



“Resurrection Stories | Ascension” May 21

Discussion Questions

1. Since it is often overlooked and forgotten, what are your first impressions of Jesus’s ascension?
2. The ascension can be understood as the completion of Jesus’s trajectory: he came from God and returned to God. Why is it critical for Jesus to return to God instead of staying on earth with humanity?
3. In the resurrection stories, there has been a repeated emphasis on the physicality of Jesus’s risen body. With Jesus’s physical risen body, is it easier or harder to understand or believe in the ascension?
4. Jesus’s ministry on earth included teaching, healing and feeding. How does his ministry continue after the ascension when he is no longer physically on earth?
5. Last week, Tyler preached about how we can be friends with Jesus. What does this friendship mean if Jesus is also seated at the right hand of God?
6. Jesus intercedes (prays) and advocates for his friends to God the Father (John 17).
 - a. What areas in your life do you need Jesus to intercede? Take time after the discussion to ask Jesus to pray on your behalf.

- b. How might you pray and advocate for your friends? Take time after the discussion to do so.

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."