



Welcome Time

Welcome to the at Home Messy Church session for May. This month our session is called

up

up

and

away!

and is the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus to heaven.

Why not start this Messy Church session with one of the worksheets that are about Ascension.

Sheet 1 - Colour in the Ascension picture.

Sheet 2 - Ascension puzzle.

Go to this webpage and choose which size puzzle to print and colour!

[jesus-ascension-puzzle1.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.wordpress.com/jesus-ascension-puzzle1.pdf)



'...he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight'. Acts 1:9



Celebration Time.

Has there been a time when you felt abandoned or alone? Maybe you have been in a shop with your family and you were distracted and when you looked around your family were gone! Perhaps, your friends left you all alone and went off to play a different game? I wonder how you have felt or how you would feel if this happened?

When a person is left all alone they may feel abandoned or deserted. For the few minutes you may have felt frightened and alone. However, as soon as you were reunited with your family or friends you would feel relieved and comforted.

Jesus' disciples spent three years with Him; they heard Him teach about God's Kingdom and saw Him perform miracles. When Jesus died on the cross, they may have felt abandoned. They believed Jesus was God's son and now He was dead and had left them. However, Jesus was not dead but came back to life and appeared to his disciples over the next 40 days.

Ascension is the celebration of the time when Jesus goes into Heaven. Ascension reminds us of who Jesus was, and that He has gone to prepare a place for us. We await His return, but know that He is with us still.

Why not start the celebration time by reading the Ascension story in Acts 1:1-11.

Dear Theophilus:

In my first book I wrote about all the things that Jesus did and taught from the time he began his work until the day he was taken up to heaven. Before he was taken up, he gave instructions by the power of the Holy Spirit to the men he had chosen as his apostles. For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God. And when they came together he gave them this order: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?" Jesus said to them, "The times and occasions are set by my Father's own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, 'Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven.' The disciples watch Jesus go up into Heaven. We do not see Jesus from day to day, but we know that He is still with us and loves us. Because of that, we should also love one another and tell others about Christ, as we eagerly await His eventual return.

Watch Steve, our minister, on our Facebook page as he talks about Ascension.

Why not watch and join in with this song. It tells the Ascension story too! -

The Jesus Song - [LYRICS \(Jesus Song\) - YouTube](#)



Craft Time

1. Jesus Ascends.

Talk about - the Ascension story as Jesus was taken up into heaven.

You will need: paper cup, blue paint or tissue paper, white paper, pens, string, glue, cellotape and cotton wool.

- Cover a cup in blue paper or paint it blue to represent the sky.
- Glue cotton wool balls to the cup to make 'clouds' in your sky.
- Make a small hole in the top of the cup.
- On white paper, draw a picture of Jesus, the sun and a cloud.
- Colour the pictures in and cut them out.
- Stick the sun to the cloud so that it shines out from behind.
- On the cloud write -
'While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken into heaven.'
- Make a loop in the top of your string and stick the cloud and sun close to this.
- Put the string through the cup and glue Jesus to the bottom of your string.

Watch as Jesus moves up, up and away, into the sky

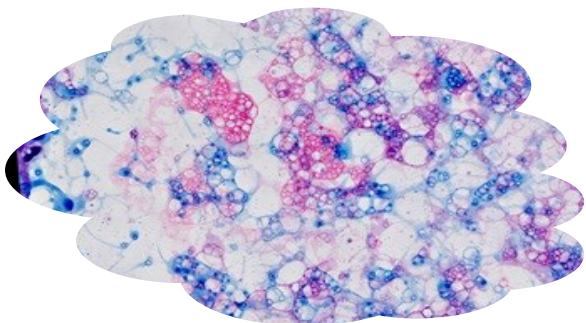


2. Bubble Prayer Clouds.

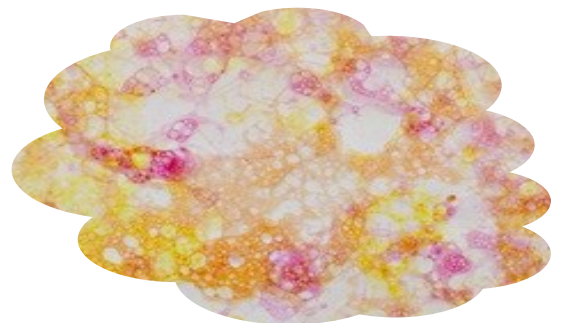
Talk about - While you blow the bubbles in this craft, think about how Jesus was taken up, up and away into the clouds. Just like bubbles that float up, up and away, we can send our prayers to God. As you watch the bubbles float away, say; 'Jesus, you may be far away but you are always with me.'

You will need: paint, a straw, water, washing-up liquid, container for the paint, white paper, scissors.

- Mix your paint with a little water and a squirt of washing-up liquid.
- Stir it up together in a container.
- Blow into the paint mixture with a straw and create lots and lots of bubbles.
- Cut out a cloud shape from the white paper.
- Gently place the paper over the bubbles to take a print from them, remove, and allow to dry.



Write a prayer or message on the back of your prayer cloud.





Craft Time

3. Up, up and away!

Talk about - A kite can make people smile as it bobs around in the sky and it makes us think of Jesus going up into heaven.

You will need: pens, scissors, card, string, ribbon and stickers.

- Draw out your kite shape on coloured card and cut it out.
- Make a cross shape with some straws and tie them together.
- Attach the straws to the back of the card and secure with some string.
- Glue this to the back of your kite.
- Attach a longer bit of string to the straw brace and decorate with ribbons.
- Decorate the front of your kite too!



4. Food craft - Cloud biscuits.

Talk about - Jesus went into heaven and '...disappeared into the clouds.'

You will need: plain biscuit, icing sugar, blue food colouring and marshmallows.

- Make blue icing and spread this onto your biscuit base.
- Dot marshmallows onto your biscuits to form 'cloud' shapes or add swirls of white icing.
- As you eat your cloud biscuits, remember that Jesus disappeared into the clouds as he went to heaven.





Meal Time

Meal suggestion - why not create a meal that reminds you of the Ascension!

Historically, Ascension Day has been a special feast day in the church. Consider making something special for dinner to surprise your family!

For dessert you could create an easy pavlova, meringues or another 'cloud-like' dessert to remember how Jesus went into the clouds. Add in a fizzy drink and watch the bubbles rise as Jesus rose to heaven!

Let us pray before eating together;

We thank you Lord for the food before us

The shelter around us

The family beside us

And the love between us.

Amen.

If you would like to share your Messy Church activities please send any photos to #tmcfamily.

God bless you all and we pray that you keep safe and well over the coming weeks -

From the TMC Messy Church Team.