of the Ascension – see Tell It section

→ Research chatterbox craft

→ Scissors, pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Start with a sound effect!

🗨 **Say:** We are going to do an activity together where you will need to follow simple instructions. As you do, listen carefully to what you can hear.

Go through the following sequence:

→ Rub thumb and forefinger together

→ Rub hands together

→ Snap fingers

→ Clap hands

→ Slap thighs

→ Stomp feet

→ Slap thighs

→ Clap hands

→ Snap fingers

→ Rub hands

→ Rub thumb and forefinger together

→ Hands on lap

Ask: What did you hear? (It might remind the children of the sounds of a rainstorm, getting more intense and then easing.)

🗨 **Say:** Sometimes we do not know what the impact will be from what is happening. Clicking fingers and stomping feet on their own would not create a rainstorm, but when done as part of the sequence they contributed to something bigger. In our story today, we will read about the end of Jesus' life on Earth and what the disciples did next.

Sing It

This song is a gentle yet powerful reminder that we can pray to God at any time of day and he will always be there for us.

'I will pray' by Yancy & Little Praise Party (2 mins 54 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzoA-sy1foU>

Tell It

Ask: What are some of the stories about Jesus that you know?

🗨️ **Say:** This story happens after Jesus' death and resurrection and after he has spent 40 more days on Earth.

Video

Watch the video *Ascension of Jesus Christ* (1 min 30 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD0LNtc1UE4>

Screen share some different artistic interpretations of the Ascension and ask the children to share their views of the artwork.

Discuss:

- How do you think the disciples would have felt seeing Jesus leave?
- How would you have felt seeing Jesus ascend to Heaven?

🗨️ **Say:** The story continues in this way:

Bible reading

Read Acts 1:10-14 (*ICB*).

'As he was going, they were looking into the sky. Suddenly, two men wearing white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? You saw Jesus taken away from you into Heaven. He will come back in the same way you saw him go."

'Then they went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. (This mountain is about half a mile from Jerusalem.) When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon (known as the Zealot), and Judas son of James were there. They all continued praying together. Some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers were also there with the apostles.'

Discuss:

- Who do you think the two men wearing white clothes were?
- Why did they come?
- What do you think the disciples prayed about?
- Why do you think Jesus left them?
- What happens next?

Action It

Ask: How might God speak to you?

🗨️ **Say:** We believe there are various ways God speaks to us. These include:

- through verses and stories in the Bible;
- through others;
- through thoughts, feelings and our inner voice;
- and through our personal circumstances.

Ask: How do you know it is God speaking?

🗨️ **Say:** A hard question to answer is whether what we are hearing is really from God. It is completely natural to wonder if the thoughts are coming from God or from yourself. However, through continued prayer and listening, we can learn to distinguish God's voice from our own.

🗨️ **Say:** Some things you can do to help you understand this is consider:

- Is what you heard agreeing with the Bible?

→ What do other people think about it?

→ Does it honour God?

🗨️ **Say:** Sometimes God seems silent. But we have faith that God is still there and we rely on God's timing. God loves the world. He is always at work through his people. As we pray, God might give you places, names, issues ... Where does he want us to join in with him?

Chatterbox craft

🗨️ **Say:** A chatterbox is a simple paper craft which creates conversation – speaking and listening. We are going to make one to prompt our speaking and listening with God in our prayer time.

Explain to the group how to make a chatterbox.

For the outer two sections, use numbers and colours. On the inside, on four of the eight sections write these phrases:

→ Ask God a question

→ Listen

→ Talk about your day

→ Tell God who you think needs his help

Let children fill in the other four sections, or they can repeat the phrases.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** Through our sessions, we have explored different ways to pray.

Ask: What ways do you find helpful to pray?

Give children time to share. You could prompt with different ways if necessary: talking, writing, drawing, moving our bodies, silence, stillness, making, labyrinths ...

🗨️ **Say:** We learn from many people who follow God in the Bible that it can take time to understand what God is saying to us. But through patience, perseverance, and commitment to prayer, many people have come to understand what God is saying to them.

Ask: Is there a time you find helpful for prayer? (Give time for children to respond.)

What else could you do or not do to spend more time with God? (Give time for children to respond.)

Invite members of the group to pray.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.