

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 16th May
The 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, Jesus' prayer for us.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 17 v 6–19

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:

Acts 1 v 15-17, 21- 26

Ezekiel 36 v 24-28

Psalms 1

1 John 5 v 9-13

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you that you love and care for each of us. That everybody in the world is invited to receive forgiveness and to be your friend.

Thank you that we are invited to be part of sharing your love with others. That we can invite others to come to know you too.

Help us to live our lives in a way that shares your love with others.

To be brave and bold in telling others the Good News about your love for them.

Amen



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children
Who do you think Jesus was praying for?

Jesus knew that he would be returning to heaven and commissioning his followers to continue the work he had begun on the earth. Jesus knew that his death on the cross had made a way for everybody in the world to come into relationship with God through. The task ahead was to share that Good News with everybody in the world, Jesus' prayer was for all those who would carry the news to others.

Jesus knew it would be difficult for his followers, that they would be rejected and even attacked by some people. In verse 20 Jesus also prays for those who will hear and respond to the message in the future, that includes us thousands of years after Jesus was on the earth!

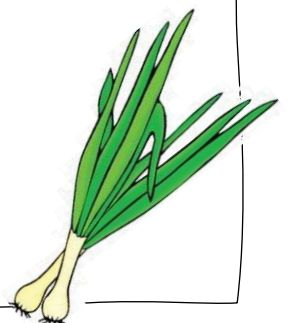
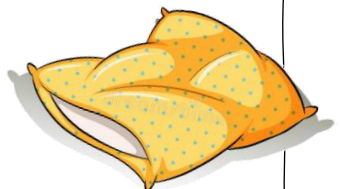
A question for children to ask adults
Can you think of a time when you shared your faith with somebody else? How did they respond?

Family Activity 1

"They don't belong to the world, just as I don't belong to the world."

Jesus knew that his disciples were in the world but not 'of' the world, they were children of God called to live differently and promised eternity with Him.

Play a 'what doesn't belong here' game. Pick a room in the house, everybody closes their eyes while one person goes and collects an object from another room and brings it in. Once the object is hidden in plain sight everybody should open their eyes. Who can be the first person to spot the item that doesn't belong in the room!



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?

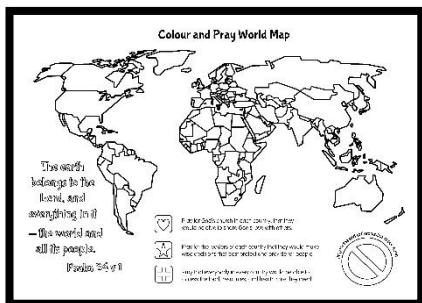
Active Prayer

You will need: Paper, pens, a timer

Jesus gave his followers a mission to 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!



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

“I pray these things while I am still in the world so that these followers can have all of my joy in them.”

Jesus prayed that his followers would know his joy while they were on the earth. Why not ask God to fill you with joy!

Pick an activity that fills you with joy as a family or put on a favourite piece of music to dance around to together.



Helping Older Children

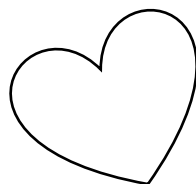
The idea of sharing our faith with others can be intimidating for children particularly the reactions of peers. Encourage them that just like Jesus we can share God's love through the way we live and treat others. We can choose to behave in a way that pleases God which may make us appear different and unusual in the world.



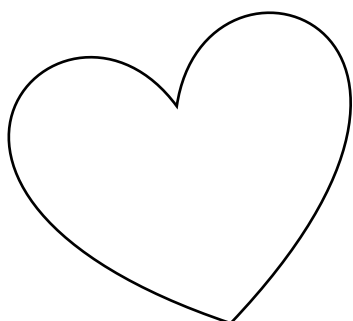
Even if we are not confident in speaking about our faith with others we can pray and ask God to use our everyday words and actions to show and share His love with those we meet.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

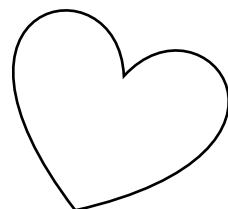
"AND THIS IS



FOR



LOVE



: THAT PEOPLE KNOW YOU,

THE ONLY TRUE GOD,

AND THAT THEY KNOW

JESUS CHRIST,

THE ONE YOU SENT."

