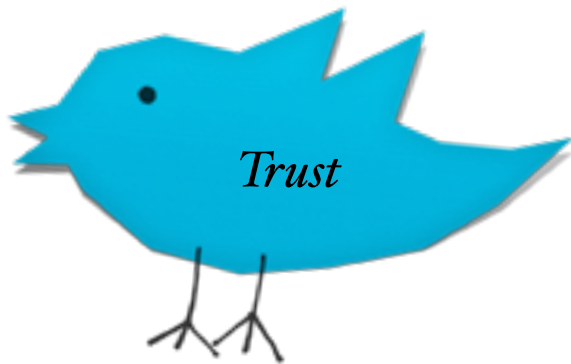




easter



lectionary
reading

Cycle C

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Lectionary #58

Reading I: Acts 1: 1-11

The intended recipient of this book, the Acts of the Apostles, is *Theophilus*, a name of Greek origin that is made from the combination of the words *theos* (God), and *philos* (love). There are scripture scholars that interpret this letter as being written to all who wish to be seekers and lovers of God. This particular section discusses Jesus as he ascends to the heavens. The two men dressed in white garments ask the disciples, *Why do you stand looking up to the heavens?* They should, instead, get to work living out the teachings of Jesus. In order to do this, the disciples must **trust** that Jesus will be with them in all of their endeavors. This same **trust** is required of all of us who wish to be *God seekers and lovers*.

Reading 2: Ephesians 1: 17-23

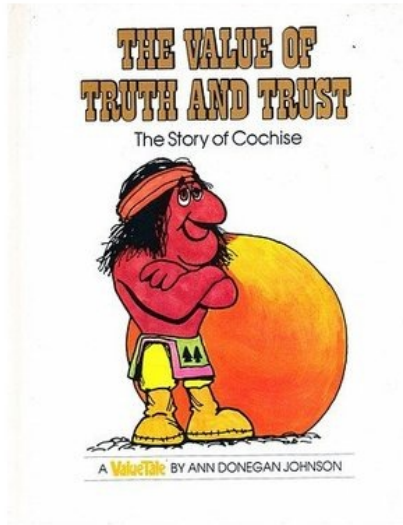
Saint Paul opens this letter to the Ephesians with a Trinitarian prayer that exemplifies that we are called to **trust** God because God is the basis for all hope. Saint Paul discusses how this hope is drawn from the great things that God has accomplished in the presence of Jesus Christ. Saint Paul encourages the people of Ephesus to see and **trust** that Jesus is the head of all things and to believe, know, and **trust** that the church is now Christ's body.

Gospel: Luke 24: 46-53

This Gospel account of the Ascension is much shorter than the account in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus instructs the disciples to stay in Jerusalem; this requires great **trust** on the part of the disciples, because they know that the authorities are searching for them. However, they **trust** that Jesus will direct and be with them. In this description of the Ascension, Jesus blesses the disciples and bids them farewell. It is essential to notice that even though Jesus takes leave of the disciples, they return to the city with exuberant praise. This reveals that the disciples are motivated by **trust** as they take up the work of Jesus.



children's story



The Value of Truth and Trust: The Story of Cochise

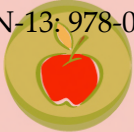
Written by Ann Donegan Johnson

Illustrated by Steve Pileggi

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character
education
activity

**Never be afraid to trust an
unknown future to a known
God.
-Corrie Ten Boom**

The Value of Truth and Trust: The Story of Cochise

In this story, the reader is introduced to young Cochise, an Apache boy whose father raised him to become chief of his people. One of the most important things that Cochise learns is to be **trustworthy**, which requires that he be faithful to the truth so that others will **trust** him. As the story progresses, we see Cochise as an adult who is working constantly to build **trust** between the Apaches and the settlers. This is a challenge because both parties are not always truthful with each other. Over time, **trust** is built between Cochise and a settler named Tom Jeffords, and peace is established between the Apaches and the settlers. This is a valuable story that uses a real-life person to exemplify the important value of **trust**.

The Airport Activity

Step One: In a clear area of the room or outdoors, have the students form two lines side-by-side, with the two lines facing each other about 8-feet apart. The space between the lines is the "runway." Place objects on the runway.

Step Two: Choose one person to be the "pilot" and another to be the "air traffic controller." They will then stand on either end of the runway. The pilot closes his/her eyes, and then the air traffic controller must guide the pilot safely down the runway so that they avoid touching any of the objects or people.

Step Three: Allow each person to have a turn being either the pilot or the air traffic controller.

Step Four: Engage the students in a discussion about how important it was to be able to **trust** the person guiding them. Make the connection with the students that although they cannot see God, God is always present and is guiding them, and that we must listen to God in order to be guided by him.

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust in God.
-Pope Francis



case study

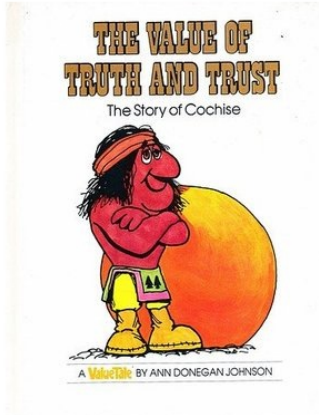
Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

What could you do today?

Along with your family members, choose to watch a television show or movie together, and be attentive to the characters' honesty or dishonesty. Think about what the outcomes for their honesty and dishonesty are. After the program is over, have a discussion about how the characters might have acted differently in order to be seen as **trustworthy**.

Look Feel Know Act

Having **trust** in God will begin a great journey for each of us. Knowing and believing that we can **trust** in God will help us to see that as followers of Jesus, we are called to be people of **trust**. Family and friends are usually people that we can **trust**, and they have often given us good reasons to **trust** them. Think about a time when you felt great **trust** in someone and recall how that made you feel. Make a commitment to act in a way so that others feel safe and comforted because of the **trust** that they can place in you.



The readings chosen for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord reflect genuine **trust** that each person is called to live out, and most importantly, the **trust** that we are all called to place in God. **Trusting** God is crucial to living a life of goodness, and being **trustworthy** flows from being someone who **trusts** in God. Through the story of Cochise, we see how **trust** was something that his father nurtured in him so that he could be the leader that his people needed. Though he was faced with dishonesty in many different situations, he chose to be a person who would consistently walk in truth and **trust**. Both the children's story and the scripture passages are examples of real people who faced challenges but who remained faithful in their **trust** in God and found that it was **trust** that guided them.



closing
tool

Gracious and loving God, I ask your assistance to not worry about the future, but rather that I place more energy into trusting you at all times, in all situations, and in all things. Amen.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
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