

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 27, ages 4-5

Lesson 27 Goal

- Your child will focus on Jesus' "good-bye" to his friends as he ascended to his Father in Heaven and will be reminded that Christ will come again at the end of time.

Key Points

- Sometimes good friends have to be apart, but they can still be friends and remember one another.
- Jesus is with us, especially when we remember him.



Parent Reflection

When we experience something emotionally or spiritually profound, it's easy to want to stay in that moment, even when we know we cannot do so. This is true of many different stages and growth experiences of life. It is the dilemma facing Jesus' disciples upon the occasion of Jesus' Ascension. He reassures them that they will not be alone—he would send his Spirit to guide and strengthen them.

God is continually calling us to greater growth, to the next step of his beautiful plan for our lives. On multiple occasions, Jesus uses metaphors related to plants and trees to describe what happens when faith takes root in our lives. Likewise, we are called to continual spiritual growth. Sometimes, like Jesus' disciples, we may not think we are ready for the next step. But God is with us, and he knows us better than we know ourselves.

Reflection Question

In what areas of my life is God calling me to grow right now?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- small white cotton balls
- glue
- Activity Master #23

- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Masters #23 and #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say, *“Today we are going to pray for people we can’t see. We will pray for these people because they do not live near us—maybe a cousin or grandfather who is far away. We will also pray for people we have never seen but we still care about, such as hungry children in our country and in other countries.”*

Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Say, *“Let’s close our eyes. Picture in your mind someone you want to pray for and say a little prayer silently.”* (Pause.)

“Dear Jesus, even though we can’t see these people, we care about them. We ask you to watch over them. We can’t see you but we know you are with us and we can talk with you as we are doing now.” (Pause 10 seconds and then have your child open his or her eyes.)

“Thank you, God, for our gifts. May we use them to do your work. Amen.”

Discovering

Jesus Returns to His Father. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus’ Ascension.

Ask your child, “How do we know Jesus is always with us?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Ascends to Heaven. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Jesus Is Always in My Heart. Give your child a copy of Activity Master #23. Have him or her recall the story “Jesus Returns to His Father” and encourage discussion. Invite your child to color the picture and glue cotton balls to make fluffy clouds. Share that the picture reminds us that we can talk with Jesus and feel his love in our minds and hearts.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint John the Apostle. Show your child the picture of Saint John on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- ▶ What did Saint John the Apostle do after Jesus went back to Heaven? (*He taught and wrote about Jesus.*)
- ▶ What did Saint John always say when he taught? (*"Sisters and brothers, love one another."*)

Have your child write and draw about Saint John the Apostle using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

"Dear Jesus, sometimes it's hard to say good-bye, and it's sad when we can't be with people we love. Help us to remember that you are always with us, especially in the Eucharist, Holy Scripture, and through those who serve you in church. Thank you for also watching over the people we love. Be with all of us today and always. Amen."

Saint John the Apostle

Jesus in His Heart and Thoughts

John watched with the rest of Jesus' disciples as Jesus rose up toward Heaven. Now they would no longer have Jesus right in front of them. Yet John knew Jesus was still with him, in his heart and in his thoughts.

John had felt close to Jesus for a long time. Jesus called John and his brother James to be among his special friends, the Apostles. From then on, John was always a faithful disciple.

John watched Jesus turn five loaves of bread into thousands of loaves! He listened closely as Jesus was teaching.

