**Sunday the 16th of May – Ascension Acts 1: 1-11**

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

**Family Craft: Braided**

A make-and-take craft gives your children a tangible reminder of the Trinity to help them explain the concept of three-in-one. Let each child choose three colours of ribbon or heavy wool and cut off 18- to 24-inch lengths of each one. Knot them together at the top and tape the knot end to a tabletop. Show your children how to braid the three separate strands into one to illustrate how the individual parts become one, even though you can still clearly distinguish the different colours. Tie off the ends when the children finish braiding and tell them they can take it home as a bookmark to remind

**Family Game: Wind and Fire Relay**

Cut crepe paper into two feet lengths, split into team, and give them team a straw and a piece of crepe paper. Use the straw to blow the crepe across the room and back. Who was the quickest!

**Family Challenge: The Minute Game**

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.

**Prayer:**

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

**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.



