

# Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead; this is known as the resurrection. It is a happy occasion.

It is written in the Bible that, after the resurrection, Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers.

## Why did Jesus return after his death?

Through their sadness, the disciples realised that Jesus had returned to them, and they were so happy. Despite having spent many hours listening to Jesus' stories, telling them of his death and resurrection, they had not really understood what he meant.

Jesus returned to them after his death, showing them that what had been said was true. For the next forty days, Jesus lived with his disciples and appeared to them at different times. They were delighted to have him with them once again.



## On the mountain

On the fortieth day, Jesus and his disciples were walking up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A huge cloud came down upon the mountain and, as the disciples watched in amazement, the cloud surrounded Jesus. He was taken up into heaven before their very eyes.

The disciples continued to look at the sky when two men dressed in white stood beside them and asked,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This is the same Jesus who has been taken into heaven”.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and went upstairs to the room where they were staying, and prayed.

The disciples would receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit would help them travel the world teaching people and spreading the good news about Jesus.

**Did you know?: Ascension means to 'go up'.**

# Questions

1. What does the word 'resurrection' mean? Tick one.

- born again
- rose from the dead
- dead forever
- taken to heaven

2. For how long did Jesus live with his disciples after his resurrection?

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3. Find and copy a word that means 'to have been given'.

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4. Fill in the missing words.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit would help them travel the world teaching people and \_\_\_\_\_ the good news about Jesus.

5. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit? Explain your answer fully.

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6. Who do you think the two men dressed in white were and why? Explain your answer fully.

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7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened. One has been done for you.

- Jesus was taken up to heaven.
- 1 Jesus rose from the dead.
- The disciples returned to Jerusalem.
- Jesus returned to the disciples.
- Jesus and his disciples walk up a mountain.

8. Why do you think it is called Ascension Day? Explain your answer fully.

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# Answers

1. What does the word 'resurrection' mean? Tick one.

- born again
- rose from the dead**
- dead forever
- taken to heaven

2. For how long did Jesus live with his disciples after his resurrection?

**forty days**

3. Find and copy a word that means 'to have been given'.

**received**

4. Fill in the missing words.

The **holy** Spirit would help them travel the world teaching people and **spreading** the good news about Jesus.

5. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit because it says in the text that it would help them to travel and to spread the good news of Jesus. Jesus must have thought that it would be a much harder job to do without the Holy Spirit.**

6. Who do you think the two men dressed in white were and why? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the two men dressed in white were angels because it says that they were stood in the sky as the disciples looked up and they knew who the disciples were and who Jesus was.**

7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened. One has been done for you.

- 4 Jesus was taken up to heaven.
- 1 Jesus rose from the dead.
- 5 The disciples returned to Jerusalem.
- 2 Jesus returned to the disciples.
- 3 Jesus and his disciples walk up a mountain.

8. Why do you think it is called Ascension Day? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think it is called Ascension Day because it says in the text that ascension means to 'go up' and that is what Jesus did. Christians remember that Jesus went up in to heaven.**

# Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead. This is known as the resurrection. It is a joyous celebration.

After the resurrection, it is written in the Bible that Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers. At first, some of them had difficulty believing it was really him. After all, they had seen him crucified and buried in a tomb, just a few days before.

## Why did Jesus return after his death?

Despite the many hours spent listening to Jesus' stories, predicting his own death and resurrection, they had not really understood what he meant. When the disciples realised that Jesus had returned to them, they were so happy.

Jesus returned, showing them that what had been predicted was true. For the next forty days, Jesus lived amongst his disciples, appearing to them at different times, and sharing meals with them. They were delighted to have him with them once again.



## On the mountain

On the fortieth day, Jesus and his disciples walked up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A great cloud came down upon the mountain, and as the disciples watched in amazement, the cloud surrounded Jesus. He was taken up to heaven before their very eyes.

The disciples continued to look eagerly at the sky when two men dressed in white stood beside them and asked,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This is the same Jesus who has been taken into heaven”.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and went upstairs to the room where they were staying and joined together in prayer.

Although the disciples did not know what to expect, they would receive the Holy Spirit a few days later. This would be known as Pentecost, and would give them the power and the ability to spread Jesus' good news around the world.

**Did you know?: Ascension means to 'go up'.**

# Questions

1. What word is used to describe Easter Sunday?

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2. Why did some disciples find it hard to believe that it was really Jesus that appeared in front of them? Explain your answer fully.

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3. Find and copy a word which means 'said it was going to happen.'

