

TERM 5 / YEAR 3 / Ideas for Ascension

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p><i>The Lord be with you</i> and also with you.</p>	<p>This is an important festival in the Anglican calendar which remembers the ascension of Christ into Heaven. Can the pupils work out why it always a Thursday? (40 days after Easter Sunday, to represent the 40 days Jesus spent with His disciples after the resurrection). In England in the past, schools used to close and in many countries around the world, including many in Northern Europe, it is still a public holiday . As part of Ascension week, ask older pupils to research how Ascension Day is celebrated around the world and present these as part of collective worship. http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/ascension-day (this website is a useful resources for teachers, the content of which could be adapted for children)</p> <p>Outside opportunities Use your spiritual garden or outdoor area to set up an Ascension trail so that pupils can remind themselves of the key points of the Ascension Narrative.</p> <p>Act of worship Matthew 28: 16– 20 ‘I will be with you always, to the end of time.’ Acts 1: 1-9</p> <p>'I am with you always...' (adapted from: www.theassemblyline.co.uk) Begin by reading the gospel narrative from above so that pupils understand the story. When Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples may have been saddened and afraid but Christ didn't leave them alone. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and to wait for the Holy Spirit. This would give them renewed strength to go out into the world and share the good news of the gospel. Just because we can't see Him in the way that the apostles saw him, Jesus still promises to be with us forever and to send to us the Holy Spirit to strengthen and inspire us.</p> <p>Share with pupils a memento which is a reminder of someone who is special to you. Explain why it is significant. It is important to have reminders of people that we are not</p>	<p><i>Collect for Ascension Day</i> Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen. Acts 1:1-10</p> <p><i>The story of the Ascension is a bit like the story of Christmas 'backwards'. In this story, Jesus who rose from the dead ascends to heaven taking our human nature with him, just as he brought God's nature with him when he was born. The second part of the Collect asks what many prayers ask, that we can all have God's strength to help us follow the example of Christ until we too come to heaven.</i></p>	<p>Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</p> <p><i>Colossians 3:15</i></p> <p><i>This is a dismissal to be used in the Easter season, from Easter Day to Pentecost. It mixes the values of thankfulness and peace with praise by using the word 'alleluia'.</i></p>



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	<p>always with (even if it is for just part of the day), reminders of important moments in our life. Jesus may be out of sight but he is not out of mind. He has given us physical reminders of his presence. He has given us lots of ways in which we know He is with us: friends, family, love, the church, other work of Christian organisations. You could also explain to older pupils that Christ gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist so that we could remember him.</p>	<p>Suggested praise: <i>When the Saints</i> <i>Seek Ye first the kingdom of God</i></p> <p><i>Reflect:</i> Are there special people in our lives that they don't always see? How do they feel about this? What reminds them of those special people? What are the things that remind them of Jesus?</p>	
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