

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 5/17/26

Summary

This Ascension Sunday sermon explored the often-overlooked significance of Christ's ascension as one of the five most important Christian holy days. Pastor Mark emphasized that the ascension wasn't Jesus leaving us, but rather taking us with Him to be seated in heavenly realms. Through examining various artistic depictions of the ascension throughout history, the message revealed that Christ's ascension represents His exaltation, enables the gift of the Holy Spirit, guarantees His intercession for us, and most importantly, raises us up to live with Him in heavenly realms even now. The central truth is that we are not abandoned but elevated - seated with Christ in heavenly places through His grace.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to study Your Word about Christ's ascension, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to understand the profound truth that Jesus didn't leave us but took us with Him. Help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us today through our discussion. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation and draw us closer to You and to one another. Grant us wisdom to see beyond our earthly perspective and recognize the heavenly reality we share in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could witness any historical event in person, what would it be and why?

Key Verses

- Luke 24:50-53
- Ephesians 1:3-10
- Ephesians 2:1-8
- Philippians 2:6-11
- John 14:16-20

Questions

1. How does understanding the ascension as one of the five most important Christian holy days change your perspective on its significance?
2. Pastor Mark mentioned that 39 countries celebrate Ascension Day as a national holiday, but English-speaking countries generally don't. Why do you think this difference exists?
3. What does it mean practically that we are 'seated with Christ in heavenly realms' according to Ephesians 2:6?
4. How does knowing that Jesus is still incarnate (has a physical body) in heaven affect your understanding of the resurrection and our future hope?
5. The sermon emphasized that Jesus ascended not to leave us but to be with us more fully through the Holy Spirit. How have you experienced Christ's presence in your daily life?
6. What are some ways we can live with the awareness that we are already seated in heavenly places with Christ?

7. Pastor Mark said Jesus ascended 'so that he might be with us, every single last one of us.' How does this truth impact your understanding of God's personal love for you?

Life Application

This week, practice living with the awareness that you are seated with Christ in heavenly realms. Each morning, remind yourself that through Christ's ascension, you have been raised up and given a heavenly perspective. When facing challenges or difficulties, ask yourself: 'How would someone who is seated with Christ in heavenly places respond to this situation?' Look for opportunities to live from this elevated position rather than being limited by earthly circumstances alone.

Key Takeaways

- The ascension is one of the five most important Christian holy days, equally essential with Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost
- Jesus didn't ascend to leave us but to take us with Him - we are seated with Christ in heavenly realms through His grace
- Christ's ascension represents His exaltation and coronation as Lord of all, guaranteeing His ultimate triumph
- The ascension made possible the gift of the Holy Spirit, allowing Jesus to be with us more intimately than ever before
- Jesus remains incarnate in heaven, assuring us of our own bodily resurrection and eternal hope

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible truth that You didn't abandon us when You ascended to heaven, but instead took us with You. Help us to live each day with the awareness that we are seated with You in heavenly realms. May this truth transform how we face our challenges, how we treat others, and how we view our circumstances. Give us eyes to see the heavenly reality that is more real than what we see around us. Thank You for Your continued presence with us through Your Holy Spirit and for interceding for us at the Father's right hand. May we live worthy of this high calling and honor You in all we do. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.