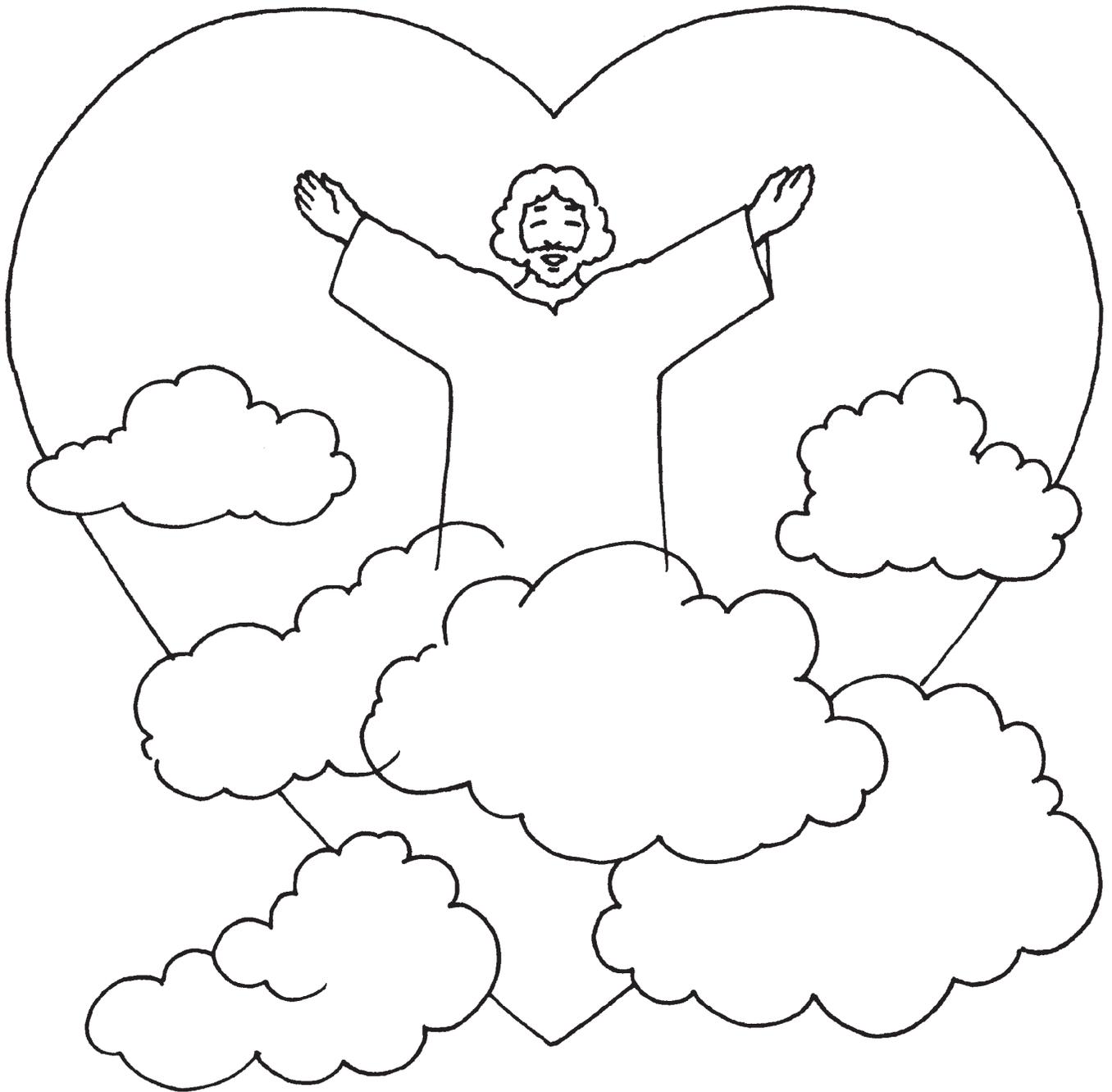
Now John could no longer see Jesus ev-

ery day, but with Jesus in his heart and in his thoughts, John was able to teach many, many people all about Jesus and his teachings. John wrote about Jesus, too, so hundreds of years later, we can still learn about Jesus through John's writing. Some of our Scripture stories were written by John.

When John was very old, he still taught people. Each time he was teaching, John said: "Sisters and brothers, love one another."

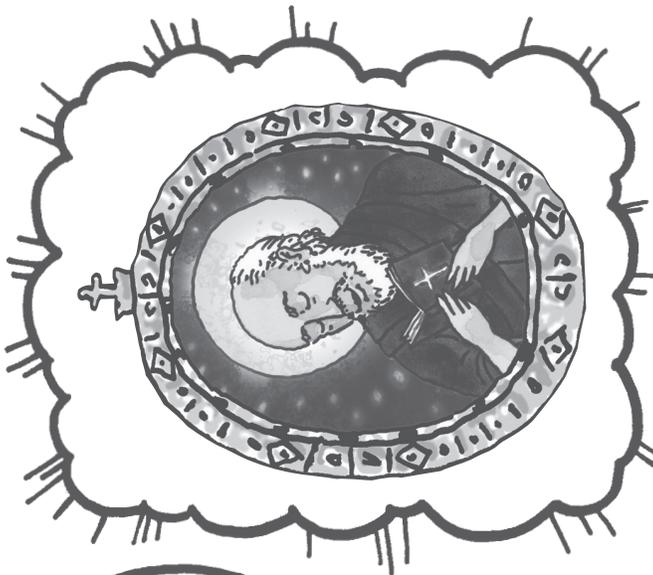
John had Jesus in his heart and thoughts, and he knew that love was the most important thing Jesus taught.

JESUS IS ALWAYS IN MY HEART



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DRAW



**Saint
John,
pray for us!**