

Ascension Day

This Christian festival is celebrated 40 days after Easter, and reminds Christians of the story of how Jesus ascended to heaven leaving his disciples.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which pictures did you like?
Which pictures didn't you like?
- ③ Ask the children to talk about how they feel saying goodbye to someone special.
- ④ Jesus liked to go to the mountains.
Where do you like to go? Talk about your favourite place.
- ⑤ Go outside with the children and look at the clouds.
How many different shaped clouds can they see?
- ⑥ Ask the children to draw a picture of clouds.
Are they rainy ones or white ones?

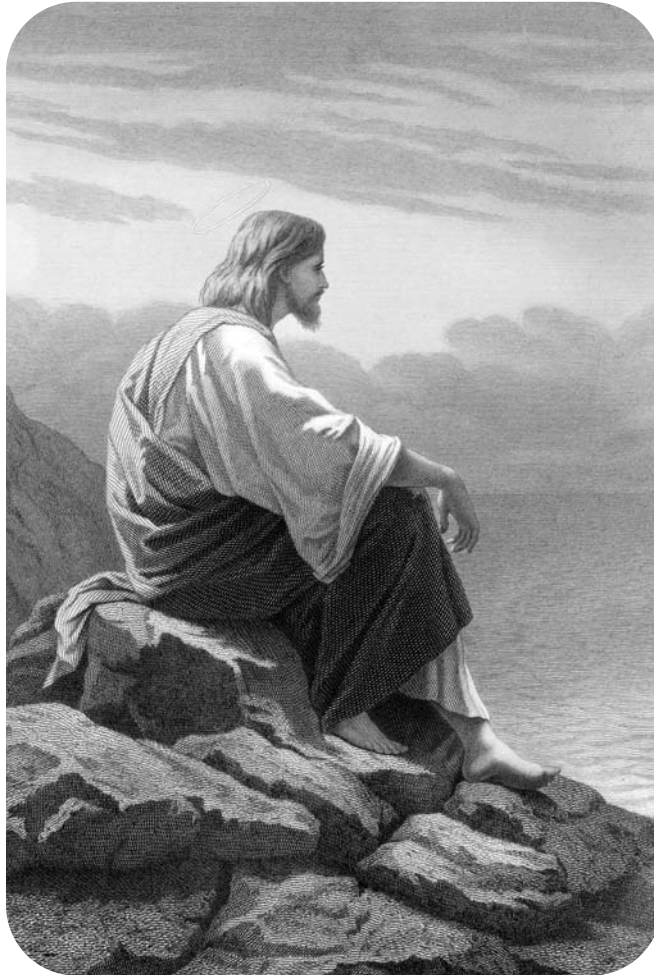
The Story of the Ascension



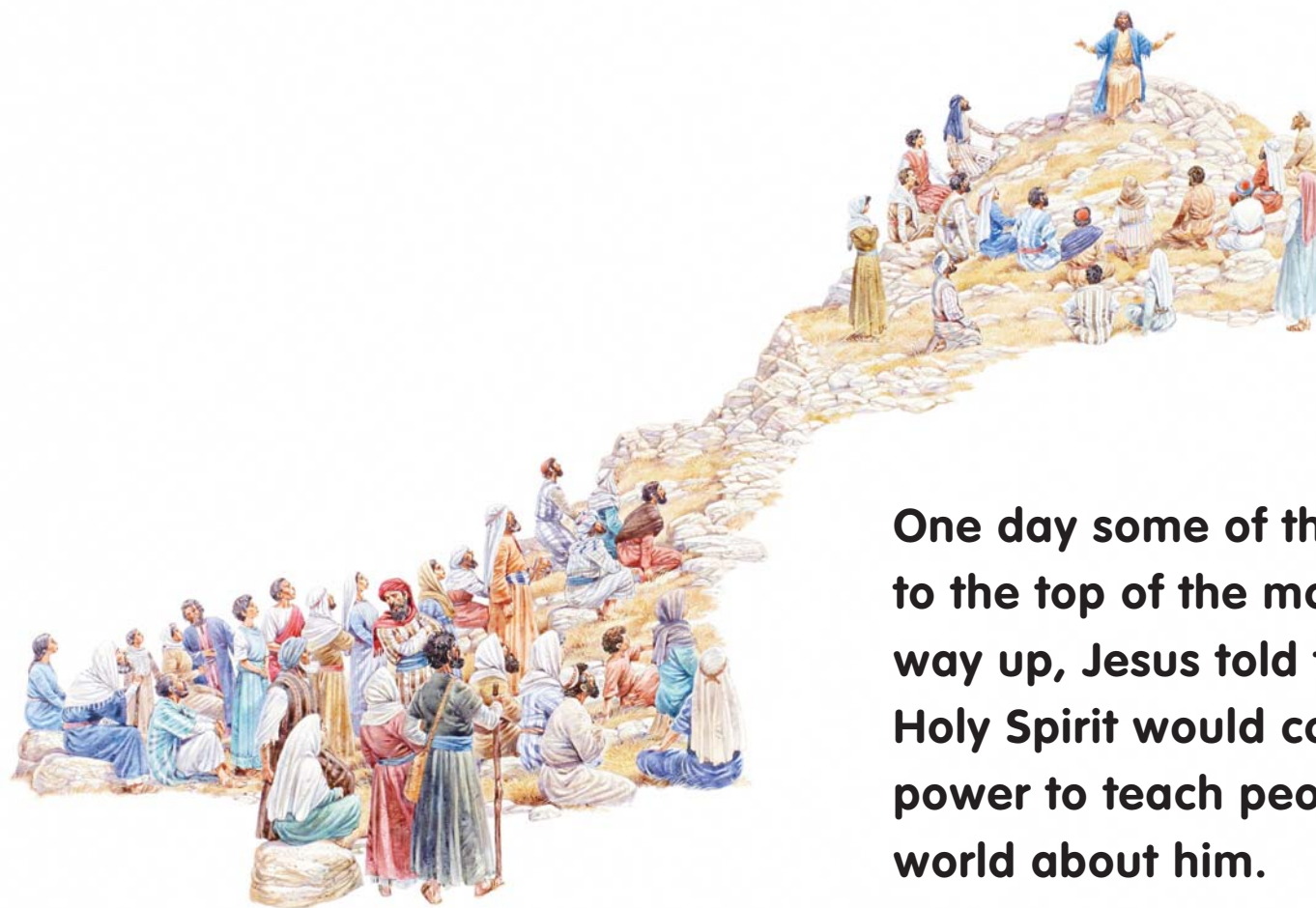
After Jesus arose from the dead that first Easter Sunday, he spent forty days walking and talking with his closest friends and followers.



They were thrilled that Jesus was alive again, and they listened very carefully to every word as he taught them more about the kingdom of God.



One of Jesus' favourite places was on top of a mountain. He would go there often to be alone and talk to God.



One day some of them followed him to the top of the mountain. On the way up, Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come to give them power to teach people all over the world about him.



When Jesus finished talking about the Holy Spirit, a very strange, miraculous thing happened. They watched in amazement as a cloud appeared out of heaven. It surrounded Jesus and lifted him up.



He disappeared out of their sight. They had never seen anything like that, and they couldn't believe their eyes! They just stood there staring up into the sky! The disciples were sad that Jesus had gone from them and returned to Jerusalem.