



Jesus' disciples spent three years following Him. They heard Him teach about God's Kingdom and witnessed Him perform many miracles. When they saw the Son of God nailed to a cross and die, they may have experienced feelings of abandonment. They believed Jesus was God's Promised Messiah and now He was dead, and His body had been placed in a sealed tomb.

Jesus told them very clearly before He was nailed to the cross that He was going to suffer and would rise again. Matthew 26:32 "But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." ([Matthew 16:21](#), [Matthew 17:12](#), [Mark 8:31](#), [Luke 9:22](#))

Even though the disciples had been told by Jesus what to expect they were most likely frightened and overwhelmed when the things that Jesus said would

happen were taking place. It would not have been easy to watch the innocent Son of God be treated like a criminal and be nailed to a Roman Cross

## Why are Ascension and Pentecost important to Christians?

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### Traditional English Version of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Sometimes feelings of fear, sadness, or loneliness can cloud our hearts to the truth that Jesus has spoken to us from His Word. The Bible is full of God's instructions for His people to follow until He returns or calls them home.



Three days after Jesus was buried in a sealed tomb God raised Him from the dead! He did exactly what He told the disciples He would do.

To prove that Jesus was really alive and not a figment of the disciples' imaginations, Jesus stayed on the earth for 40 days after His resurrection. [Acts 1:3](#). Luke tells us that over those 40 days Jesus gave many convincing proofs of His resurrection.

It must have been so comforting to the once very frightened and discouraged apostles to have Jesus with them again.

Luke tells us what Jesus did during the period of forty days. (He spoke about the Kingdom of God.)

Jesus gave His apostles a very important instruction. [Acts 1:4-5](#). Jesus knew what God's plans were and He was preparing them for when He returned to heaven. The apostles didn't fully understand what was about to happen. Even though they didn't understand they needed to follow the instructions Jesus gave them.

God's plan was for Jesus to return to heaven. Jesus had chosen His apostles to be messengers for Him after He left.

Although Jesus was returning to heaven He was not abandoning His apostles. God never leaves or abandons His children.

[Acts 1:8](#). This verse helps the Apostles to know that they would not be abandoned and left alone. Jesus told them that God was going to send the Holy Spirit to give them His power to take the message to all people.

This message could not be taken to the people without God's power. It was important for the Apostles to obey Jesus' instructions and wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.



When Jesus finished instructing the apostles, His feet lifted off the ground and He began to ascend or go up into the sky. As He went up into the sky a cloud hid Him from the apostles' sight.

The apostles had a job to do for Jesus. They had work to do but first they needed to follow Jesus' instructions. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.

They obeyed His instructions and went to Jerusalem. They went into a room where they were staying.

[Acts 1:13-14](#).

While they were waiting for the Holy Spirit -They joined together constantly in prayer.

Instead of allowing the fear of abandonment overwhelm them Jesus' followers spent time praying and waiting for Jesus to send His Holy Spirit. Peter also spoke to the group that was gathered. [Acts 1:15](#). Peter told the apostles that when Judas betrayed Jesus, he did exactly what God's Word said he would. Peter said that they needed to select another apostle to replace Judas. Peter told them what the requirements for an apostle needed to be. [Acts 1:21-22](#). Someone who had been with them the whole time Jesus ministered on the earth until the time He ascended. He needed to be someone who witnessed Jesus' resurrection.

Two men selected based on the requirements were Justus and Matthias. The apostles prayed and asked God which one He had chosen to replace Judas. The man chosen to replace Judas was Matthias.



It would have been easy for the apostles to sit around feeling sad that Jesus had returned to heaven. Instead they chose to obey Jesus' instructions and wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. They didn't just waste time as they waited, they spent their time praying and waiting.

The apostles would miss having Jesus walk with them and being able to see His face. Very soon God would be sending the Holy Spirit to them. The Holy Spirit will always be with them and go wherever they go. The Holy Spirit would give them power

to do the important job of sharing the Good News with other people.

We can be encouraged that Jesus has not left us alone. He has not abandoned us. If we believe that He died on the cross for our sins and was raised to life on the third day, the moment we believed His Holy Spirit came to live inside our hearts. We will never be alone and wherever we go, Jesus goes with us. If we ever feel worried, concerned, sad, alone or confused we have our faith to turn to as we place all our hope while we wait for Jesus to return or until He takes us to be with Him in heaven.



The prayer I say with all my classes is – 'Angel sent by God to guide me. Be my light and walk beside me. Be my guardian and protect me. On the path of life direct me'. We each have been assigned our own angel in times of prayer this is a reminder from God that we are not alone. Let us pray this pray for each other during this time of uncertainty.