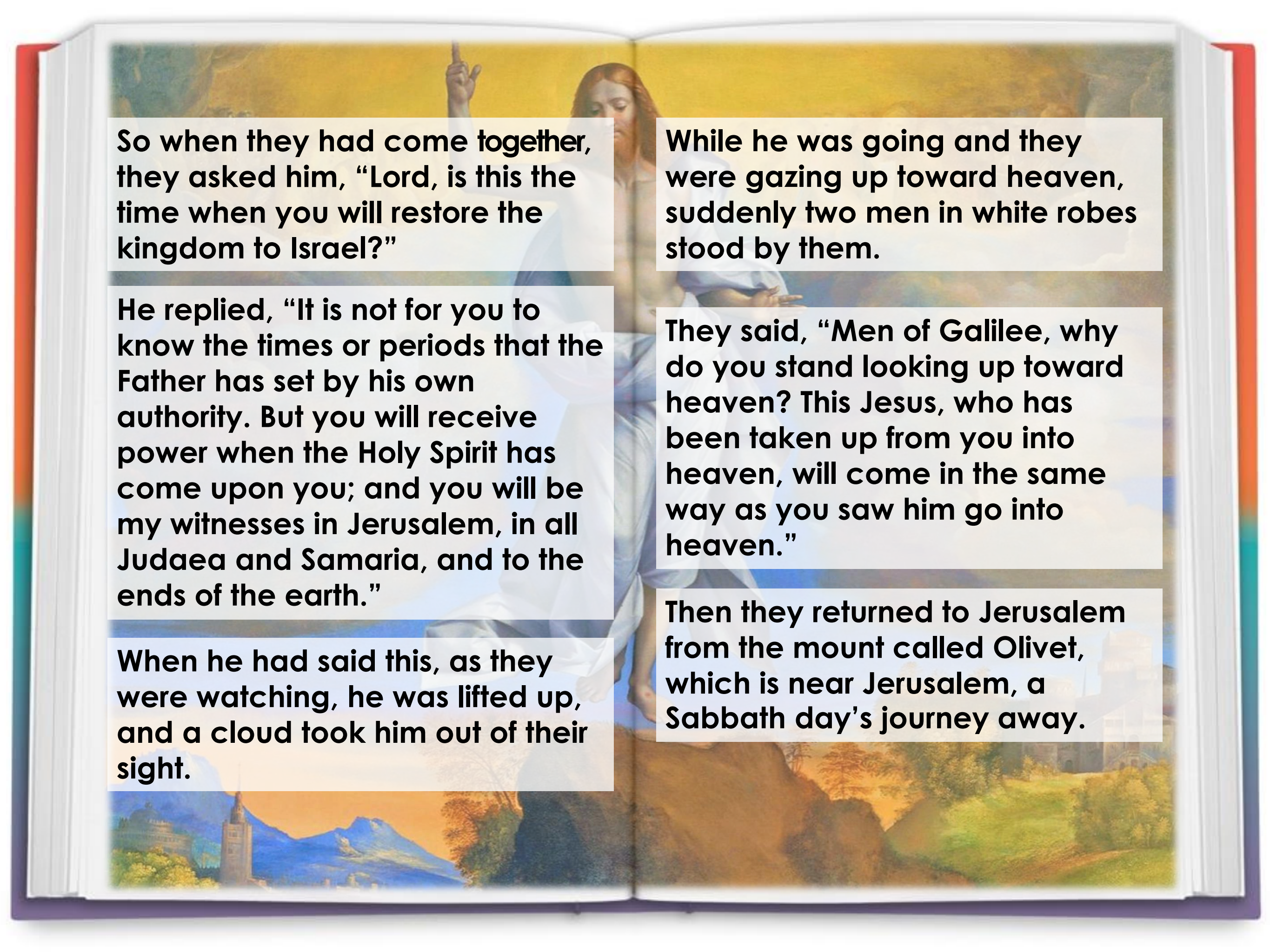


The Ascension of Jesus.



- Before Jesus returned to his Father, he promised his disciples that he would send them the Holy Spirit to enable them to continue to spread the Easter message and be his witnesses.
- In the Acts of the Apostles account of what happened after the Resurrection; the writer describes Jesus' return to his Father in symbolic language.



