

April 26 – An Ascending Truth

Bible Passage: Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11

Bible Story: Jesus Ascends

Resources (next two pages)

Lesson 8 Opening

Lesson 8 Handout

Jesus Ascends into Heaven coloring page

Scripture Snapshot

During His last days on earth, Jesus instructs His disciples, preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead. Gathering His disciples on the Mount of Olives one last time, Jesus physically ascends to heaven. Two angels repeat Christ's promise to return in the same way He ascended into heaven.

Talking Points

Jesus ascended to the Father's side to reign as King of His people. He continues to be with His people, working through the Spirit in the Means of Grace and enabling us to serve Him in our vocations, showing and telling others about His great love.

What jobs do you do? What jobs did Jesus do before He returned to heaven?

If you have stairs, walk up them and as you do, identify different ways God has lifted you up on sad days. Pray together, thanking Him for always being with you, even when you cannot see Him.

Some people you love are out of sight. Who are they? When Jesus ascended, the disciples couldn't see Him anymore. Those who believe in Jesus trust in Him by faith (not by sight).

Other Ideas

Use a pinwheel, paper fan, or inflated balloon to talk about air. We can't see air moving, but we know it is there because we see what it does. Jesus is with us here too, even though we can't see Him.

On a warm, sunny day, take children outside to a concrete area with a bucket/pan of water and towels. Have children take off their socks and shoes and dip their feet in the water, then walk on the concrete. Watch the footprints disappear. Where did they go? Talk about evaporation. Jesus will never go away. Even though we can't see Him, He promises that He is with us always. He cares for us and blesses us each day.

[The Skit Guys](#) – Ascension

Song – [Do you know who died for me?](#) with actions!

Song – [Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow](#)

Still applicable:

Share your favorite Easter hymns; look them up on YouTube, perhaps including "Concordia Publishing House" in your search.

Song – [I Know that My Redeemer Lives](#)

Song – [At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing](#)

It's time to bring back: [Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise](#) (organ plays, lyrics on the screen)

[Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise](#) (sung by a children's choir)

LESSON 8 OPENING

AN ASCENDING TRUTH: JESUS ASCENDS

Do you enjoy playing ball? *Allow students to respond.* I do too! That’s why I brought along this ball to help with today’s message. *Place ball in front of children.* I wonder if this ball is equipped with batteries? *Inspect the ball.* No, there’s no place for batteries. Perhaps an engine makes it roll. *Inspect the ball again.* No, I don’t see a place to provide gas for an engine. Maybe it has a string attached. *Inspect the ball again.* Nope, no string. Tell me, how do you get a ball rolling? *You push it or roll it.*

You must push, throw, or kick a ball to get it moving. Does a ball ever quit rolling on its own? *The ball will stop by itself unless someone keeps pushing or throwing or kicking it.*

We Christians are like a ball. We need a push to get us rolling. *Demonstrate with the ball.* The early Christians were like that too. The Bible Book of Acts tells us how they got rolling.

The disciples were speaking with Jesus, and they wanted to know what He would do next. He had already died on the cross and come back to life. Now He was about to enter heaven, and He didn’t want to leave the disciples feeling lonely and powerless. So Jesus made this promise: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit would get the disciples rolling, but rolling where? Their job was to witness. Witnesses tell what they’ve seen. Who had these disciples seen? *They witnessed the life and works of Jesus, the things He did for others.* They had seen the many wonderful things Jesus did. The best thing they had seen was Jesus when He came back to life after dying for our sins.

Where were the disciples supposed to witness? *Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the whole earth.* The disciples needed lots of power to do their witnessing. The Holy Spirit rolled them from place to place, spreading the Good News about Jesus. Many people believed the witnesses, so many people became Christians.

Now all this took place about two thousand years ago. That’s a long time to keep a story rolling! You and I hear the same message that people heard when the disciples first began witnessing. The Holy Spirit keeps adding more and more believers to Jesus’ family. Will people two thousand years from now need this message? They surely will! How can we keep the Good News rolling until then? *They can tell friends and family members about Jesus. When they are older, they might work in the church as a full-time worker.*

We have the same power that pushed the first Christians into sharing the message. The Holy Spirit lives in us, so we have the gift of faith too. We can tell all who will listen that Jesus took away their sins. They can believe this message because it’s God’s own words from the Bible.

You can use the Holy Spirit’s power when you get older too. Someday you might teach Sunday School or become a pastor or church worker. And if you become a mom or dad, you can tell your kids the Good News you already know. Then they’ll tell their kids, who will tell their kids, who will tell their kids—for another two thousand years—or more!

Pray: Heavenly Father, You give us faith through the Holy Spirit. Help us share our faith in Jesus, our Savior, through Your Holy Word. Let us be Your witnesses in the world today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Luke 24:44–53; Acts 1:1–11

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus ascended to heaven.

