

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 6**

## **CHRIST IS RISEN**

### **Lesson 13**

### **The Ascension**

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### Christ Is Risen

#### The Ascension

##### Lesson Overview

Students read scripture passages and reflect on Christ's Ascension into heaven.

**Duration:** 40 - 60 min.

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

**Gr.4 BL2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting

**Gr.5 CL3.1:** Identify and examine a selection of the scripture passages in the New Testament which reveal the divinity of Jesus

**Gr. 6 BL2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the Church's teaching concerning the mysteries of the hidden and public life of Jesus Christ (incarnation, suffering and death, rising from the dead and ascending into heaven)

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

##### The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community and Participation

##### The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community Who:

**CGE1a:** Illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian Faith

**CGE1c:** Actively reflects on God's word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures

A Reflective and Creative Thinker Who:

**CGE3a:** Recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

##### Big Idea:

- Jesus spent 40 days with the disciples after Easter teaching them and preparing them for their mission to spread the news of His teachings and the new covenant with God
- Jesus' promise to his Apostles and to us is that although He is not physically present, He is with us always, through the Holy Spirit
- How did Jesus prepare the Apostles for the time He would leave them and for their mission after his ascension?

## Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

**For teacher information:** Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.<sup>533</sup> But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.<sup>534</sup> Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand. (*Catholic Catechism* 59)

### Scripture Passages:

- Luke 24:50-53
- Acts 1:6-11
- Matthew 28:20

## LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- understand the biblical story of Christ's ascension
- connect the significance of the ascension to our lives as children of God

**Success Criteria**, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the "look-fors") in relation to curriculum expectations.

## INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

### Terminology:

- ascension

### Materials:

- Bibles

### Resources: (Optional)

- Ascension of Jesus Christ from AD The Bible Continues  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDOLNtc1UE4>

## MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

**Say:** "Jesus spent time with the disciples for 40 days after Easter. In many different passages in the bible he tells them he will be physically present with them for only a short time. As with the resurrection, it is difficult for us to understand, since it never happened before or since Jesus. We know through the bible accounts that the disciples were witnesses to the Ascension. We know that Jesus' physical body ascended but we are unable to explain how – this is another example of the supernatural nature of Jesus after the resurrection."

If necessary, remind students of the definition of 'supernatural.'

## Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

### ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

1. Display and read Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:6-11 on the Smart Board.
2. Ask students to close their eyes and visualize what the Apostles might have seen and felt as witnesses to the Ascension.
3. Ask them to share what they thought and felt.
4. Share this quote from Matthew (28:20) ***“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

Remind the students that the Apostles would have understood, or would have come to understand, that although Jesus had left them physically, through the Holy Spirit He was with them as He is with us.

### CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

**Say:** “Jesus instructed his Apostles to spread the news of His message for a new understanding of God. He promised to send them help so His message would reach all His children.

- Imagine you were a disciple of Christ and a witness to His ascension into heaven.
- Draw a picture or write a reflection about what you would see, how you would feel and what you would wonder.

Allow class time for students to share their responses.

### CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- View the depiction of the ascension in the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD0LNtc1UE4>
- View the video “Ascension Day explained with LEGO”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6D0kMWj5NCE> (Note: In Canada the Ascension is always celebrated on a Sunday. In the US, it is usually celebrated on a Thursday.)
- As an art lesson you may wish to invite students to visualize for themselves what they imagine the scene to look like (through reflection or an actual drawing) and compare their interpretation to the artist’s depiction.

Curriculum Expectation – **Arts, Grades 4,5,6**

**Overall Expectation: Reflecting, Responding, Analysing:** apply the critical analysis process (see pages 23 – 28) to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings in response to a variety of art works and art experiences

**D2.1:** interpret a variety of art works and identify the feelings, issues, themes, and social concerns that they convey