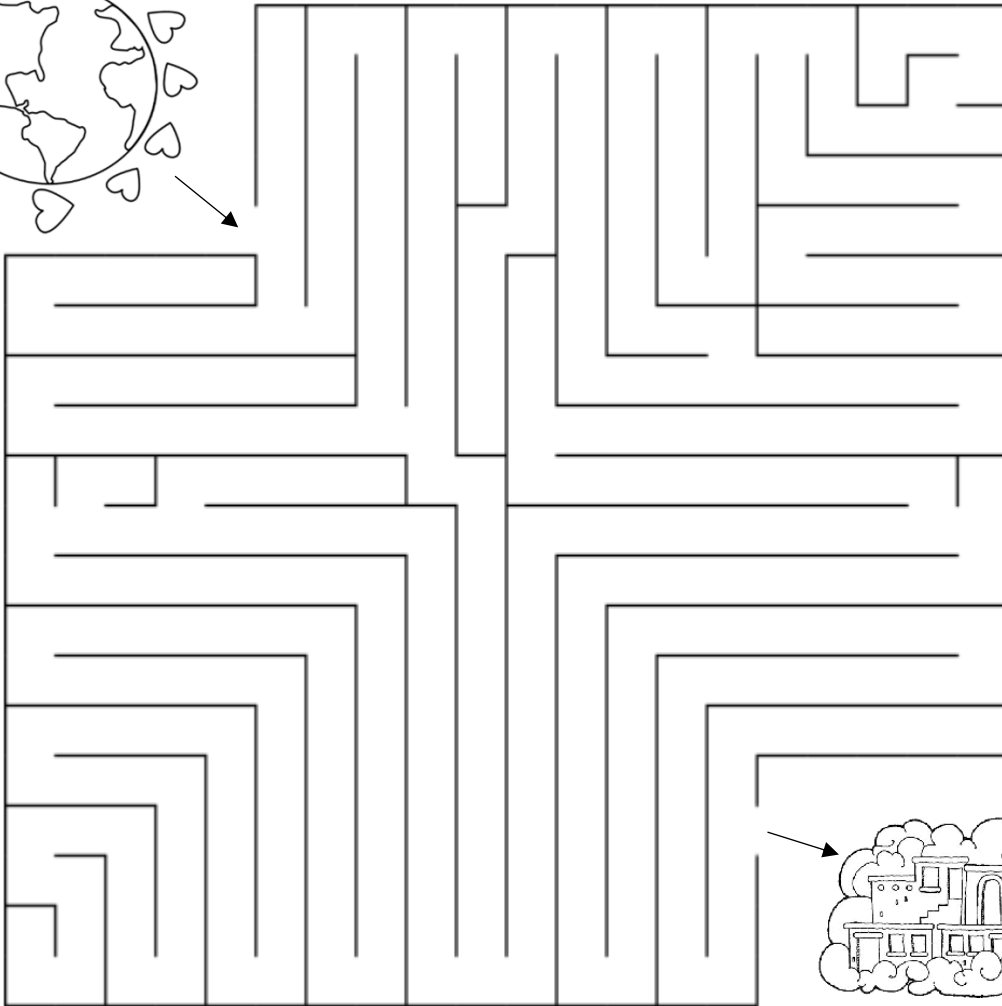
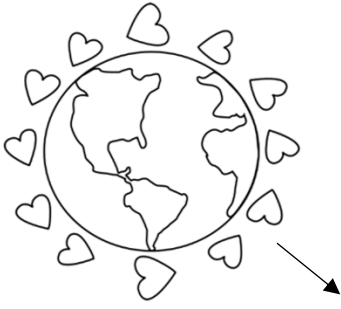


JOHN 17 V 3

Puzzle Sheet

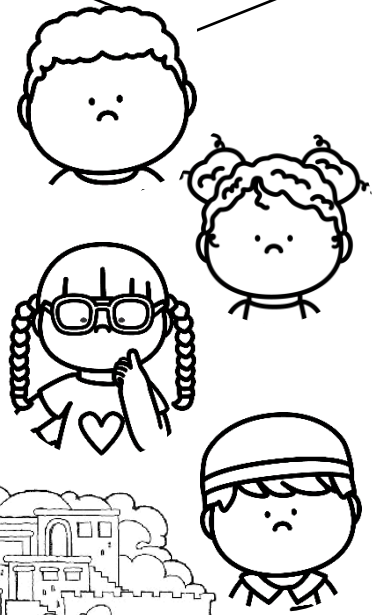
Jesus knew he was going back to heaven while his disciples stayed on the earth.

Can you find your way through the maze from earth to heaven?



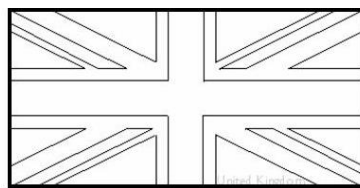
Jesus prayed that his followers would be filled with joy.

Complete these faces and fill them with joy!

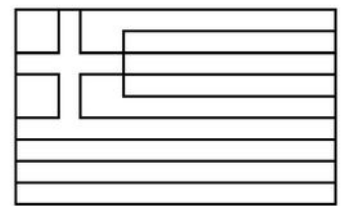


God wanted the message of his love to be carried to every country of the world,

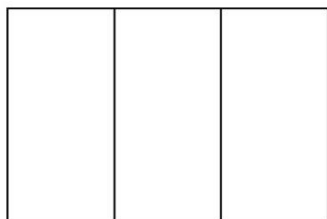
Unscramble the country name and colour the flag.



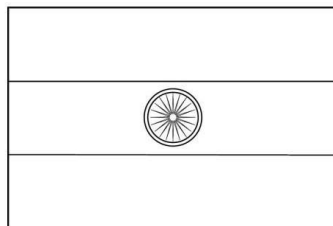
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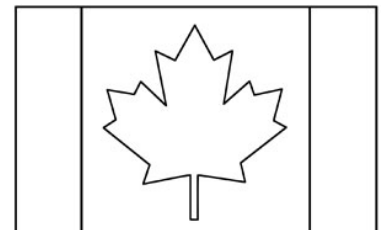
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