

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, puffy clouds. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with some appearing closer and more detailed, while others are further away and more ethereal. The overall tone is bright and uplifting.

# Ascension Day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Always look up!**

# Wind and Fire

The last time his disciples saw Jesus was when they were walking on the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. He came to say goodbye.

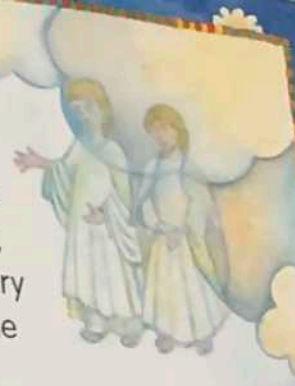
"You must go back to Jerusalem," Jesus told them. "Wait there and soon God will send you the Holy Spirit. He will give you the power to speak bravely about me and all that I have taught you. You will speak to the people in Jerusalem and in many parts of the country, and even the whole world. Remember, I shall always be with you."

As the disciples watched, a cloud hid Jesus and he was taken up into Heaven. They looked up and saw two men dressed in white. "Jesus has gone to be with God but one day he will come back," they said.



The disciples went back to Jerusalem, feeling very happy, and waited as Jesus had told them. On the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, many of Jesus' friends, his mother Mary and some other women were with the disciples in a house in Jerusalem.

Suddenly, they heard noise like a great wind blowing through the room, but the air was still. Then fiery flames flickered around their heads but didn't burn them.



They knew this was the sign that God had sent his power to them. Now they could speak bravely to all people. The disciples rushed out into the streets of Jerusalem and told everyone they met about Jesus and the wonderful things he had done. They spoke in many different languages they had never learned so that everyone could understand them. The disciples told the people that they should be baptized in the name of Jesus.



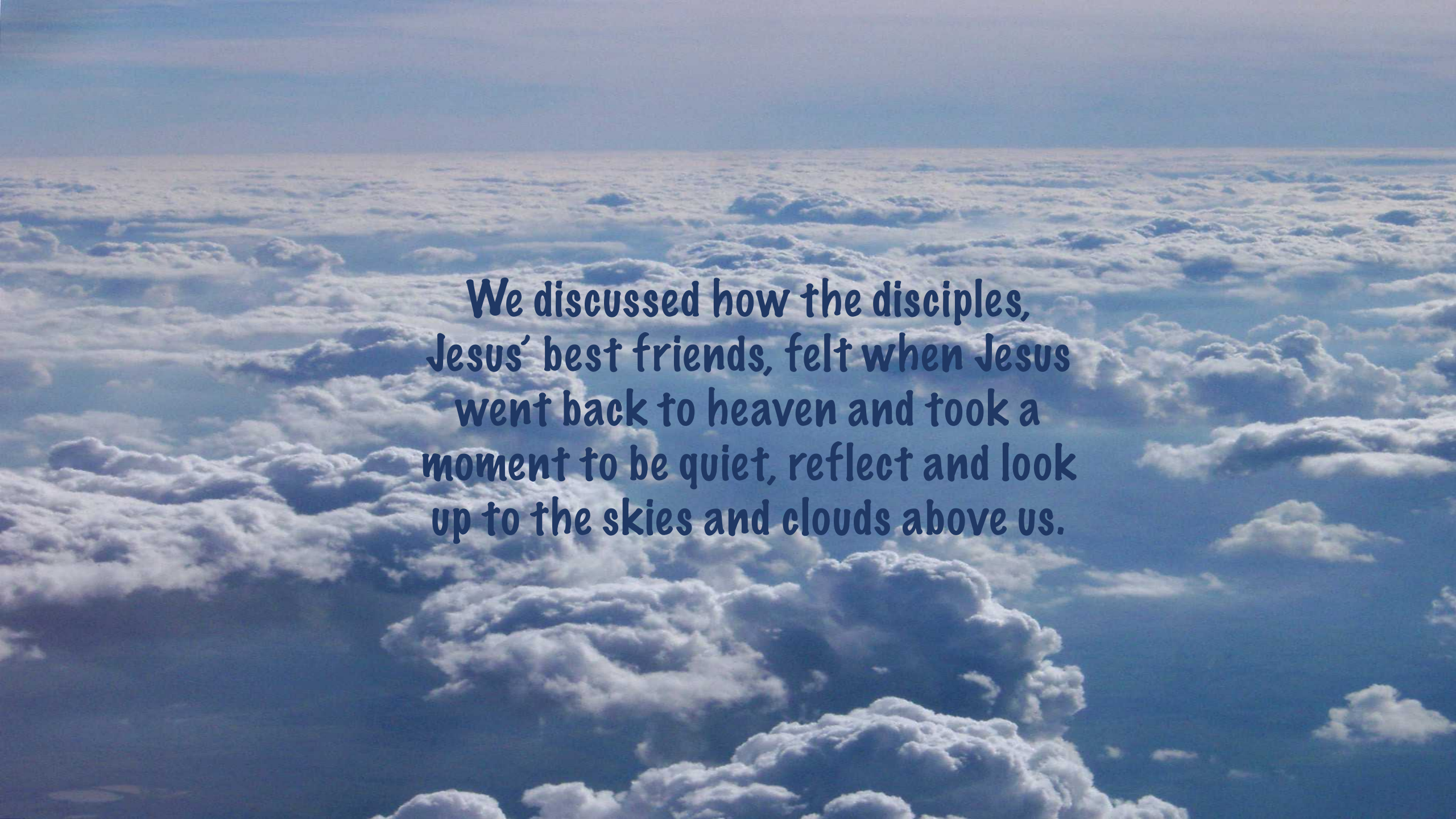
They should be sorry for the bad things they had done, believe that Jesus died for them, and that God would always help them and be with them.



**Seatown and Cogden classes walked up the hill to the church and listened as the story of Jesus ascending into heaven was read out from the Bible.**







**We discussed how the disciples,  
Jesus' best friends, felt when Jesus  
went back to heaven and took a  
moment to be quiet, reflect and look  
up to the skies and clouds above us.**



I'm so happy.  
Jesus has gone home to live with his Father.

How is that possible?

First he died, then came back to life, now he's gone. What's next?



I wonder where Jesus has gone?

What am I going to do without him?

I feel lonely. It's like a part of me has disappeared.







Why do churches have towers, vaulted ceilings and architecture with everything pointing up?

Because people look up to praise God, sing hallelujahs, acknowledge his glory and majesty.





As part of our mindfulness and awareness of our bodies, we took a few moments to raise our arms, stand on one leg and tried to keep our balance.







Nicely done,  
everyone....




...nearly managed it...



.....oh dear!





**Risen Lord, draw us to you.  
Drive away our fears  
with the good news of your resurrection,  
and fill our us with joy  
as we tell others;  
you live and reign, now and forever.  
Amen.**