

## **Jesus Ascends to Heaven.**

Christians believe that 40 days after his Resurrection, Jesus went back to be with his Father in Heaven. They call this his Ascension and in 2020 it will be celebrated on May 21<sup>st</sup>. You can see the story told with Lego in [this video](#), or read it for yourself on the last page of this resource. Perhaps you could use Lego (or something similar) to retell the story yourself?

Many Christians today believe that the Bible writers are using picture language, and that Jesus didn't literally go up into the sky, but nobody knows for sure!



When Jesus left, he gave his friends a job to do; they were to continue the work Jesus had started. What do you think that might look like today? How could people love their neighbours the way Jesus taught them to?

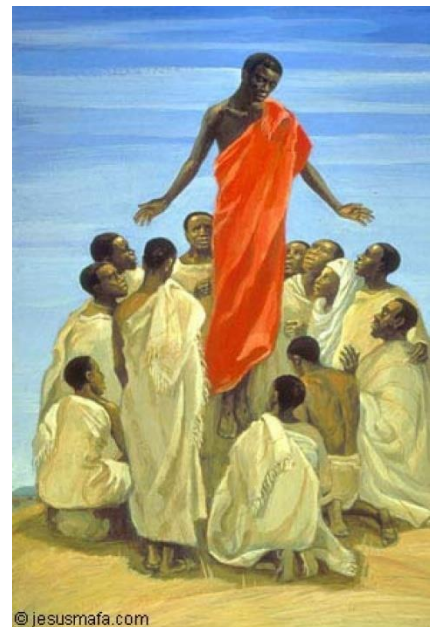
Perhaps you could write a letter to someone who is lonely? Or make them a card? Perhaps you need to try extra hard when your family are being annoying?

The answer will be different for everybody!

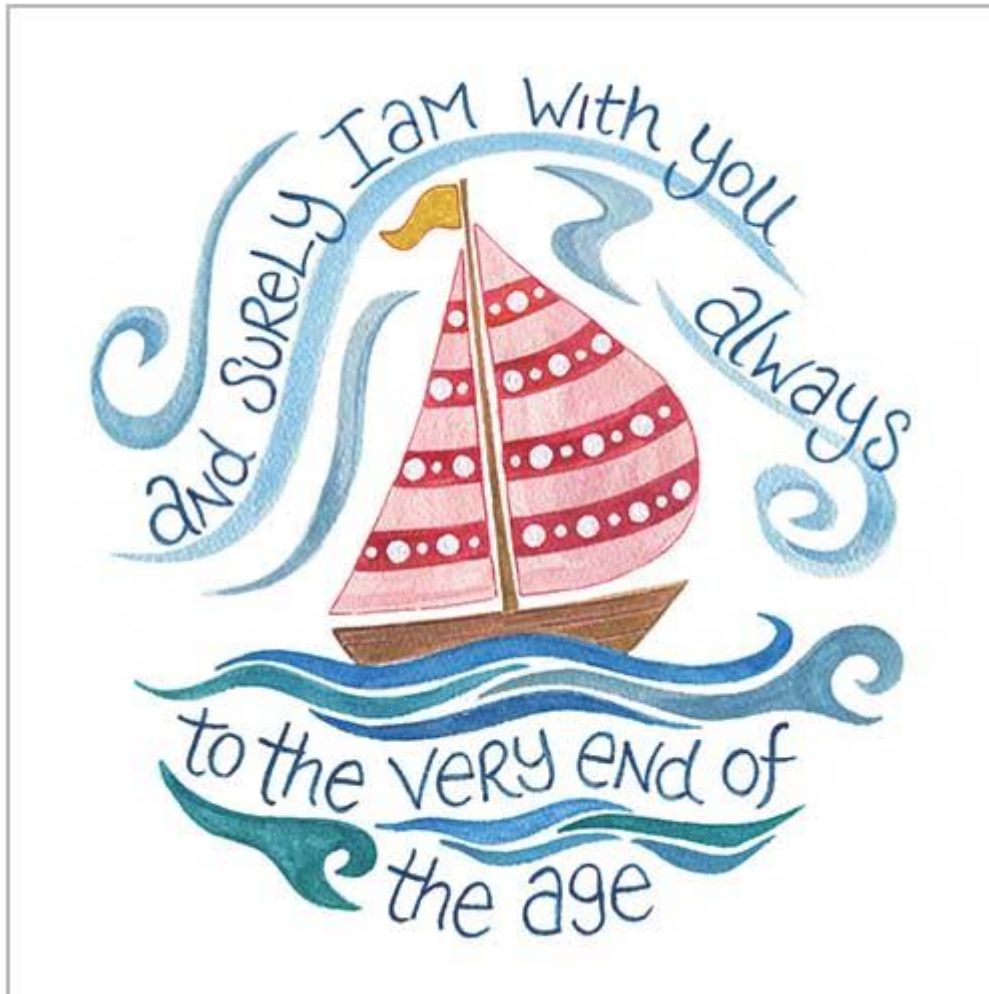
See if you can find out what your local church, or Foodbank or a charity such as [Christian Aid](#) is doing to look after people during Coronavirus.

Who did Jesus say he would send to help his followers carry on his work?

This picture of Jesus' Ascension was painted in Cameroon in North Africa; the local villagers acted out the story, while an artist sketched them and then painted the scene. If you google 'Jesus Mafa', you will find many more Bible stories painted in the same way; how many can you recognise?

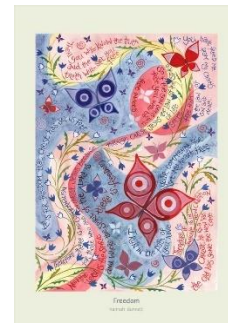
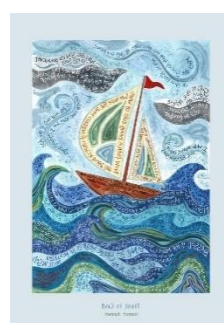
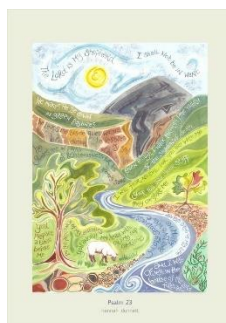


“I am with you”



[Hannah Dunnett](#) is a Christian artist, who illustrates verses from the Bible. These are the last words Jesus spoke before he returned to Heaven, “I am with you always.”

You can see more examples of Hannah’s work on her website. Why not have a go at illustrating this verse – or another one you have chosen – or your own wish or prayer, in the same style as Hannah Dunnett? Perhaps you could turn it into a card to send to someone who needs encouraging at the moment?



## **Jesus Returns to Heaven**

After Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples saw him many times and in different places. Jesus taught them more about God. They had no doubt that he was the Jesus they had known before his crucifixion. They knew that he was alive.

“Stay in Jerusalem,” he told them. “Wait there, because I will send the Holy Spirit to you. Then go and tell people everywhere about me. Teach them everything I have done and said. I promise that I will always be there to help you.

The apostles had often heard Jesus talk about the Holy Spirit, and how he would come to be with them after Jesus had gone.

About six weeks after Jesus rose from the dead, the apostles were with him on the Mount of Olives.

“When the Holy Spirit comes, you will have power,” Jesus said. “The whole world will hear about me, because you will tell them. You will be my messengers.”

Then Jesus was covered by a cloud and seemed to rise up and disappear while they stood and stared.

Jesus had gone.

“What are you looking for?” asked two angels, standing among them. “Jesus has gone back to heaven, but one day he will return.”

*The Barnabas Schools' Bible*

*Based on Acts: 1 - 11*

