

Rhythms of Grace Worship • Easter Season Year 3

Theme: The Ascension of Jesus-
Returning to God, Sending
us on our way

Scripture: Matthew 28: 16-20
Luke 24: 50-53

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: large cloud shape cut out of sturdy cardboard, cotton balls white or clear glue

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling pages, cloud from Gathering, 4 placards written as: 1. “Everything will be Alright”, 2. “Pray”, 3. “Love”, and 4. “Baptize”

Response Activities:

Counting with Beads- colored beads per person: gold (1 bead), white (40 beads) and blue bead (1 bead), cording

I am Blest!-a large heavy weight white cloth (used at a later date as an altar cloth) with “I am blessed with God’s love at bottom, washable paints, water, rags to wipe up with, black Sharp© marker.

Pray, Love, Baptize, Movement- 3 pieces of poster board with headings “Pray”, “Love”, “Baptize” written (one ea.), create several symbols to coordinate with each word: i.e. a drawing of hands folded in prayer (Pray), a heart (Love), a shell with water drops (Baptize)

Where’s Jesus?- tiny paper doll (Jesus), 3 large plastic colored cups

Regathering: Half dozen Latex inflated balloons (if you are concerned about the balloons possibly use any type of light weight ball like a yarn ball), *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Sessions Plan • Easter Season-The Ascension of Jesus• Yr. 3

Returning to God, Sending Us on our Way

Gathering: On the large cloud shape cut out, participants spread glue over the surface of the cloud and affix cotton balls to create a fluffy cloud that will represent “heaven” in the Ascension story.

Storytelling: With the Bible and Jesus doll, and Storytelling page, tell the story of the Ascension of Jesus using placards for call and response, and the cloud made in the Gathering activity.

Response Activities:

Counting with Beads- Using colored beads and cording make a strand necklace of beads to represent the Easter season: Easter (1 gold bead), the 40 days (40 white beads), and the Ascension (1 blue bead).

I Am Blest- Have participants pick a paint color and place hand in paint then put a handprint on the white material above “I am Blest”. After drying have them write their name in their handprint. Leave room for new participants to add their handprints.

Pray. Love. Baptize. Movement activity- Hang the 3 poster boards (each with a different topic) on a wall on the opposite side of the room. Allow participants to color the shapes and then move across the room to tape or glue the appropriate shape/symbol to the correct poster board.

Where’s Jesus?- Using a tiny paper doll to represent Jesus and using 3 large Solo cups, play a “shell game” with Jesus, guessing which cup he is hiding under. Take turns being the person who moves the cups and the person who guesses which cup Jesus is under.

Regathering: With the participants in a circle, one by one, introduce the balloons to the circle, batting them around with the goal of keeping them off of the ground. See if you can get all 6 to be in motion at the same time! Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God

Gather our thoughts, oh God

Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”

Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • Easter Season-The Ascension of Jesus• Yr. 3

Returning to God, Sending Us on our Way

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller. Place the cotton ball cloud from Gathering near the storytelling area, and the 4 placards face down on the floor.

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus, God's son, (*show Jesus doll*), and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

This story takes place after Jesus died...and rose again. We remember that Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a cave and that 3 days later, God worked a miracle, raising Jesus from the dead. The day that Jesus rose again, we call Easter. And after Easter, Jesus spent 40 days with his friends, the disciples, helping them to get ready for what was next. Jesus walked with his friends, he ate with them on the beach and in the upper room and he taught the disciples that even though he wouldn't be on earth forever, that they would carry on God's work, even after Jesus was gone.

The disciples were worried when they learned that Jesus would be leaving...but Jesus promised them that everything would be alright. Jesus said, "Everything will be alright." (*hold up placard #1 And the children repeat*) "Everything will be alright."

Jesus and his disciples went to the top of a mountain. He told them that God had given him power...and now they would be powerful, too. Jesus told them to "Pray" (*hold up placard #2 and children repeat,*) "Pray."

And Jesus told them to "Love" (*hold up placard #3 and the children repeat*). "Love"

And Jesus told them to "Baptize" (*hold up placard #4 and the children repeat*) "Baptize."

And then Jesus blessed them (*storyteller hold hands up over children in an act of blessing. The children bow their heads.*)

And while Jesus was blessing them, he rose up into the sky and went to heaven. (*have one child lift the cotton ball cloud up high and another child can lift Jesus to meet the cloud.*)

When the disciples saw this, they were amazed and ran back to Jerusalem to tell the good news!

Today, we believe that Jesus lives in heaven with God...and we also believe that Jesus lives here (*motion to heart*) and is still very close to us, too

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.