

Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead (the resurrection). It was a joyous occasion for the disciples after the despair of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday.

After the resurrection, it is written in the Bible that Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers. At first, some of them had difficulty believing it was really him. After all, they had witnessed him being crucified and buried in a tomb a few days before.

Jesus returned

However, they gradually realised that Jesus had returned to them and they were overjoyed. Despite having followed Jesus for three years and spending many hours listening to his teaching, prophesying his own death and resurrection, they had not truly understood what he meant.

Jesus returned after his resurrection, to show that what he had said was true.

For the next forty days, Jesus lived amongst his disciples. He appeared to them at different times, talked with them, walked with them on familiar journeys and shared meals with them. They were delighted to have him with them once again.



On the mountain

On the fortieth day, Jesus and his disciples walked up a mountain. Jesus asked his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A great cloud descended upon the mountain, and as the disciples watched in disbelief, the cloud enveloped Jesus and he was taken up before their very eyes.

They continued to look earnestly at the sky when two men dressed in white stood beside them and asked,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This is the same Jesus who has been taken into heaven”.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and went upstairs to the room where they were staying, and joined together in prayer.

Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, just as Jesus had predicted. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the strength and guidance that they would need to start spreading the good news of Jesus. Christians regard this as the birthday of the Christian church and is called Pentecost.

Did You Know...?

The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word 'pentekoste' which means 'fiftieth'.

Questions

1. When was Jesus crucified? Tick one.

- Easter Sunday
- Ascension Friday
- Good Friday
- Pentecost

2. Find and copy a word that means 'to have seen'.

3. What word describes how quickly Jesus' disciples realised that he had returned to them?

4. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'prophesying' means.

5. How did Jesus and his disciples spend the forty days after his resurrection together?

Explain your answer fully.

6. What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples on the fortieth day and why? Explain your answer fully.

7. Draw lines to match what Jesus did. One has been done for you.

Jesus ascended	from the dead.
The Holy Spirit	to his disciples.
Jesus rose	into heaven.
A great cloud	descended upon the mountain.
Jesus appeared	descended upon the disciples.

Note: A line is drawn from the dot on 'Jesus ascended' to the dot on 'into heaven.'

8. What do you think the disciples might have prayed about or for when they first returned to Jerusalem? Explain your answer fully.

9. Fill in the missing words.

The _____ gave the disciples the strength and _____ that they would need to start spreading the good _____ of Jesus.

10. Why is Pentecost thought of as the birthday of the Christian church? Explain your answer fully.

Answers

1. When was Jesus crucified? Tick one.

- Easter Sunday
- Ascension Friday
- Good Friday**
- Pentecost

2. Find and copy a word that means 'to have seen'.

witnessed

3. What word describes how quickly Jesus' disciples realised that he had returned to them?

gradually

4. Explain in your own words what you think the word 'prophesying' means.

Pupil's own responses, such as: I think that prophesying means predicting because it says that Jesus prophesied his own death which we know came true.

5. How did Jesus and his disciples spend the forty days after his resurrection together?

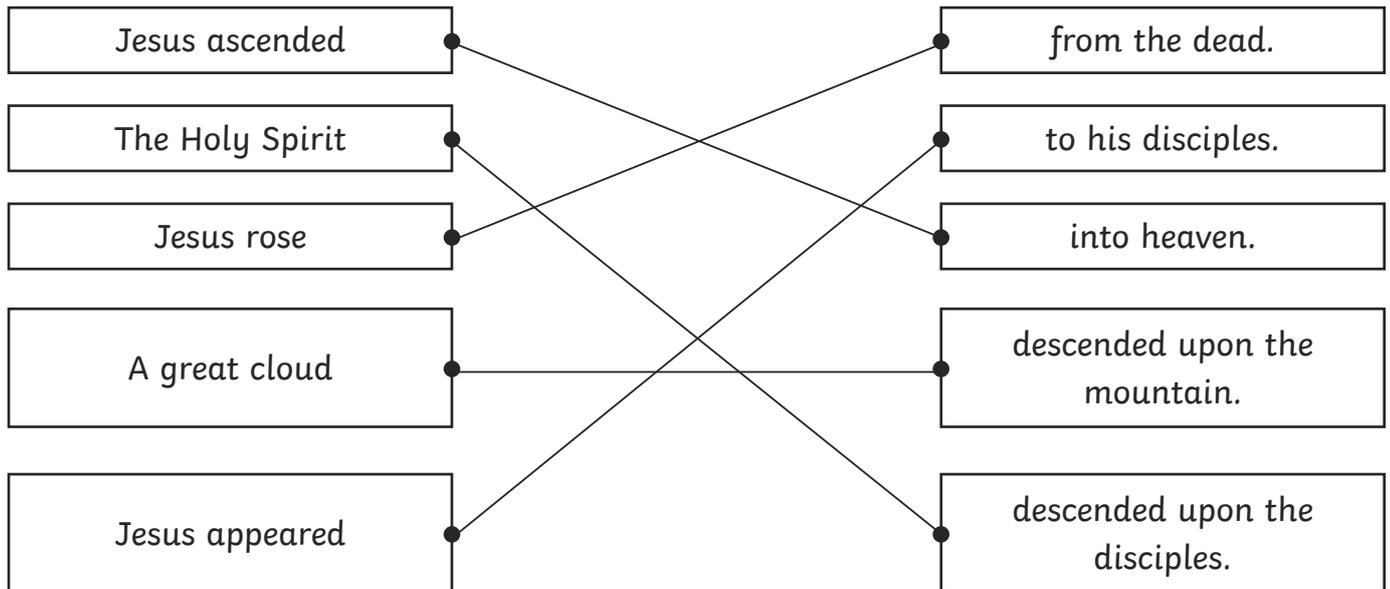
Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: Jesus and the disciples spent the forty days after his resurrection talking, going on walks to places that they knew and eating together. They were very happy doing things together.

6. What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples on the fortieth day and why? Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: Jesus instructed his disciples to not leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is because the Holy Spirit would give them the strength and guidance that they would need to teach people about Jesus.

1. Draw lines to match what Jesus did. One has been done for you.



8. What do you think the disciples might have prayed about or for when they first returned to Jerusalem? Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the disciples might have prayed for guidance on what they should do next and for God to give them courage. They may have prayed for a sign so that they knew when the Holy Spirit had come. They might have prayed that they would soon see Jesus again because he was their friend and they enjoyed spending time together.

9. Fill in the missing words.

The **Holy Spirit** gave the disciples the strength and **guidance** that they would need to start spreading the good **news** of Jesus.

10. Why is Pentecost thought of as the birthday of the Christian church? Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Pentecost is thought of as the birthday of the Christian church because Pentecost means fiftieth in Greek and on the fiftieth day after Jesus rose from the dead the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples which enabled them to start spreading the news of Jesus.