

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 24th May
Seventh Sunday of Easter



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus' ascension to heaven.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 1:6-14

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

John 17:1-11
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your son Jesus to earth, to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins.

Thank you for your promise of eternal life, that we can know true relationship with you and be your children and friends.

Help us on the mission that you have given us, to share your love and your good news with others. We pray for all those who do not yet know you, that they would hear and respond to the good news about Jesus.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus returning to heaven?

Jesus' friends were still struggling to understand the big picture, they thought that Jesus had come to free the Israelites from Roman rule, they were probably confused and scared when Jesus left them again. Jesus had told them to wait for a helper, but they didn't really understand what was happening.

We know that Jesus had a much bigger plan. Jesus' plan was for everybody, all those who were in the earth at the same time as him and all those who were going to live on the earth in the future. Jesus had come and died on the cross to take the punishment for all the sins of the world, so that everybody could receive eternal life and know God as a father and friend just like Jesus did. The Holy Spirit was coming to be a helper for Jesus' followers forever.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had to wait patiently for someone or something?

Family Activity 1

You will need: A timer / clock

Jesus told his friends that they needed to be patient and trust in God's timing while they waited for the helper God had promised.

Find out who is best at waiting by playing 'The Minute Game'. One person has a clock or phone timer, this person tells everybody when to begin. Everybody else must stand up, they must sit down when they think a minute has passed – they are not allowed to cheat by looking at a watch or clock. Once everybody has sat down the person watching the timer should say who was closest.



A verse to remember

John 17 v 3

“And this is eternal life: that people know you, the only true God, and that they know Jesus Christ, the One you sent.”



These words were spoken by Jesus – because of his sacrifice on the cross everybody who accepted him as their Saviour would be able to know God the father as he did – as a close friend and as a loving father.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it . Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?

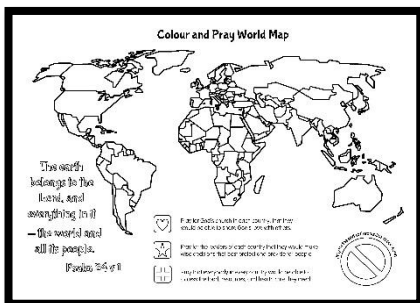
Active Prayer

You will need: Paper, pens, a timer

Jesus promised a helper who would help his followers carry the gospel message to all the countries of the world.

Take some time to pray for as many countries of the world as you can. Set the timer for a few minutes, everybody should write down as many countries as they can think of.

Then set the timer again, this time, your challenge is to pray for all of the countries you have written down. Put a tick by them as you pray...don't miss any country out!



If you would have a printer you might like to print a copy of the *Together at Home 'Colour and Pray world map'* sheet which is available at www.TatH.co.uk/other-resources

Family Activity 2

As his disciples watched, Jesus was lifted up into the sky and hidden behind a cloud. Why not spend some time cloud-gazing as a family. Find a safe place to lie down either in your home or socially distanced in a local green space.

Watch the clouds as they pass by, can you see any shapes or pictures in the clouds?



Helping Older Children

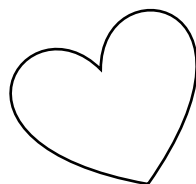
Just like the disciples, our children may be struggling to be patient and wait for lock-down to be over, particularly in these times where restrictions are changing and there is uncertainty.

Jesus' words to his own disciples might apply here: *“The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know.”*
(Acts 1:7)

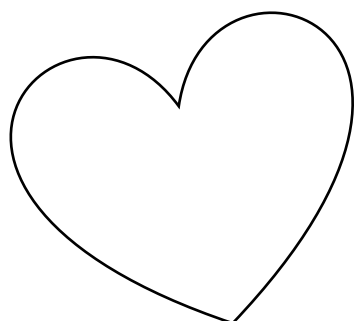
But just like the disciples, Jesus has sent a helper for us, we are not in this situation alone, we too can call on the Holy Spirit as our helper to help us as we continue to trust in God and his timing.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

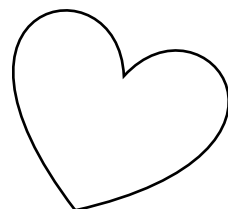
"AND THIS IS



FOR



LOVE



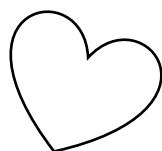
: THAT PEOPLE KNOW YOU,

THE ONLY TRUE GOD,

AND THAT THEY KNOW

JESUS CHRIST,

THE ONE YOU SENT."



