



PRODIGAL GOD

Discussion Guide

14-WEEK STUDY

IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WEEK 13

Discussion Guide

Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:3-11



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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:3-11

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To reflect on the important implications of the ascension of Christ

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you could travel anywhere in the world for one week, where would you go and why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you read **Luke 24:5-53 and Acts 1-2** last week? If so, what stood out to you as you read? In addition, talk about something that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon.
2. Have you ever heard a sermon on the subject of the ascension of Jesus? Was there anything new that you learned this past weekend? Explain.
3. As a group, read Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:9-11. What similarities do you notice? What differences do you notice?
4. References of the ascension and Christ's current position at the right hand of God show up over and over throughout the New Testament. Have the group read the following passages and discuss what they emphasize about the implications of Christ's ascension.
Ephesians 1:19b-23 **Philippians 2:9-11** **Hebrews 4:14**
Ephesians 2:10 **Colossians 3:1** **Hebrews 12:1-2**
5. In the first few hundred years of the church following the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, the church developed creeds that were intended to summarize and codify the essential doctrines of the Christian faith. Virtually every one of these creeds included the ascension of Jesus. What does this tell you about the importance of the ascension to the early church?

Note: Have two group members look up the two earliest creeds and read them: the Apostle's Creed (AD 120-250) and the Nicene Creed (AD 325)

6. In Pastor Doug's sermon, he mentioned three significant implications of Christ's ascension: (1) the universal availability of The Holy Spirit, (2) the authority of Jesus as King, and (3) the promised future return of Jesus. Which of these three implications stands out to you and why?
7. Why should the ascension of Jesus produce joy and hope in the lives of Christians?



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PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray for each other and any specific needs.

Pray for yourself: Pray and ask God to fill you with the confidence that comes from knowing you have access to the Holy Spirit, the worship that comes from knowing Christ is the exalted King, and the hope that comes from knowing Christ will return to make all things new.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Read Ephesians 1:19b-23 every morning as a reminder of the implications of Christ's ascension.

NOTES