So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

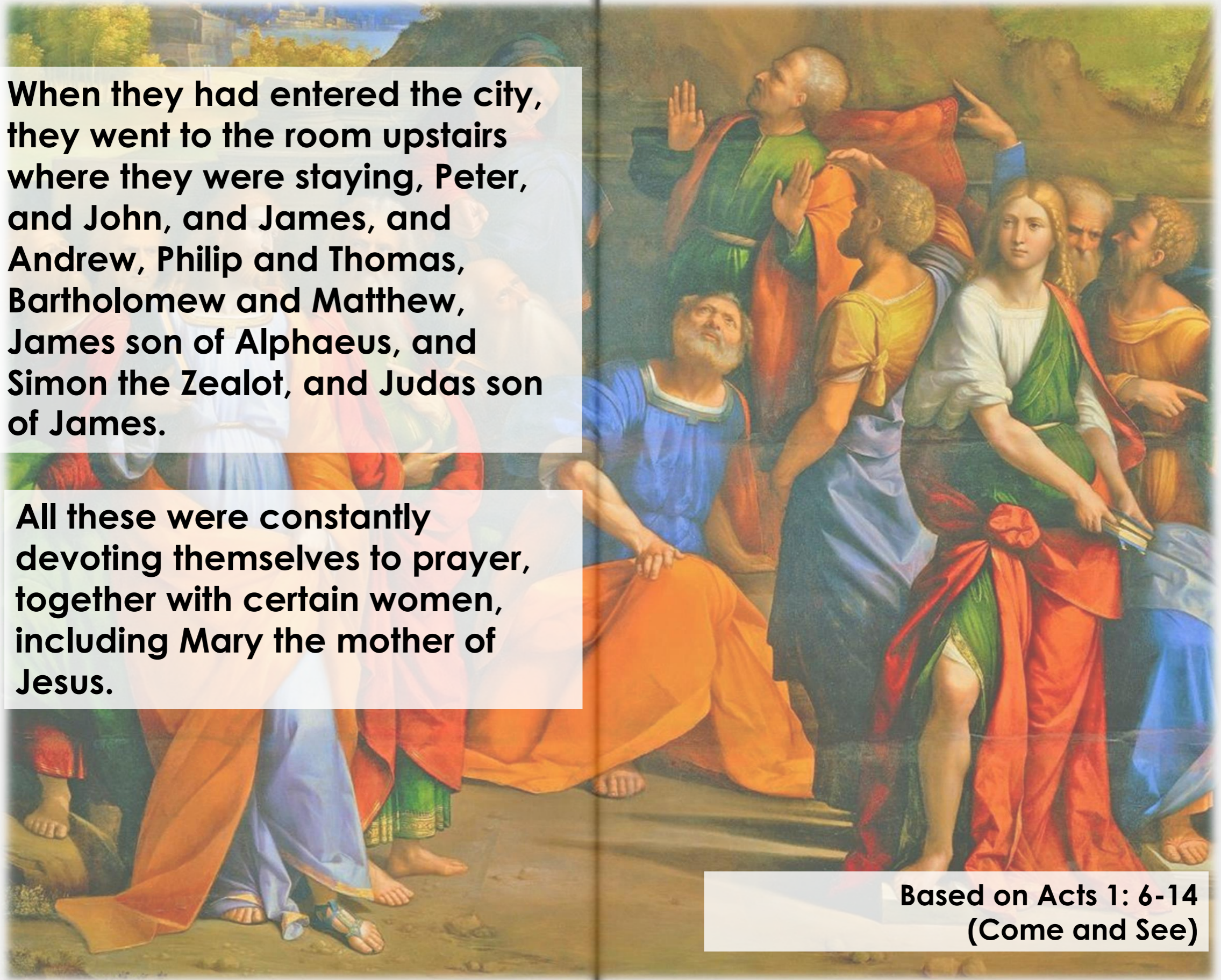
They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus.

**Based on Acts 1: 6-14
(Come and See)**



The disciples, Mary and the women gathered together in Jerusalem to wait in prayer in the upper room for the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was coming up to the Jewish feast of Pentecost or Shavuot, that is the harvest festival. There were many people in Jerusalem at this time.

- Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus about 'restoring the kingdom'?
- What do you think they meant and what does it show about their understanding?

- What do you think the power of the Holy Spirit would enable them to do?
- How do you think the disciples spent their time between the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit who would give them the power to be witnesses to the ends of the earth?

Task

Show understanding of the task ahead for the apostles by drawing up an action plan that outlines details of your preparations when you become a witness for Jesus.