

Create a Cross

Kids work together to create a large stained-glass cross as they remember that Jesus went to heaven.

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: PreK-K

Supplies:

Posterboard

Scissors

Tissue paper squares, assorted colors

Small basket or container

Glue sticks

Set Up:

Cut posterboard into one large cross or assemble several sheets into the shape of a cross. Cut tissue paper into 2- to 3-inch (5-8 cm) squares and place them in the small basket or container.

Instructions:

When something floats or rises up, we say that it is ascending. In our story today, the disciples saw Jesus ascending, or floating up, into heaven. Sometimes, when people see a cross, they are reminded of the day that Jesus rose to heaven. We are going to make a big, colorful cross today for others to see to remind them about Jesus.

1. Place the large posterboard cross on a table where all kids can access parts of it.
2. **The first step in creating our cross is to spread glue onto the cross like we're coloring it in.** Invite kids to "color" the cross with glue sticks.
3. **Next, we need to make our cross look beautiful. We can do that by sticking some pieces of tissue paper on top of the glue. Let's try to cover all of the white space. It's okay if the pieces of tissue paper overlap. Watch me.** Show kids how to place tissue paper on the cross, overlapping colors for a special look.
4. Invite kids to take over, gluing pieces of tissue onto the cross until all white areas are covered.

Thank you for all of your help! Our cross is beautiful and colorful but it is empty – Jesus isn't there. We'll hang our cross in a special place and it will remind everyone who sees it that Jesus lived and died and that Jesus went to heaven.

If you have less time . . .

Cut out a smaller cross from posterboard and use larger tissue pieces.

If you have more time . . .

Direct kids to cut pieces of tissue into irregular shapes and construct a larger cross.

Group Puzzle

Kids work as a group to construct a puzzle to remind them that Jesus went to heaven.

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Ascension

Learner Level: PreK-K

Supplies:

Simple puzzle, 25 or fewer pieces

Set Up:

Select a simple puzzle to construct as a class (preferably, a puzzle with large pieces or one with a Christian theme).

Instructions:

Before Jesus ascended, or went up into heaven, he asked his disciples and all of us to help do his work here on earth. Today, you are going to work together to complete this puzzle. While you work, you can remember that Jesus wants us to work together—like pieces of a puzzle—to spread his love all over the world.

1. Give one or two pieces of the puzzle to each kid.
2. Guide the kids in taking turns to complete the puzzle.
3. Keep track of how long it takes the class to complete the puzzle together.
4. **Now that you've had an opportunity to complete the puzzle, let's do it again. Do you think it will take more or less time the second time around?**
5. Deconstruct the puzzle and hand out pieces to each child.
6. Direct kids to reassemble the puzzle.
7. Again, note how long it takes kids to complete the puzzle. Share the data with the class. It should take less time the second time that they construct the puzzle.
8. **Why do you think it was easier the second time that you completed the puzzle?**

Wow! When we all work together, we can get a lot done in a little bit of time. Jesus went up to heaven, and he asked us to work together to spread his love all over the world.

If you have less time . . .

Omit steps 4-8.

If you have more time . . .

Hide the puzzle pieces in the room. Encourage the kids to work together to find them and complete the puzzle.

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.