

Theme:The Ascension of Christ

Object:Bubble soap and wands (the bigger the better) or a helium balloon

Scripture:

Acts 1:9 “After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Hand each child a bubble wand, (or a helium balloon)
Ask them to wait until you say: “up, up and away.”

I’m sure you know that when filled with helium, a balloon floats in the air. And it’s also quite enjoyable when it does float away from you. It’s fun to stand and watch as the balloon floats higher and higher into the heavens until it totally disappears. The only way to experience that is to be willing to let it go. Like bubbles will float upwards and be blown higher in the wind.

In today’s Bible lesson in the book of Acts, we learn that when Jesus was ready to return to heaven, He took His disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to Him. He explained why it was important for Him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures by rising from the dead and living once again. He also told them that, after that, he was going to return to His Father in heaven

and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them and to help them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed His disciples. While He was blessing them, He lifted up and was taken up into heaven **“up, up and away.”**

(Remind kids to release their bubbles (or helium balloon.)

I don't know how all of this looked, but in my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until He disappeared from view.

Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had gone up into heaven, the disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy because now they knew that heaven was real and with the help of the Holy Spirit they would go there too. They stayed continually in the temple, praising God.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that He has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven. Bless us today as we worship Him with great joy! In Jesus' name, amen.

Up, Up and Away

Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["Up, Up and Away"](#)

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1verse 9 – After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

BALLOON RELAY:

Children can divide into teams and run a relay by kicking a balloon down to the far wall and holding balloon as they run back to the team, for the next player to kick the balloon and continue until all the team has run the balloon.

WATER BALLOON TOSS:

The teacher can have a bucket of water balloons filled and children can divide into two teams and toss their water balloons back and forth to see who can keep their balloon from "splatting" the longest. Of course this will have to be played outside if that is available.

BALLOON VERSES:

Have today's Bible verses (Acts 1: 9), typed on slips of paper and placed inside balloons that the teacher/leader has blown up before class time. Children can then pop their balloon, retrieve the Bible verses (alternatively tape the verse segments to the outside of each balloon) and tape or glue onto a piece of construction paper. Then have children draw a big round balloon

around the verses and cut the "balloon tracing" out. Add a curly ribbon to the balloon verse and hang on the classroom wall or take home, as desired. Let children take turns reading/reciting the verse together.

CHALK TALK:

If children can go outside to a sidewalk or a parking lot, give each child a large piece of chalk and draw a very large balloon on various areas that are available. Give each child a different word to write inside their drawn balloon from today's lesson, such as heaven, Jesus, Holy Spirit; Ascension, power, etc. Then walk the class from balloon to balloon and let children tell a little bit about that word from what they have learned from the Bible story today!

CROSS PRAYER:

Give children construction paper to cut out a large cross and add foam crosses to the cut out cross. Children can write or tape a typed out copy of part of today's prayer on the cross and place in their Bibles or hang from a ribbon for the wall.

BALLOON ART:

Let each child write with a permanent marker on their balloon - such words from today's lesson as GOD'S POWER; PRAISE GOD; BE MY WITNESSES, THANK YOU JESUS FOR SENDING YOUR SON, etc. Then children can blow up their balloons and attached a curly ribbon to their balloons and take home with them. Encourage children to tell today's story if other's ask about their balloons as they leave class!

UP, UP AND AWAY BALLOON FLIGHT:

At the end of class, let children blow up a balloon and place a small piece of paper inside that will say JESUS LOVES YOU. When all the class has gathered together outside, let all the balloons take flight at the same time and watch the balloons go higher and higher. Pray for people who might find the balloons and read the LOVE NOTE inside the balloon!

SING A SONG: (tune Mary had a little lamb)

Jesus taught me how to pray, how to pray, how to pray. Jesus taught me how to pray and how to say I love you

Jesus taught me how to live, how to live, how to live. Jesus taught me how to live and how to give to others.

Jesus taught me how to see, how to see, how to see. Jesus taught me how to see and how to be a good friend.

SHARE A SNACK:

Give cookies or a cupcake that have been frosted and a couple of balloons decorated on the top with colorful gel.

**The Ascension
Coloring Page**



I Love Jesus Balloon
Dot to Dot



We love him, because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 (KJV)

The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 _____
2. 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
3. 22-8-18-4-10 _____
4. 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
5. 7-8-10-13 _____
6. 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
7. 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
8. 26-12-17-13-18 _____
9. 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
10. 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 _____

SCRIPTURE	RISE	REPENT	HEAVEN	BLESSING
MINDS	TAKEN	OPENED	WORSHIPED	FULFILLED

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