

1) Introduction:

Hi everyone at St Mary's young and youth church, we hope you are all well and happy. It has been over seven weeks since church had to close and we miss seeing your lovely faces. Rest assured you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today, we look further into Jesus being alive and his ascension into heaven. Ascension means to rise, ascend, move up, and we all know where Jesus moved up to... heaven. The ascension of Jesus is the end of His earthly ministry, and the beginning of the spread of the Kingdom of God. Jesus commissioned (appointed/assigned) His disciples to spread the good news with the help of His holy spirit. Jesus promised to be with us until the end of the age and He does this through His Holy Spirit – the same power that conquered the grave really does live in us. It is for us, today, that Jesus says “preach the Gospel to the whole world...” The task is not complete – there are many people who have never heard the Gospel. In our session today, as well as learning what ascension is, we can think about how we can be involved in fulfilling spreading Jesus' good news in our own lives

Today's 'social distance' young and youth church is all about...

2) Digging in: – 'Ascension – Home to Father'.

Equipment needed:

Access to the Internet to play the You Tube clip/s.

First, watch one or both of the video clips about ascension.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo> (the ascension from 1 minute 18 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cJtafGUVno> (another animation about ascension, first part)

Now, enjoy reading 'Home to Father' from 'The Children's Bible' retold by Anne de Gard (this is taken from the new Bible's we have started to use in Young Church).

Home to the Father

Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; John 14:1-2; Acts

1:3-11

Jesus appeared several times to His disciples after He rose from the dead. He worked miracles. He taught them to do all the things they had been learning about. A month after He died and rose again, Jesus left earth and went to heaven.

Jesus led His disciples outside of Jerusalem to Bethany. This was where His friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary lived. All His followers were around Him. He lifted His hands and blessed them. Then He told them to go straight back to Jerusalem. They should wait there for what the Father had promised.

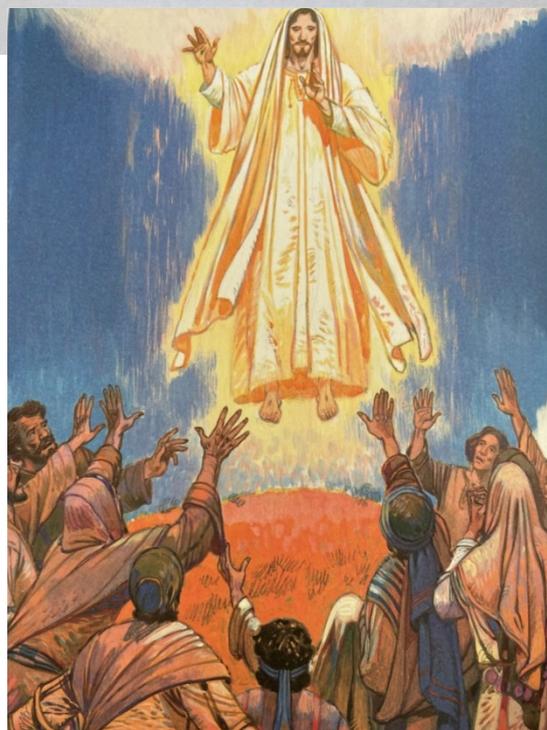
Jesus said, "John baptized with water. You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be My witnesses here and even to the farthest corners of the earth."

Then, an amazing thing happened.

Jesus was taken up to heaven! He rose higher and higher until He disappeared into a cloud. The disciples looked at each other. They had seen one miracle after another. Now this had been the greatest of all! Jesus, crucified then risen, now taken up to heaven to be with His Father.

Jesus' disciples stared at the sky. Then two men dressed in white came and stood beside them. "Men of Galilee, why are you looking into the sky? Jesus has gone from you into heaven. He will come back again in the same way He left."

They went back to Jerusalem full of joy. They went straight to the temple and sang praises to God. Some wondered about this place Jesus had gone to, heaven. They remembered He had said, "Don't worry. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. Soon I will go and make them ready for you." And that is why Jesus went back to heaven.





Story telling reflection questions 'Home to Father'...

- Is this story sad or happy?
- What job Jesus gave to the disciples?
- Do they think that the disciples were able to do what Jesus asked them?
- How do they think the disciples felt when Jesus went up to heaven for the last time? Was it the end of the story – or the beginning?

If you want to, why not respond to a question from this week on our very own Padlet.

1) All you have to do is access this page (copy and paste the URL). The page below should come up.

<https://padlet.com/hlgledhill/o6tv3i8qndzdpdca>



2) Then, double left click on the page and a text box for you to write in should appear. Where it states: Title. Type your first name, so we know who you are! Then answer the question, or just leave us a message. It is one way we can all stay in touch whilst keeping social distancing.



3) Bruce has kindly been leaving messages for you, why not have a read and respond?



3) Response: Memory Verse ‘Go into the world’...

Equipment needed:

- A copy of the memory verse printed or written out on A3/A3 size paper.
- Scissors.

-First, print or write out the memory verse.

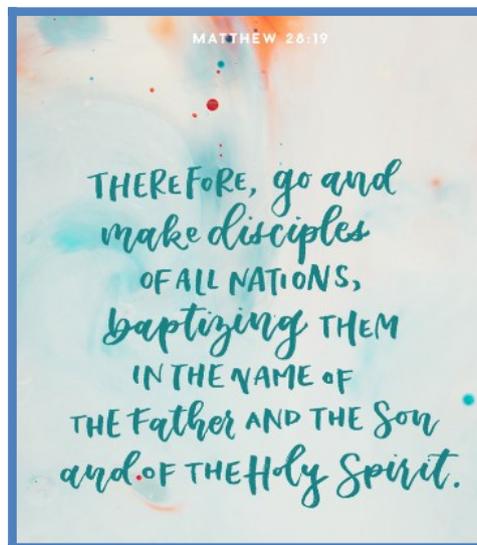
-Then, cut up the memory verse into smaller pieces (like a jigsaw type puzzle).

