

Church at Home for Abridge

24th May 2020

Activities for the whole family

Acts 1: 6 -14



1. [Here's](#) the story of Ascension Day in Lego™
2. [Here's](#) an Ascension Day song
3. **The Ascension Tree**

Do you recognise this type of tree?

Do you know it's name?

The horse chestnut is sometimes known as the Ascension Tree, because it's often in full flower on Ascension Day. Its huge flowers are like candles, pointing to the heavens and its big leaves point out in all directions – to the ends of the earth.

Ascension Day is part of the huge mystery of Easter. 40 days after he rose from the dead, Jesus said goodbye to his friends, and told them that they would be his witnesses – to the ends of the earth! Then he was gone; and they found themselves staring into the sky, thinking about what he had said to them, when suddenly two men in white appeared and asked them what on earth they were doing!



Maybe you could look out for an Ascension Tree if you can go out for a walk? Look where you might find conkers in autumn. Can you remember where you found them?

I wonder if you can spot a conker tree with red flowers – you might!!

I wonder if you ever find yourself wondering what to do next

I wonder if you ever find yourself staring into the sky

I wonder why you might do that

I wonder what happened next in the story



Look in a Bible for the answer – read Acts chapter 1 , veres 12-26

Together @ Home

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 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.

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.

Complete the picture below – what could the disciples see?