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4. For how many days did Jesus live amongst his disciples? Tick one.

- fourteen days
- fifty days
- forty days
- forty-four days

5. In your own words, explain what Christians remember at Pentecost.

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6. Fill in the missing words.

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day, Jesus and his disciples walked up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave \_\_\_\_\_ until they had received the gift of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Why do you think it was important that Jesus was taken up to heaven 'before their very eyes'? Explain your answer fully.

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8. For how many days did Jesus live amongst his disciples? Tick one.

- Jerusalem
- Galilee
- Israel
- Jordan

9. How do you think the disciples would have been feeling once they returned to Jerusalem?  
Explain your answer fully.

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# Answers

1. What word is used to describe Easter Sunday?

**joyous**

2. Why did some disciples find it hard to believe that it was really Jesus that appeared in front of them? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that some disciples would have found it hard to believe that it was really Jesus who appeared in front of them because it says in the text that they had seen Jesus be crucified (which means killed) and buried in a tomb just a few days earlier. Nobody had ever been brought back to life before so it would have been a difficult thing to believe.**

3. Find and copy a word which means 'said it was going to happen.'

**joyous**

4. For how many days did Jesus live amongst his disciples? Tick one.

- fourteen days  
 fifty days  
 **forty days**  
 forty-four days

5. In your own words, explain what Christians remember at Pentecost.

**Pupil's own response, such as: At Pentecost, Christians remember the time when Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit a few days after he was taken up to heaven. This then gave them the power and ability to spread the good news of Jesus to others.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

On the **fortieth** day, Jesus and his disciples walked up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave **Jerusalem** until they had received the gift of the Holy **Spirit**.

7. Why do you think it was important that Jesus was taken up to heaven 'before their very eyes'? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think it was important that Jesus was taken up to heaven 'before their very eyes' so that the disciples could believe it themselves so that they could then start telling other people about it too. If they had not seen it, they might find it hard to believe.**

8. For how many days did Jesus live amongst his disciples? Tick one.

- Jerusalem
- Galilee**
- Israel
- Jordan

9. How do you think the disciples would have been feeling once they returned to Jerusalem?  
Explain your answer fully.

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# Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead (the resurrection). It was a joyous occasion for the disciples after the despair of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday.

After the resurrection, it is written in the Bible that Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers. At first, some of them had difficulty believing it was really him. After all, they had witnessed him being crucified and buried in a tomb a few days before.

## Jesus returned

However, they gradually realised that Jesus had returned to them and they were overjoyed. Despite having followed Jesus for three years and spending many hours listening to his teaching, prophesying his own death and resurrection, they had not truly understood what he meant.

Jesus returned after his resurrection, to show that what he had said was true.

For the next forty days, Jesus lived amongst his disciples. He appeared to them at different times, talked with them, walked with them on familiar journeys and shared meals with them. They were delighted to have him with them once again.



## On the mountain

On the fortieth day, Jesus and his disciples walked up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A great cloud descended upon the mountain, and as the disciples watched in disbelief, the cloud enveloped Jesus and he was taken up before their very eyes.

They continued to look earnestly at the sky when two men dressed in white stood beside them and asked,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This is the same Jesus who has been taken into heaven”.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and went upstairs to the room where they were staying, and joined together in prayer.

Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, just as Jesus had predicted. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the strength and guidance that they would need to start spreading the good news of Jesus. Christians regard this as the birthday of the Christian church and is called Pentecost.

### Did You Know...?

The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word 'pentekoste' which means 'fiftieth'.

# Questions

1. When was Jesus crucified? Tick one.

- Easter Sunday
- Ascension Friday
- Good Friday
- Pentecost

2. Find and copy a word that means 'to have seen'.

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3. What word describes how quickly Jesus' disciples realised that he had returned to them?

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4. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'prophesying' means.

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5. How did Jesus and his disciples spend the forty days after his resurrection together?

Explain your answer fully.

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6. What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples on the fortieth day and why? Explain your answer fully.

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7. Draw lines to match what Jesus did. One has been done for you.

Jesus ascended	from the dead.
The Holy Spirit	to his disciples.
Jesus rose	into heaven.
A great cloud	descended upon the mountain.
Jesus appeared	descended upon the disciples.

*Note: A line is drawn from the dot on 'Jesus ascended' to the dot on 'into heaven.'*

8. What do you think the disciples might have prayed about or for when they first returned to Jerusalem? Explain your answer fully.

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9. Fill in the missing words.

