

Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead; this is known as the resurrection. It is a happy occasion.

It is written in the Bible that, after the resurrection, Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers.

Why did Jesus return after his death?

Through their sadness, the disciples realised that Jesus had returned to them, and they were so happy. Despite having spent many hours listening to Jesus' stories, telling them of his death and resurrection, they had not really understood what he meant.

Jesus returned to them after his death, showing them that what had been said was true. For the next forty days, Jesus lived with his disciples and appeared to them at different times. They were delighted to have him with them once again.



On the mountain

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

A huge cloud came down upon the mountain and, as the disciples watched in amazement, the cloud surrounded Jesus. He was taken up into heaven before their very eyes.

The disciples continued to look 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 prayed.

The disciples would receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit would help them travel the world teaching people and spreading the good news about Jesus.

Did you know?: Ascension means to 'go up'.

Questions

1. What word means 'rose from the dead'?

2. On which day was Jesus killed and buried?

3. How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus had risen from the dead and had returned to them? Explain why.

4. Why had Jesus returned to them after his resurrection?

5. How long did Jesus keep appearing to the disciples and spending time with them?

6. What was the gift that the disciples would receive?

7. What is the name given to the time when the disciples would receive the gift?

8. How did Jesus get taken into heaven?

9. How did the disciples feel when they saw this?

10. Why do you think it is called Ascension Day?

Answers

1. What word means 'rose from the dead'?

The word resurrection means 'rose from the dead'.

2. On which day was Jesus killed and buried?

Jesus was killed and buried on Good Friday.

3. How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus had risen from the dead and had returned to them? Explain why.

The disciples felt happy because they had missed him/were happy to see him/were surprised he had come back to them.

4. Why had Jesus returned to them after his resurrection?

Jesus had returned to them after his resurrection to show that what had been promised was true.

5. How long did Jesus keep appearing to the disciples and spending time with them?

Jesus spent forty days with the disciples and other followers.

6. What was the gift that the disciples would receive?

The disciples would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

7. What is the name given to the time when the disciples would receive the gift?

The disciples would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

8. How did Jesus get taken into heaven?

Jesus was surrounded by a cloud.

9. How did the disciples feel when they saw this?

The disciples were amazed.

10. Why do you think it is called Ascension Day?

Answers will vary.