

Looking-up-to-Heaven Bubbler

Jesus Ascends into Heaven
Luke 24:44-53

You Need

- ¾-inch PVC coupling (paper towel roll could also be used but will not be as sturdy)
- Aluminum foil tape, found in hardware stores (or stickers of clouds, crosses, Baptism shells, the Bible, the Lord's Supper, or Jesus)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Bubble solution: ¼ cup liquid dishwashing detergent, ¾ cup cold water & 5 drops glycerin
- Flat, shallow containers, such as the lid from an ice cream or oatmeal container, for the bubble solution

Get Ready

- Make the bubble solution.
- Gather the materials and set them out.
- Make a sample.

Introduce the Craft

Read Luke 24:44-53

Show your sample and blow a big bubble.

Ask Where did my bubble go? *It popped.* What hap-

pened at Jesus' ascension? *A cloud covered Jesus, and He was gone from sight.*

Read Acts 1:9–11

Ask Where did Jesus go, and where is He now? *Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for us, and He is also still here, with us everywhere.*

Say We can't see Jesus with our earthly eyes, but we can trust His promise that He is here with us now and always. Our eyes of faith see Him in His Holy Word. Our eyes of faith see Him in Holy Communion because we believe He is truly present with us. Our eyes of faith see Him in the water of Baptism.

Jesus is with you! His Spirit is working through God's Word and Sacraments to keep you in the saving faith until the day He returns to take you to your heavenly home.

Do This

- Cut a 4- to 5-inch length of foil tape.
- Use a pencil to draw a cloud shape on the tape. Draw a cross in the cloud.
- Cut out the cloud shape, and then cut out the cross from the bottom of the cloud.
- Remove the paper backing from the foil tape, and stick the tape onto the PVC coupling. Use your finger to burnish the tape to the coupling so it is smooth and well adhered. *Option:* Decorate the coupling with stickers.
- Fill a flat container with bubble solution and dip one end of the coupling (your "bubbler") into it.
- Gently blow into the other side of the coupling; watch the large bubble form and fly away.

SNACK

Pudding in a Cloud

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

Acts 1:1–11; Luke 24:44–53

You Need

- Mixing spoon
- Dessert dishes and spoons
- Bowl
- Whisk
- 2 cups thawed whipped topping, (enough for 4 children)
- 2 cups cold milk, (enough for 4 children)
- 1 package (4-serving size) instant pudding & pie filling, any flavor, (enough for 4 children)

Get Ready

- Pour milk into a bowl and add the pudding mix.
- Beat with a wire whisk 1 to 2 minutes or until well blended.
- Let stand 5 minutes. Refrigerate until you are ready to use it.
- Thaw whipped topping.
- Set out dessert bowls and spoons.

Do This

- Spoon about 1/2 cup whipped topping into serving dish.
- Using a spoon, spread the whipped topping on the bottom and up the sides of the dish.
- Spoon pudding into the “cloud” of topping.
- Eat and enjoy.

Introduce the Snack

Read Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

Say Jesus came from His home in heaven to earth to do the work God sent Him to do—to save us from our sins. He did this by keeping God’s Law perfectly for us in our place. He never sinned. Then, He suffered and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and rose again on Easter. Now, God forgives the sins of all who believe in Jesus and promises us a home in heaven with Him.

After Jesus’ work on earth was done, He was ready to go back to heaven to prepare a place for us.

Ask Did Jesus leave His disciples alone when He ascended to the Father? **No** What did He promise to do? **He would send the Holy Spirit.**

Say Jesus kept His promise. He sent the Holy Spirit, who came on Pentecost.

We can’t see Jesus with our eyes the way people did when He lived on earth.

Ask Does that mean Jesus has left us alone? **No**

What is Jesus doing now? *Let children suggest what they think.*

Say Jesus continues His work for us in heaven, preparing a place for us, but now not only as God but as true man too! He knows how we feel and intercedes for us with the Father, asking God to be merciful to us.

He continues to proclaim He is our Savior from sin through the Gospel. And He rules with His almighty power over all creation, governing and protecting His Church on earth, until He comes again to lead His Church to glory and take us to His heavenly home.

While we are on earth, He gives us the same Holy Spirit who equipped the disciples to be witnesses.

Ask How does He do this? **Through Baptism and God’s Word.** He equips us with faith to believe that He is the Son of God and promised Savior and to tell others the same message the disciples shared. He gives us His Spirit to help us grow in faith and serve others.

EXPERIMENT

It's Impossible! Shiny and New

Jesus Wins the Victory

Luke 23:1–24:12

You Need

- water
- 2 clear glasses
- pennies (10-20 with 1 or 2 tarnished pennies)
- vinegar
- salt
- dry clean cloth

Get Ready

- "It's Impossible!": Collect pennies. Fill a short glass of water very close to the rim. Practice this activity to be sure you are comfortable.
- "Shiny and New": Combine ½ cup of vinegar with 1 Tbsp. of salt in a glass or plastic cup. Mix until the salt is dissolved. Gather tarnished pennies. Also collect a dry, clean cloth.

Introduce the Experiment

Read Luke 23:1-24:12

Say Before we start our experiment, I want you to look at this penny. *Show the tarnished penny.* What are words that describe what it looks like now? *Accept responses.*

Say I'm going to put this penny into this cup, and then we will look at it again at the end of the experiment. Remember what it looks like now! *Put the penny in the vinegar/salt solution. In order for this demonstration to work, the cup cannot be bumped or*

moved, so place it where it will not be disturbed.

Do This

Say Here, I have an ordinary glass of water. Do you want to try it? *Have a child put a finger in the cup and verify that it tastes like water.* This glass is very full. I am going to add these pennies to the water one at a time. *Add by sliding the penny along the inside rim of the glass. When the water reaches the edge of the glass, it starts to get really full.*

Ask Do you think it's possible to fit one more in without spilling? *Keep adding pennies and asking until children are sure you can't add another. Then, add another!*

Say This is pretty amazing, isn't it? It almost seems impossible, but there is a scientific reason behind why the water doesn't spill. Water has something called surface tension. Each little water molecule sticks to the one next to it. If you look carefully, you can see the water is over the top of the glass, but it doesn't spill! It is pretty amazing.

In the Bible story you heard today, Jesus did something amazing too—something way more amazing than a surface tension demonstration! Jesus died on the cross and then rose again three days later! Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and Satan through His death and resurrection for us! What He did truly is impossible for any of us, but that victory was possible for Jesus because Jesus is God.

Shiny and New

Say Do you remember what my penny looked like? Let's see what it looks like now. *Take the penny out of the glass and dry it with the cloth. Show how shiny it is.*

Wow! That sure looks like a different penny, doesn't it? Do you know that we are just like that penny? We are covered with the tarnish of sin. Because Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and the devil, God gives us that victory through faith and in our Baptism. Now, when God looks at us, He sees a new, clean, shiny person free from sin. God gives us new life and eternal life. Let's give thanks to God for giving us the victory Jesus won for us, making us shiny and new.