The \_\_\_\_\_ gave the disciples the strength and \_\_\_\_\_ that they would need to start spreading the good \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

10. Why is Pentecost thought of as the birthday of the Christian church? Explain your answer fully.

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# Answers

1. When was Jesus crucified? Tick one.

- Easter Sunday
- Ascension Friday
- Good Friday**
- Pentecost

2. Find and copy a word that means 'to have seen'.

**witnessed**

3. What word describes how quickly Jesus' disciples realised that he had returned to them?

**gradually**

4. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'prophesying' means.

**Pupil's own responses, such as: I think that prophesying means predicting because it says that Jesus prophesied his own death which we know came true.**

5. How did Jesus and his disciples spend the forty days after his resurrection together?

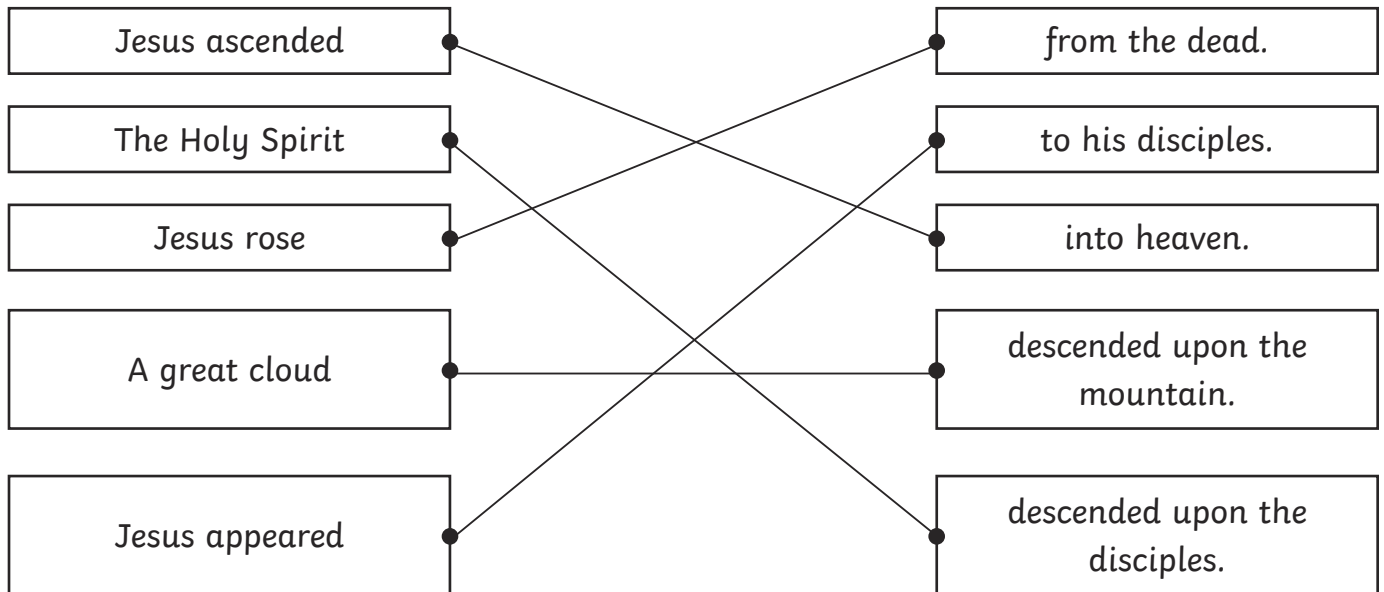
Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: Jesus and the disciples spent the forty days after his resurrection talking, going on walks to places that they knew and eating together. They were very happy doing things together.**

6. What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples on the fortieth day and why? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: Jesus instructed his disciples to not leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is because the Holy Spirit would give them the strength and guidance that they would need to teach people about Jesus.**

1. Draw lines to match what Jesus did. One has been done for you.



8. What do you think the disciples might have prayed about or for when they first returned to Jerusalem? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the disciples might have prayed for guidance on what they should do next and for God to give them courage. They may have prayed for a sign so that they knew when the Holy Spirit had come. They might have prayed that they would soon see Jesus again because he was their friend and they enjoyed spending time together.**

9. Fill in the missing words.

The **Holy Spirit** gave the disciples the strength and **guidance** that they would need to start spreading the good **news** of Jesus.

10. Why is Pentecost thought of as the birthday of the Christian church? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Pentecost is thought of as the birthday of the Christian church because Pentecost means fiftieth in Greek and on the fiftieth day after Jesus rose from the dead the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples which enabled them to start spreading the news of Jesus.**