

## LESSON NO. 1 TITLE: THE ASCENSION IS PART OF THE EASTER SEASON

### Achievement Objective

Children will be able to: identify that Jesus' return to the right hand of God is part of the Easter event.

#### Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 retell the story of Jesus' *Ascension* on the 7th Sunday of Easter
- 2 recognise that the Church celebrates the *Ascension* on the 7th Sunday of Easter
- 3 recall that, when Jesus returns to God, his Spirit or presence is everywhere

#### Preparation for the Lesson:

- Photograph Resource - The *Liturgical Year* Calendar or enlarge, photocopy and colour the *Liturgical Year* Calendar, page 3
- Scripture Reading The story of the *Ascension* from Acts 1:6-11
- Materials required for the retelling of the story of the *Ascension*
- Paper for cloud shapes, scissors

#### Teacher's Notes:

The story of Easter doesn't end on Easter Sunday. Two other important parts of the story are told and celebrated several weeks later. *Ascension Day* is celebrated on the 7th Sunday of Easter. On that day people remember how Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. A week later the coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated on *Pentecost Sunday*.

The story of Jesus' return to his Father is told in the book of the Acts of the Apostles written by St Luke.

St Luke says that, as Jesus was lifted up, a cloud hid him from sight. Writers of the Bible sometimes used the idea of a cloud to show that God was present. In his story of the *Ascension*, St Luke wanted to show that Jesus was going from this world into the presence of God his Father.

If Jesus had stayed on earth forever, people would have had to travel to his home to be with him. But now, because he is with God, he is everywhere. People can be with Jesus any time, and in any place. Clouds moving across the sky can remind us of the presence of Jesus everywhere.

So people celebrate the *Ascension* of Jesus as part of the good news of Easter - Jesus is alive, Jesus is with God and with us for ever.

**Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious Kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever.**

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#### Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- The children listen to the story of the *Ascension* of Jesus, read or retold from the Bible.
- Children locate *Ascension Day* on the *Liturgical Year* Calendar, noting that it is part of the Easter season.
- Children prepare to share the story with Year 2 children, either writing and illustrating the story in pairs or small groups, or preparing a dramatisation.
- Children share the story with the younger children, and reflect afterwards on the experience. They tell a partner how they felt sharing the good news in this way.
- Children go outside to look at clouds, sometimes seen as a *sign* of God's presence.
- Cut cloud shapes from paper, and write on them a prayer to take home for *Ascension Day*.

#### Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Children share some of their cloud prayers at class prayer time

#### Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Refer to the third Teaching and Learning Experience
- **LO 2** Refer to the second Teaching and Learning Experience
- **LO 3** Children share with a partner one way they remember that Jesus is present everywhere

**Teacher's Note:** The Children's Home Activity for the lesson on Pentecost needs to be completed at home before the lesson is taken.

