

Awesome Ascension

By Beth Beall



The ascension of Jesus is a strange and amazing story. We'll hear the story, look at different artists' ideas of this event, and create our own picture.



For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Drawing paper, pencil *or* markers *or* colored pencils

by [Waiting For The Word](http://WaitingForTheWord.com)

Activity Plan

1. Prayer helps us to quiet down and listen for God. Begin this activity by praying the prayer below.

Your love and power are everywhere, Jesus. This is hard for me to understand! But still I say thank you. Open my eyes to see more of your love and power today. Amen.

2. The story of Easter does not end with God raising Jesus to new life. Read the story below to see what happens next.

The Story of the Ascension

For forty wonderful days, Jesus was with us. He ate with us, and talked with us. He laughed with us and asked us questions. He was still the Jesus we used to know, but at the same time, everything about him seemed brand new. It's hard to explain. All I know is that he was alive, more alive than any of us, if that makes any sense. Yet those scars in his hands and feet, and that horrible scar on the side of his chest, reminded us that he had been really and truly dead. Dead, and now alive, full of life that seemed like it would never die again.

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus led us out toward a mountain called the Mount of Olives. From the Mount of Olives you could look upon the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the place where Jesus had been condemned to die. Do you remember that story? He was condemned to die because the people in charge were afraid that Jesus would take away *their* power so that *he* could be in charge. Now Jesus had gathered us to look upon Jerusalem once again. For a long while Jesus didn't say anything. He simply looked at us with love in his eyes. My heart began to burn within me. I started to understand that the people who were so afraid of Jesus had gotten it all wrong! Jesus didn't want to control them in the way that they controlled others. His power does not make other people weak. My heart and my mind grew silent on that mountain, and I



understood that the power of Jesus is the power of God's love. And this love just doesn't make sense to people who think that power is about weapons and hurting and control.

While I was lost in thought, Jesus suddenly began to speak. "The same Spirit of God that fills me is going to come and fill you. When that happens, you will tell and show others that God is the true ruler over all, because God is love. Nothing is more powerful than God's love! You will share this good news with your family, with your friends, with people you don't even know yet."

Jesus was still speaking when something incredible happened. A cloud surrounded him. A cloud! In our holy scriptures, clouds are often a sign of God's presence. All of us who were there with Jesus sensed that God was among us. In that moment, I realized like never before that God and Jesus were one. The cloud lifted into the sky, as if to place Jesus on a throne over the entire universe, as if to say, "Love is the only true power." We couldn't see Jesus anymore, and a voice told us that Jesus would one day return.

This story of what happened forty days after Easter is called the story of the ascension. Ascension means "to go up." But I can tell you that Jesus didn't go "up and away." To me, it's more like Jesus became part of God, touching every single part of the universe, to include up and down and all around. Jesus and God are one, ruling this universe in love. And even though it can be hard to believe at times, there *will* come a day when the entire universe will live in God's love. Maybe people around you don't see it, but you know in your heart that Jesus is the true king, and he rules in love. So live in his kingdom of love as best as you can, because it is the only kingdom that will last forever. To me, that is what ascension is really about.

3. Over the centuries, artists have depicted the story of Jesus' ascension in a variety of ways. Follow the links below to see some paintings and sculptures of the ascension. I wonder which image most captures the sense of "ascension" for you?

[The Ascension by Peter Rogers](#)

[The Ascension - Vanderbilt](#)

[The Ascension2 - Vanderbilt](#)

4. Using drawing paper and a drawing medium of your choice (pencils, markers, colored pencils), create your own image of the ascension. Your picture doesn't have to be realistic. That is, you could use lines and shapes to depict emotions rather than drawing actual people or things.

