



Bonus Activities

Date: May 17

Bible Passage: Acts 1:1–11; 2

(Ascension and Gift of the Holy Spirit)

God's Spirit Unifies

Additional activities for younger children:

You may choose to do these all on Sunday, or spread them out throughout the week, reminding your children what they learned in the past lesson.

Option 1: Rising Raisins (Activity)

We learned what happened when Jesus ascended into Heaven. Children explore what the word ascent means using raisins and sparkling water.

SUPPLIES

- Raisins
- Clear soda
- Clear glass

RELATE

Let's see what happens when we put these raisins into this glass of water. Woah that was so cool! Remember that Jesus had one final special meeting with his friends...Jesus took His disciples out of the town a little ways, and He reminded them again of who He was, and how He suffered and died to fulfill the prophecies. He told His friends that He was going to send them an exciting present, and that they should wait for that present to get an amazing sort of power...then He gave them a blessing, and then do you know what happened? Well, have you ever had a balloon, the kind with helium, and let it go? What happens? It just floats all the way up into the sky, right? That's what happened to Jesus! He floated up, ascending into the sky just like those raisins did in the glass. But He didn't come back down. The disciples were left open-mouthed, starting into the sky and wondering when He would return...an angel let them know that Jesus would be coming back, though they didn't realize it would take such a long time.

Option 2: Spread the Good News! (craft)



Children make a mobile type craft reminding them that Jesus ascended into Heaven.

SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Glue
- White and blue paper
- Ribbon or yarn
- Paper cup
- Drawing of Jesus cut out

RELATE

After visiting his dis disciples one last time and reminding them of who He was he told his friends that He would return someday and then he he floated up, ascending into the sky to Heaven to be with God his Father.

Option 3: Somethings Different (game)

Children will be challenged to remember and guess what is missing from the mound reminding them that although we cannot see Jesus or hear Him with just know something is different and He is still with us.

SUPPLIES

- 15 objects from around your house (including a couple chairs, some books, toys, a couple jackets, whatever is available to form a mound of stuff)

RELATE

Today we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Jesus "lives" in heaven now, but still He's with us each and every day. It's a mystery how he does that. You can't exactly see him, you can't exactly hear him, you just know something is different. It's like this game. Have the children study the pile of stuff, seeing where everything is and trying to take note of all that is there.

1. Pick one person to be the guesser and close her eyes.
2. You will then pick a someone to pull something from the mound – either a book, toy or chair, and put it quietly as possible outside the classroom door or hidden behind him.
3. When you say "Ready!" the guesser will open her eyes.
4. She will look around the pile and try to guess what is missing.
5. She gets one chance to guess.
6. To add intrigue, take a picture of the mound with your phone. Allow the guesser to look at the original photo, then look at the mound after something was taken. Snap a new photo before anything is moved each time.
7. Whether she guesses correctly or not, her turn is over, and the rest of the family may tell her if

she's right or wrong.

8. Play as many times as you like, but use a different guesser/missing student each round.

Jesus is always with us in spirit. He's as real as any object in that mound. Just because you can't always see where he is or feel him move – that doesn't mean He isn't among us. He is with us now, and he'll be with us in body someday!

BLESS:: 5 min.

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Invite children to stand in a circle. Whisper, "Jesus is the Good News" in a child's ear, and encourage her to whisper it to the next person. Continue until everyone has heard the message. After the last child has received the message, speak the following blessing over the group:

Children, may you know that Jesus is the Good News!

Open a Bible and read Isaiah 6:3b:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.