

**Good morning children! I hope you are all feeling very excited about going back to school if you're not there already! I know Lelia and Christian are very excited about seeing all of their friends!**

**We have had lots of fun while we have been at home together though because we have had time to do a lot more things together as a family, like riding bikes and cooking. We have also enjoyed watching a show about Australia Zoo and have learnt so much about so many of God's amazing animal creations!**

**Have you had to celebrate any of your birthdays or your friend's birthdays while you have not been able to see them? We sang happy birthday to Christian's friend over a video call last week and watched him cut his cake! They had lots of balloons there, and Christian wanted to be there too, but he loved to be able to send him special birthday wishes and see him on the video call!**

**We got out some balloons at home after that. We didn't have any helium, so our balloons are floating around the house on the floor! But I'm sure you know that when filled with helium, a balloon floats in the air. Have you ever stood and watched a helium balloon as it floats higher and higher into the heavens until it totally disappears? The only way to experience that is to be willing to let it go.**

**In today's Bible lesson in the book of Acts, we learn that when Jesus was ready to return to heaven, He took His disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to Him. He explained why it was important for Him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the Scriptures had said about Him. He also told them that he was going to return to His Father in heaven and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.**

**At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed His disciples. While He was blessing them, He lifted up and was taken up into heaven “up, up and away.” I don't know how all of this looked, but in my imagination I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until He disappeared from view. Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had gone up into heaven, the disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They stayed continually in the temple, praising God.**

**I hope you enjoy doing some activities today. If you have some coloured paper, you might like to make a beautiful balloon that looks like a hot air balloon, or you might want to do the dot to dot if that one is a bit tricky.**

**This link shows a video (scroll down the page a bit for the instructions on how to make the hot air balloon or another activity (it's all in the same video). I have included the hot air balloon template for you.**

**[https://web.sermons4kids.com/this-weeks-plus-lesson/?maropost\\_id=744289471&utm\\_source=maropost&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=S4K-weekly-marketing-Plus-Members-200416&om\\_name=&om\\_email=p.lynam@optusnet.com.au&mpweb=256-8880368-744289471](https://web.sermons4kids.com/this-weeks-plus-lesson/?maropost_id=744289471&utm_source=maropost&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=S4K-weekly-marketing-Plus-Members-200416&om_name=&om_email=p.lynam@optusnet.com.au&mpweb=256-8880368-744289471)**

**Before you start, have a prayer with someone at home:**

**Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your only Son, to die for our sin. We know that He has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven. Bless us today as we worship Him with great joy! In Jesus' name, amen.**