

# AN ASCENDING TRUTH

Jesus Ascends

Luke 24:44–53; Acts 1:1–11

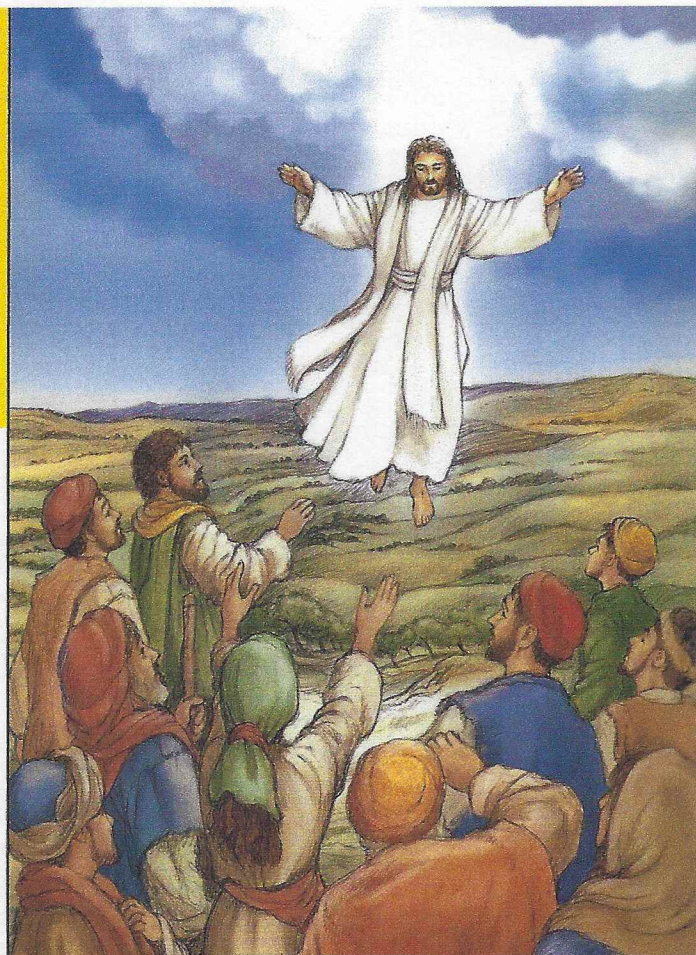
**A**fter Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples many times. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. **Jesus wanted the disciples to know that His work of salvation was finished.**

Jesus told them that everything that had been written about Him in the Old Testament Scriptures had been fulfilled. He opened their minds to understand Scripture. **When Jesus returned to heaven, He would prepare a place for those who believe in Him.**

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to a hill outside of Bethany called the Mount of Olives. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit would come upon them. **The disciples would be His witnesses.** They would tell about the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting to people in Jerusalem and many other places.

When Jesus had said these things, **He suddenly started to rise up, up, up, off the ground.** While they watched, He rose higher and higher into the air until He went up through the clouds and left them. A cloud took Him out of sight.

**Now Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. He prays for us and rules everything that happens in the whole world for the good of His Church.**



While the disciples were gazing into heaven, two men stood by them. They were angels in white robes. The angels said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come again in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

**Then, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and went to the temple to worship Him. They were joyful that they were not alone. They waited eagerly for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which God had promised to them.**

## The Book of Acts

Luke wrote the Book of Acts, a companion to his Gospel, the Book of Luke.

Acts tells of the growth of the Early Christian Church in the days following the coming of the Holy Spirit.



The Book of Acts tells of the exciting adventures of Paul as he goes from being an enemy of God to an untiring defender and proclaimer of the faith.



## ASCENSION DAY: A HOLY DAY

Ascension Day happened forty days after Jesus rose from the dead and always falls on a Thursday. Christians have considered it a major Church holiday for hundreds of years—as far back as AD 68. In France, Germany, the Netherlands, and other European countries, it is also a public holiday, when schools and many businesses and government offices are closed.



## Bethany, the Mount of Olives

Jesus began His triumphal entry into Jerusalem during Holy Week at Bethany at the Mount of Olives. He prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane, near the foot of the Mount of Olives before He was arrested and taken to be crucified. Now, He ends His earthly, physical ministry in the same place.



### Bible Verse: Matthew 28:20

[Jesus says,] “I am with you always.”

### Scripture Connections

Read these passages, and talk about how Jesus fulfills these Old Testament prophecies.

