



the

ASCENSION

SUMMARY | Few teach on the ascension of Jesus, yet He taught His disciples that it was vital He return to the Father. Why?

On *Discover the Word*, the team explores the exciting gifts and opportunities Jesus gave us through His return to the Father. The gift of the Holy Spirit came as both the promised Comforter, as well as our means to live out the life of Christ to those around us. Because Jesus returned to the Father, we also have the hope of a future forever home He is preparing for us.

So how should this affect the way we live today?

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 1:1–11. Have you heard many lessons on the ascension of Jesus? Why do you think the story of the ascension is often neglected in Christian circles today?
2. Focus on the opening of Acts 1. What is Luke trying to accomplish with this writing? How should that purpose be informed by what he wrote in his gospel account for the same person: his friend, Theophilus?
3. Consider Luke's version of the Great Commission in Acts 1:8. How does it compare to Matthew's version in Matthew 28:19–20? How does it reflect Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit in John 14–16?
4. How does Jesus' departure prepare the way for His return? Why is that return important to the disciples and to us—especially in the light of Jesus' teaching in John 14:1–4?

Challenge

As Christians today, we sit in-between the “already” and the “not yet.” Christ has already died, risen, and ascended, making possible the new life we have in Him through His Spirit. But more is yet to come. Someday He will return for us and we’ll be home with Him forever. So, what do we do in this in-between place?

Jesus commissioned all of us to be His faithful witnesses until He comes, wherever we are and wherever we go. Like the disciples, we cannot do this on our own but must rely on the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Will you ask Him to fill you, and then will you share His love with those He brings to you?

Commit To Memory

“Men of Galilee . . . 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.”

Acts 1:11 NIV

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be our rescuer. And thank You for giving us the Spirit to enable us to live in Your name. Help us to make it our mission to live before the world in Jesus’ name, heart, and values, that people would be drawn to You by Your Son. Amen.

