



Monday 18th May

Afternoon Activity RE

## The Ascension

### THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

Slide 1 - Ask where the word 'good-bye' comes from?

It's a shortened form of the words, 'God be with you'. So every time you say good-bye to someone, you're actually saying that you want God to be close to them. It's a *blessing* in disguise! Perhaps you want God to be with them as they set out on a dangerous journey. Or maybe you know you're going to miss them and you want to be sure God will be close to them even if you can't be.

Slide 2 - What is the French word for 'goodbye'? It's 'au revoir' which really means 'Till we see each other again,' or 'See you again soon!' It is a hopeful thing to say. You're saying, 'I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!'

Slide 3 - And German is 'Auf Wiedersehen' which means the same as the French.

Does you know how to say good bye in other languages? What do they mean when translated into English?

I wonder if someone has ever left you without saying good-bye? (Use an example from your own life).

The first time Jesus left his friends, there wasn't time to say good-bye. Do you remember? Jesus was arrested in the garden at night time, and his friends were so scared they all ran away. And Jesus was killed on the cross before they had time to say good-bye to him. I wonder how that made them feel?

Slide 4 - But that wasn't the end of the story! On Easter Day Jesus came back to life and they all met him again. So instead of the long good-bye they had thought, it was a big hello! Can you remember some of the times Jesus met his friends after he'd come back to life? (Prompt them to remember Mary outside the tomb, Thomas, the Road to Emmaus, breakfast on the beach).

Jesus was with them again, but in a special way - he could be anywhere, he could walk through walls and there was something different about the way he looked, as people didn't always recognise him at first. But he was with them.

Show clip of the Resurrection and Ascension from YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc2NtYSI7oE> (all children)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZRGp-y3wTU> (older children)

Show slide 5 and read the scripture version.

Show slide 6 and explain the Ascension - see ideas below:

Then forty days after Easter, he called his friends up onto a mountain near Jerusalem and told them all about the job he had for them to do - to tell people all over the world what they had seen him say and do. And in case they were feeling a bit scared of doing such a big thing, he promised them that his Holy Spirit would come and help them do this job. This was great news, because Jesus' Holy Spirit was just the same as Jesus - so he wasn't saying 'I'm leaving for ever', he was saying 'see you again soon!' And then Jesus blessed them - perhaps he was saying 'God be with you' or 'good bye'?

And as they watched, he was taken up to heaven to be with his Father God as well. So his friends weren't sad, as we sometimes are when we say good-bye. They were very glad that Jesus could be with his Father and with them too. Although in one way, Jesus had gone, they knew he was still with them in another, better way and that they would see him again soon.

Look at and discuss slides 7, 8 and 9.

### Lesson Activity:

#### EYFS:

Children to use hand cut outs to make the flames of the Holy Spirit. Older brothers and sisters could help with this (see below).

Letter to a friend

KS1 - Imagine that you were there at the Ascension, write a letter to a friend about what you saw, how it made you feel and what you are going to do next to be a witness for Jesus.

KS2 - Imagine you are an apostle; write a letter to a friend which gives examples of what you will do and how you will give witness to Jesus in your life after the Ascension. Refer to the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1: 6-14) and reference some of this.