FAITH FOCUS

Confession

LAW & GOSPEL

We live as though Jesus is not active in our lives and the world.

Jesus bodily ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us, promising always to be with us.

BIBLE VERSE

[Jesus says,] “I am with you always.” Matthew 28:20

VISUAL HELPS

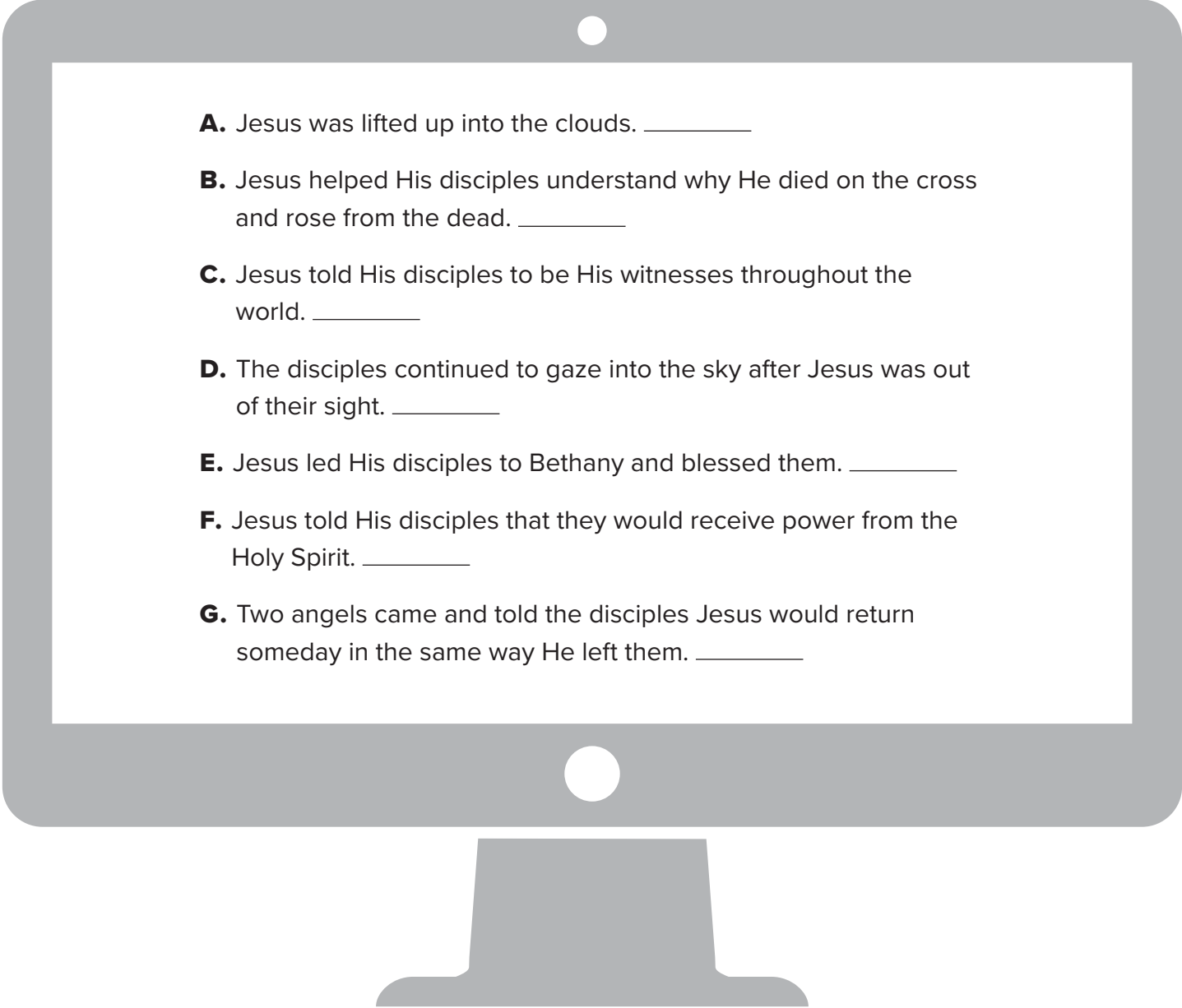
A ball

AN ASCENDING TRUTH—JESUS ASCENDS

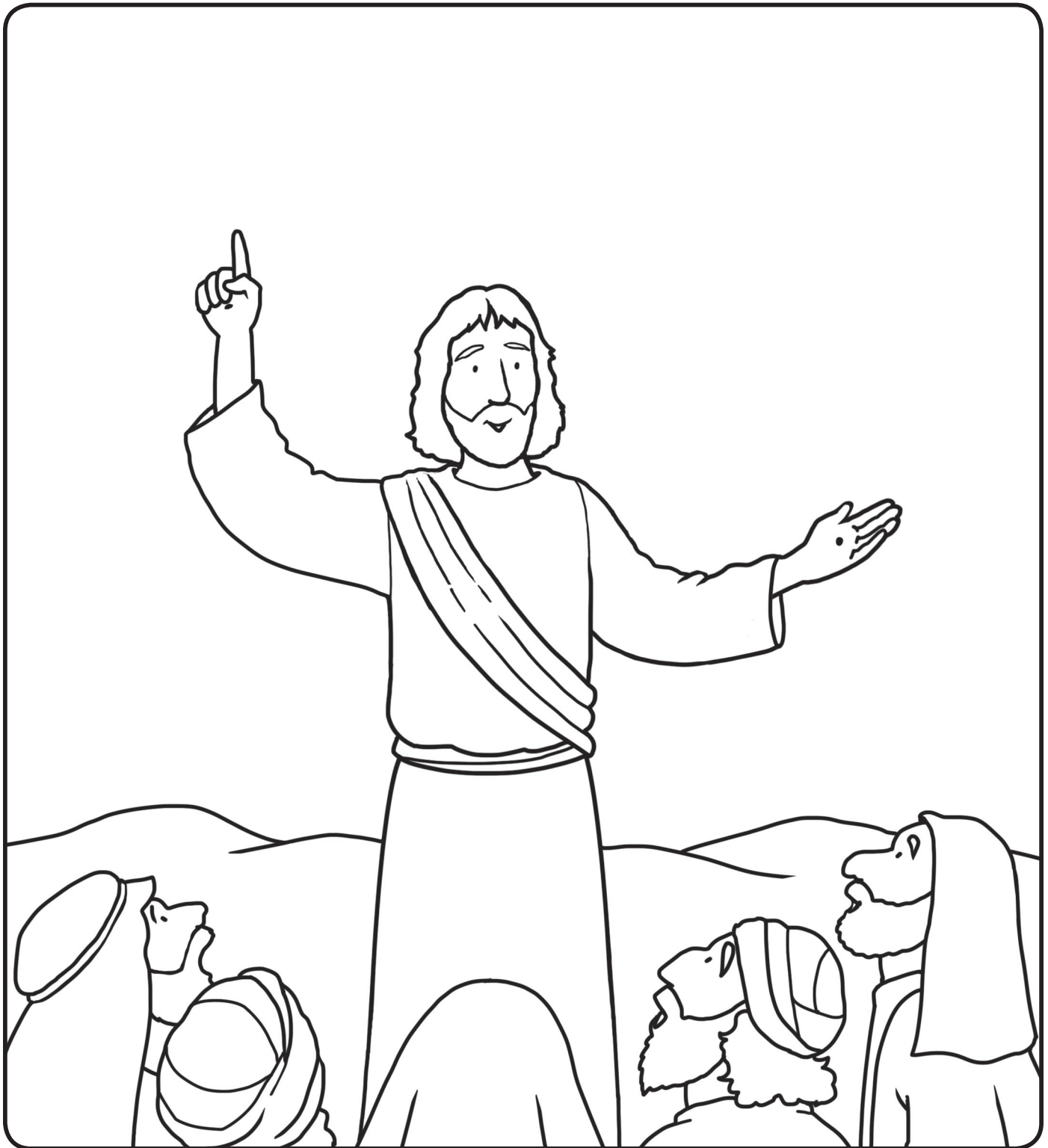
Unit 3, Lesson 8

Ascension Facts

Directions: Nate accidentally hit the wrong key on his computer and mixed up the order of the facts about Jesus' ascension into heaven. Number the facts on the computer screen so that they are now in the order in which they happened.

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- A. Jesus was lifted up into the clouds. _____
 - B. Jesus helped His disciples understand why He died on the cross and rose from the dead. _____
 - C. Jesus told His disciples to be His witnesses throughout the world. _____
 - D. The disciples continued to gaze into the sky after Jesus was out of their sight. _____
 - E. Jesus led His disciples to Bethany and blessed them. _____
 - F. Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. _____
 - G. Two angels came and told the disciples Jesus would return someday in the same way He left them. _____

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised His disciples, **“I am with you always”** (Matthew 28:20). We are Jesus' disciples today. How can His promise give you courage to tell others the truth about Him?



Finish & Color

Draw or glue cotton balls over Jesus to make a cloud. Jesus told His disciples He was going back to heaven to make a home for all who believe in Him. Then a cloud took Him from their sight. I wonder . . . what do you think your home in heaven will be like?



Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. **Luke 10:20**