-Next, spread the puzzle pieces out across a room/s, with different pieces in specific locations.

-Move to each location and pick up a piece of the puzzle, try to read it and then put the verse back together.

-When the verse is back together, read it out. Why not begin reading in a whisper, then repeat in a deep, gruff voice, then high pitch voice and finally by shouting it out.

“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19



4) Take away: ‘The Great Commission’

Equipment needed:

- Jesus Commissions Certificate PDF ([Click Here](#))
- Pens, felt tips or colouring pencils.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWQjf_FO8WA (I want to do what my Father’s doing – play your part in God’s plan) Why not play this and listen to the lyrics whilst partaking in the craft activities.

What did Jesus ask His disciples to do?

We call this special job - ‘The Great Commission’. Commission just means being asked to go and do a particular thing.

Print the attached Jesus Commissions certificate (on card if possible). Write your name in the gap under ‘Jesus Commissions’ and then decorate the certificate with pictures.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflections:

- 1) What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
- 2) What do we need to do (this week)?



Closing prayer...

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for providing people with strong faith to reach the hearts of many,
Help our young children as they seek direction and purpose from You.
May children recognise Your power in their lives and choose to follow You like the first disciples did.

Amen.

Hymn links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWQjf_FO8WA (I want to do what my Father's doing – play your part in God's plan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZLYg05-ayQ> (I want to be like Jesus)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPvSLXzNIBM> (Fun animated ascension song)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23u5t5__WPc (Phil Wickham – Let us start the ascension)

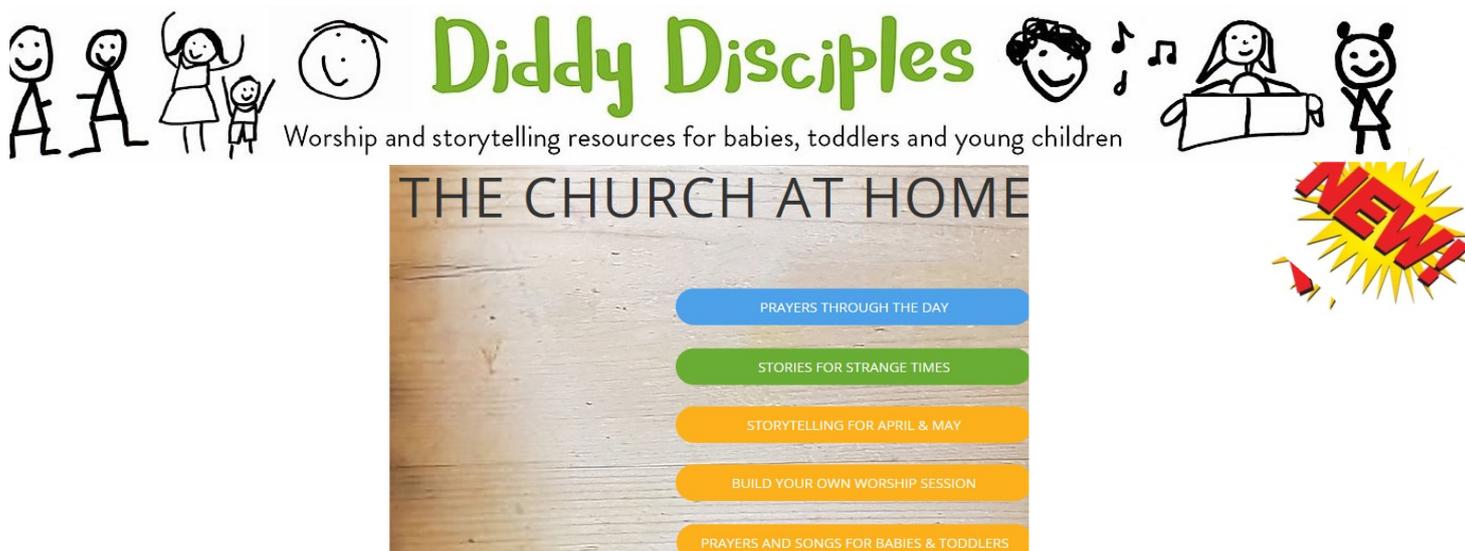
Video links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD0LNtc1UE4> (film version of ascension)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wLrw60bY5w> (animated shared story version of ascension)

Links to other ways to worship:

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/storytellingforaprilandmay> This week's focus is 'Peter's Story' next week is all about 'Ascension'.



The image shows the Diddy Disciples logo, which includes several simple line drawings of children and the text "Diddy Disciples" in a green, rounded font. Below the logo is the tagline "Worship and storytelling resources for babies, toddlers and young children". To the right of the logo are musical notes and a drawing of a child reading a book. A large, stylized "NEW!" graphic is positioned to the right of the main content area. The main content area is a screenshot of a website titled "THE CHURCH AT HOME" on a wooden background. It features five colored buttons: a blue button for "PRAYERS THROUGH THE DAY", a green button for "STORIES FOR STRANGE TIMES", an orange button for "STORYTELLING FOR APRIL & MAY", a yellow button for "BUILD YOUR OWN WORSHIP SESSION", and a light orange button for "PRAYERS AND SONGS FOR BABIES & TODDLERS".

Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resources for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share. <https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>