

Ascension Day

On Easter Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead. This is known as the resurrection. It is a joyous celebration.

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 seen him crucified and buried in a tomb, just a few days before.

Why did Jesus return after his death?

Despite the many hours spent listening to Jesus' stories, predicting his own death and resurrection, they had not really understood what he meant. When the disciples realised that Jesus had returned to them, they were so happy.

Jesus returned, showing them that what had been predicted was true. For the next forty days, Jesus lived amongst his disciples, appearing to them at different times, and sharing 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 came down upon the mountain, and as the disciples watched in amazement, the cloud surrounded Jesus. He was taken up to heaven before their very eyes.

The disciples continued to look eagerly 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, went upstairs to the room where they were staying and joined together in prayer.

Although the disciples did not know what to expect, they would receive the Holy Spirit a few days later. This would be known as Pentecost, and would give them the power and the ability to spread Jesus' good news around the world.

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

Questions

1. Explain why Easter Sunday is a joyous occasion.
2. What did Jesus do after his resurrection?
3. What difficulty did the disciples have, and why?
4. What word has been used which means “said it was going to happen”?
5. Explain the purpose of Jesus’ return to the disciples.

