

LESSON NO. 1 TITLE: JESUS RETURNS TO HIS FATHER IN HEAVEN

Achievement Objective

Children will be able to: recognise that the Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' return to his Father in heaven.

Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 recognise that *Ascension* is the name of a feast day which celebrates the return of Jesus to heaven
- 2 recognise the story of Jesus' return to his Father in heaven

Preparation for the Lesson:

- One large candle and smaller candles for each child
- The story "Jesus Goes Home" from "The Beginner's Bible", page 496, or prepare to retell the story from Acts 1:1-11
- Portions of clay for modelling, or alternative choice of art materials
- Caption card for *Ascension Day*
- Balloons - 1 for each child
- Children's Activity, page 43 - copy for each child

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.

Acts 1:11



Teacher's Notes:

Ascension Day is a special day when we remember the story of what happened to Jesus after Easter.

The word *ascension* means going up.

After Jesus rose from death he stayed among the people for 40 days. Jesus wanted them to know he was alive. Jesus also wanted to help people to understand the reign of God better.

Forty days after Easter it was time for Jesus to go home to his Father in heaven.

Jesus told his friends to carry on his work throughout the whole world. Then Jesus disappeared from his disciples' sight. They stood looking up, wondering where Jesus had gone, until two messengers from God told the disciples that Jesus had gone to his Father in heaven.

On *Ascension Day* we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven. We don't see him any more, but we know he still shares his life and love - aroha with us.

Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children gather in a circle around a lighted candle set in the middle of smaller candles not yet lighted.
- Children are shown the caption card and practise saying the word *ascension*.
- Children listen to the story of the *Ascension* from "The Beginner's Bible" or other source.
- Small candles are lighted from central candle which represents Jesus.
- Children are encouraged to 'wonder' what happened, what the friends of Jesus saw. We go on wondering, because we don't really know how the *Ascension* happened, only that it did happen. Children share ideas and questions.
- Children continue to reflect and wonder while modelling the story from clay, or using some other art form.
- At prayer time children light small candles from the central Christ candle as a sign that Jesus shares his love and life with us.

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Write messages for Jesus on some balloons, and let them go in the wind
- Have a guided meditation outside, where the children are invited to imagine Jesus there in front of them, and then Jesus not there. Gaze into the sky for a little while
- Children's Activity

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Refer to Children's Activity
- **LO 2** Children explain their models or artwork