

Being Patient

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Acts 1:1-11. If you want read it online just go to this link: <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage in the search engine.

Start

1. What do you find harder to wait for?
 - A. Your birthday
 - B. Christmas

2. What would you prefer?
 - A. To have £10 now
 - B. To have £50 at the end of 4 weeks

3. What would you rather do?
 - A. Finish your schoolwork really quickly
 - B. Take time and do your work as best you can

Do you find waiting easy or hard? Why do you think that is?

Story

Introduction: This story is remembered by churches as 'Ascension Day' as it remembers Jesus ascending into Heaven.

After Jesus came back to life he visited his friends lots of times and proved to them that he really was alive again. He also talked to them about what God's kingdom is like and how we can all be part of it. His friends were so excited and happy to be with Jesus again. One day Jesus said to them, "You will all need to wait and be patient. I am going to leave and you will need to wait for my special gift, the Holy Spirit which is me with you always. Don't leave Jerusalem and don't tell anyone about me until I send the Holy Spirit to you. Then you will be ready to tell everyone about me."

Jesus' friends were wondering what this all meant. They asked, "Jesus, are you saying that soon you're going to give us back our land again and there'll be no more Romans to push us around?" They still didn't quite understand what Jesus was wanting to do. Jesus just said, "That's not for you to be thinking about. I will send you the Holy Spirit and then you will be ready to go and tell everyone about me, not just here in Israel, but everywhere." After he told them this, he left. So Jesus' friends did as he said and waited in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. They must have had lots of

questions. What was going to happen? Where were they going to go? There was so much to think about, but for now what they needed to do was wait just like Jesus had told them to.

What to do next

You could chat about your favourite part of the story.

- From the word A S C E N D, search for things in the house and garden, one for each letter of the word e.g. A- Apple etc.
- Build a scene using a cardboard box for example with characters on the ground and Jesus being taken up. Make figures using upside down spoons and anything you can find to add hair, faces etc.
- See if you can learn a memory verse Acts 1 vs 9. "After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight."

You could pray together as a family. Below are some suggestions for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he always keeps his promises.
- Think of times where you find waiting hard. Ask God to help you be patient.
- Pray for anyone you know who is needing to wait for something important. Ask God to help them be patient as they wait and to know he is with them.