

The Stories of Jesus

Kids retell and illustrate Bible stories to create a group picture book they remember that we are God's ground crew.

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Grades 1-2

Supplies:

Cardstock, 8 ½ inches x 11 inches (22 cm x 28 cm)

Pencils

Ruler

Plastic knife

Hole punch

Markers

Crayons

Ribbon or yarn

Set Up:

Lay cardstock lengthwise, then measure and mark a margin 2 inches (5 cm) from the left edge of the paper. Score that line with the plastic knife along the edge of the ruler. (This margin will serve as the binding edge. Kids should not draw or write on that portion of the page.) Punch a hole 1 ½ inches (4 cm) from the top and bottom of the binding edge on each page. Precut a 20-inch (51 cm) length of ribbon or yarn for each kid. Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

In today's story, Jesus asked his disciples to tell his stories even after he ascended to heaven. Of course, Jesus wasn't just giving instructions to the disciples. Jesus wants us to tell his stories, too! We're God's "ground crew." That means it's our job to spread stories about Jesus and about God's love to all the people we meet here on earth. Today, we are going to act like God's ground crew by creating a book together that will help others learn about Jesus. Let's get started!

1. Distribute cardstock book pages.
2. **I wonder if everyone here has a favorite story about Jesus.** Invite kids to share favorite stories. **Those are great stories! Let's share them.**
3. **On your book page, you will retell a story of Jesus.** Invite each kid to write out sentences that tell the story, then add illustrations to the different pages to create a part of this group picture book. Encourage kids to be creative, and remind them not to draw on the margin where their books will be bound.
4. When kids are finished writing and illustrating their individual pages, invite them to bring their individual pages to you.
5. Put the entire book of pages together. Place each kid's page between two additional sheets of cardstock to create book covers, then tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through the two holes to bind the book together.

Each of you created such a great book today! I hope your book helps you remember that we can tell others about Jesus. We are God's ground crew!

If you have less time . . .

Invite each kid to create one page for the book that tells something special about Jesus.

If you have more time . . .

Make arrangements for the kids to read their book to a younger class.

Creating a Crew Member

Kids create a giant paper “crew member” as they remember, “we are God’s ground crew.”

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: Grades 1-2

Supplies:

Ledger-size paper

Markers

Tape

Set Up:

Create pieces of a paper doll template using ledger-size paper. Use one full sheet of ledger paper for the torso, then create a head, hands, legs and feet to complete the paper doll. Place all of the paper doll pieces near an empty wall in your classroom where they can be posted to construct the body in class.

Instructions:

Right before Jesus rose into heaven, he asked his disciples to help him continue his work on earth. Jesus wants us to be God’s ground crew. I wonder what it means to be a member of God’s ground crew. Let’s work together to build a member of this crew and find out.

1. Tape the head of the paper doll to the wall. Draw in eyes, nose, and mouth.
2. **Here are the eyes, nose, and mouth of one of God’s ground crew members. I wonder what’s so special about these part of the crew member How can we use our eyes as part of God’s ground crew?** (We can read our Bibles and stories about Jesus. We can look around for people who might need our help. We can watch and learn from the examples of our leaders here at church.) **What about the crew member’s mouth? How can we use our mouths to spread the word about Jesus?** (We can sing about Jesus. We can tell stories about Jesus. We can invite our friends to church and to Sunday school where we learn about Jesus.) **Great! And how can we use our ears to help Jesus?** (We can listen to our parents, teachers, and pastors when they tell us about Jesus.)
3. Tape the torso of the paper doll to the wall and draw a heart on the chest. **Every member of God’s ground crew has a special heart. How can we use our hearts as part of the crew?** (We can love Jesus and love our friends and neighbors, too. We can keep Jesus in our hearts.)
5. Tape the arms and hands of the paper doll to the wall. **How can we use our hands to do Jesus’ work?** (We can give hugs. We can share. We can help our parents or grandparents. We can bring food and clothing to people in need.)

7. Tape the legs and feet of the paper doll to the wall. **How can we use our feet to help on God's ground crew?** (We can use our feet to walk to church. We can use our feet to move us when we help our friends and neighbors.)

You did a great job of helping me to build our crew member today. What a great way to remember that we are God's ground crew!

If you have less time . . .

Post the pieces of the ground crew character before the kids arrive.

If you have more time . . .

Divide the class into groups: one group per template piece. Encourage the kids to spend some time brainstorming in their groups about how their part of the crew member can serve others and share God's love. Assemble the ground crew character as a class, listening to the ideas from each group as they share ideas about their part of the crew member.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for the words you've passed on to us through the disciples and the Bible. We know that you give us the strength to witness to others. Help us to take our job seriously and to do the best we can to tell others about you.

Amen.