- ▶ Daniel 2:21
- ▶ Isaiah 49:6
- ▶ Psalm 119:18
- ▶ Malachi 1:11
- ▶ Psalm 22:27

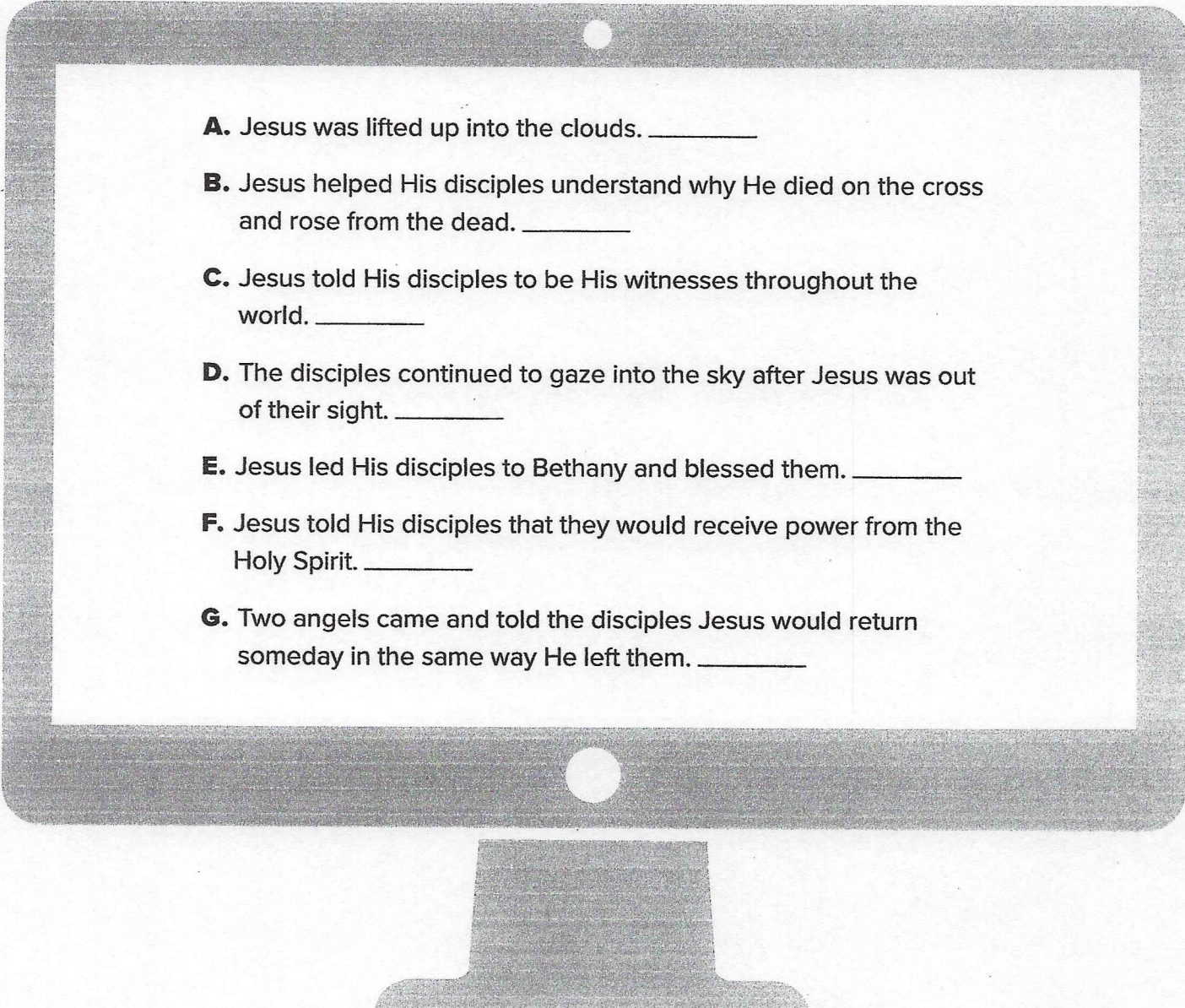


# AN ASCENDING TRUTH—JESUS ASCENDS

## Unit 3, Lesson 8

### Ascension Facts

**Directions:** Nate accidentally hit the wrong key on his computer and mixed up the order of the facts about Jesus' ascension into heaven. Number the facts on the computer screen so that they are now in the order in which they happened.

- 
- A. Jesus was lifted up into the clouds. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Jesus helped His disciples understand why He died on the cross and rose from the dead. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Jesus told His disciples to be His witnesses throughout the world. \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. The disciples continued to gaze into the sky after Jesus was out of their sight. \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Jesus led His disciples to Bethany and blessed them. \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
  - G. Two angels came and told the disciples Jesus would return someday in the same way He left them. \_\_\_\_\_

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised His disciples, **“I am with you always”** (Matthew 28:20). We are Jesus' disciples today. How can His promise give you courage to tell others the truth about Him?

---

---