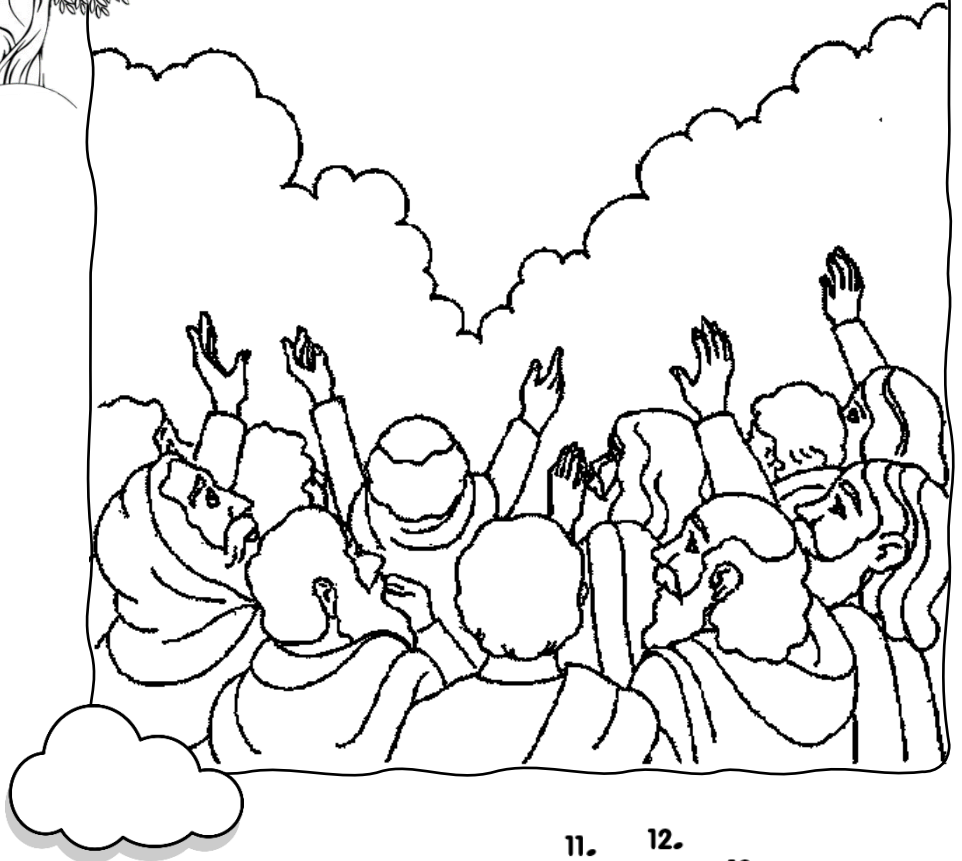
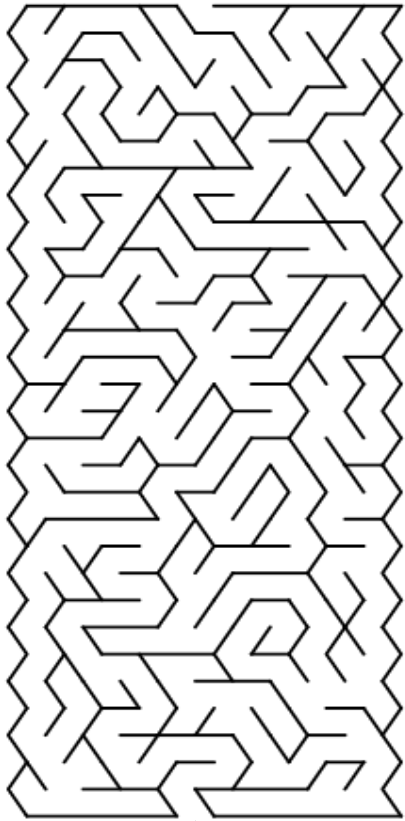
JOHN 17 V 3

Puzzle Sheet

Complete the picture below – what could the disciples see?

How many clouds like this one can you find on the page?

The disciples travelled to Jerusalem to wait for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Can you find your way through the maze from the mount of olives to the city of Jerusalem?



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Join the dots
What can you see?

There are 7 clouds hidden on the page.