

RAISING SAINTS



CHILDREN + FAMILY MINISTRY // WEEKLY GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST LEVEL 1: AGES 5 - 8

Do you remember a time when your grandfather visited you? You must have been very happy to have him at your home! Then it was time for your grandfather to go back home. Even though you could not see him anymore, you knew that he was back at his home. Whenever you missed him, you knew that he would come back again.

Here is a story about our Lord Jesus Christ which may remind you of your grandfather's visit and his going back home. As you read it with your teacher or your parents, complete the sentences by filling in the correct words from the list below.

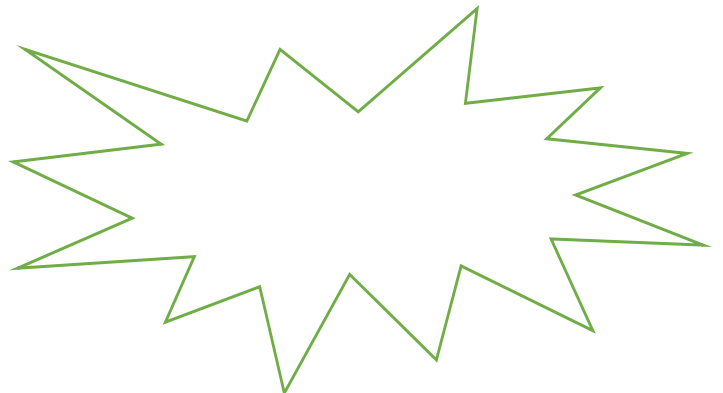
baptize **wounds** **rise** **disciples**
come **ate** **touch** **forty**

- On April 9, seven weeks ago, we celebrated Easter, the feast of his resurrection. We have been greeting each other with joy as we say,
- "Christ is risen from the dead!" He is alive again.
- Many of Jesus' friends could not believe this, "Did Jesus really die?" they asked. "Did he really _____?"
- Our Lord wanted everyone to know the truth. So, he stayed on earth for _____ more days after his resurrection to show them that he was really alive.
- He walked, talked, and _____ bread and fish with them.
- He showed them the _____ on his hands and side.
- He even let Thomas who doubted _____ his wounds.
- Then Jesus took his disciples to the mountain

where he always went to pray. He said to them, "You are my messengers. Go and share with everyone the love that I have shown you.

- Make everyone my _____ and teach them everything I taught you.
- _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Remember, I will always be with you for as long as you live."
- As he blessed them, Jesus began to lift up off the ground and rise into the skies.
- A cloud came and they could see him no more, but they heard some talking.
- Two angels were seen in shining clothes who said, "Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will _____ in the same way some day.
- Then he will take everyone who believe in him to heaven to be with him.

Thursday, May 18 is the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. Write the meaning of Ascension in the cloud. Say a prayer to thank Jesus for loving you.



LEVEL 2: AGES 9 - 12 & LEVEL 3: AGES 13 - 17

Ascension Day (Hampartzoom) is a very important Church feast because it recalls and celebrates the final earthly event in Christ’s life. We always celebrate it on the fortieth day of Eastertide. This year it falls on Thursday, May 18.

Jesus Christ’s ascension is the fulfillment of all of his earthly ministry as savior of the world. The story of Christ’s ascension to heaven and his sitting at the right hand of the Father is recounted only in two of the gospels, Mark 16:19 *“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, he was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”* and Luke 24:50-51 *“And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while he blessed them, that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven.”*

Comparing the Three Passages

The evangelist Luke who is also the one who wrote the book of the Acts of the Apostles, mentions it in Acts 1:6-11. In your bible read this passage and compare it with Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:50-51. What additional information does Luke give in this passage of Acts which you did not find in the gospel passages? Write what you find in your own words in the lines provided.

We read in Acts 1:12-26, that the apostles returned to Jerusalem after Christ’s ascension as they were instructed, and spent their time in prayer in the Upper room where they had eaten the Last Supper with Jesus. At this time, they felt the need to restore the number

of apostles to twelve, electing someone to replace Judas, as we read in Acts 1:21-26.

“Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when he was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The traditional Armenian “vijag” (casting of lots) ceremony is derived from this event in the life of the young Church. It was customary for Armenians to celebrate Ascension with joyous outings right after the end of Badarak. At this time, they would have the “vijag-a -khagh”.

Casting of lots is not unique to Armenians; we know that the twelve tribes of Israel received their inheritance of land by lot (Numbers 26:55-56). Also, the order of priestly service for the tribe of Levi was determined by casting of lots.

Working with the Scripture Passage

1. In your school experiences when you are working with groups, sometimes your teacher or group leader will choose a candidate for a specific role in class by a form of casting lots, such as heads or tails. However, the casting of lots described in Acts differs by a very important factor. Reread the passage above and name that factor.

2. At the beginning of the passage Acts 1:21-22, Peter describes the qualifications of the two men, one of whom will be chosen to replace Judas. How do these qualifications echo Jesus’ own words to his disciples in Acts 1:8? What is the key word which describes their role?

An Invitation to You

We need to remember that there always are vacant seats that need to be filled in the life of the Church. There could be a vacancy inviting one to serve in a number of capacities such as the following:

1. a teacher to pass on the Good News of
2. Jesus' resurrection
3. for social outreach to those in need
4. an ordained priest or deacon
5. visiting the sick and the shut-ins
6. serving as a parish council member
7. singing in the choir or serving as an acolyte
8. add your own

What area of service are you most interested in? Which ones do you think you are ready to fulfill? Which are those that you might be interested in but are not ready yet? Write your thoughts.

Celebrate the joyous Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 18, remembering always how the apostles were faithful to seek Jesus Christ's guidance through prayer. As you grow in the community of your parish, seek the Lord's guidance in all that you do through prayer.

May God bless you always.

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Inspired by this beautiful monscriptal art of Assention, try coloring your own version of a fragment. You can follow the provided colored icon as an example or rely on your imagination.

Have Fun!

