The Ascension of Jesus

A promise, a blessing, and a mission

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:16 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Jesus ascends to the Father, promises the Holy Spirit, and sends his disciples to share the good news.

Learning goals Children will recall the promise and mission, explain that Jesus has not abandoned the Church, and name a way to share his love.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: What helps you carry out a difficult task? Watch for the help Jesus promises his friends and the mission he gives them.

Watch and notice

Notice Jesus blessing the disciples, the cloud, the angels' message, and the disciples returning to Jerusalem with hope.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What help did Jesus promise?
The Holy Spirit would give the disciples strength for their mission.

2. What mission did he give his friends?
To be his witnesses and share the good news, reaching beyond their own town.

3. What did the angels tell the disciples?
Jesus would come again; the disciples should continue the mission rather than simply stare at the sky.

4. How can you share Jesus's love today?
Pray, speak truthfully, include someone, forgive, or help with an appropriate task.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

The Ascension of Jesus

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw Jesus blessing his friends, then a loving action that continues their mission.

Read & Write Identify the Holy Spirit's promise, recall the mission, and plan a loving action.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use picture prompts for blessing, prayer, and helping.

Ages 9-11: read Acts 1:8 and trace the mission from Jerusalem outward.

Our circle of witness | Optional 4 minutes

Draw three circles labeled home, school, and wider world. Put one safe way to share Jesus's love in each. Choose one action for this week, such as welcoming a classmate or praying for others.

Look for understanding Look for the promised Holy Spirit, the disciples' mission, and an everyday action rather than a claim that heaven is a place we can locate on a map.

Closing prayer Risen Jesus, you live with the Father and stay close to your Church. Send your Spirit to help us share your love. Amen.

At home Read Acts 1:8 with an adult and choose one way to share Jesus's love at home.

Handout answer notes Promise: Holy Spirit. Mission: be Jesus's witnesses and share the good news. Plans: specific safe acts of love, prayer, or service.

Teach with care

Introduce the Ascension as part of Easter, after Jesus's Resurrection. Children may ask about separation; reassure them that Jesus remains with his Church. The video combines Acts 1, Luke 24, and Jesus's promise in John 16 in a simplified retelling; some dialogue and details are paraphrased or dramatized. The Ascension is Christ entering divine glory, not a trip to a planet. Prayer, Scripture, and the Eucharist express distinct ways Christ is present.

Words to explain Ascension: the risen Jesus entering heavenly glory with the Father. Witness: someone who tells what they know and lives it faithfully. Holy Spirit: the third Person of the Trinity.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English subtitle

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14 - USCCB

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53 - USCCB