

“What Do We Believe? –

He Ascended into Heaven and Sits at the Right Hand of God” Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 110:1

Central Thought: *Jesus left the earth and ascended to heaven after the resurrection according to God’s perfect plan. In the meantime, His Spirit is living in us, His authority is over us and His work is done through us.*

Some definitions:

- 1) “Ascended” – physically, visibly to a **place**. v.9
- 2) “Sits” – like a king is **seated**. Psalm 110:1; Philippians 2:9; Ephesians 1:20
- 3) “Right hand of God” – place of supreme **authority**. Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:21-22

What does it mean when we say this?

- 1) Declaring Jesus’ authority – “Jesus is **Lord!**” Philippians 2:11; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2
- 2) Declaring **our** authority. Ephesians 2:6-7
 - Not UNDER but **OVER** the powers of darkness because of Jesus.

Why did Jesus ascend to heaven?

- 1) It was God’s **plan** all along. Psalm 110:1; John 13:3; Ephesians 3:11
- 2) To take His rightful place. Ephesians 4:10; Philippians 2:9-10
- 3) To **send** us the Holy Spirit. John 16:7
- 4) To demonstrate how He would return. v.11
- 5) To remind us of how He is **now**. Revelation 1:7
- 6) To make us like Himself through faith. 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:7
- 7) To include us in His **work**. John 14:12
- 8) To grant us authority in Him. Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 6:10ff

What is Jesus doing at the right hand of God?

- 1) **Interceding** for us. Hebrews 7:25
 - Defending us against our accuser. Revelation 12:10
 - Justifying us before God. Romans 5:1
- 2) Preparing a place in **heaven**. John 14:2-3
- 3) Preparing to come again. Titus 2:13

What is our response if we believe this?

- 1) Awe and **worship**. Hebrews 12:28
- 2) **Walk** by faith. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 5:7 Hebrews 11:1
- 3) **Boldness** before the world and against the enemy. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 4) A new **identity**. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 5) Submission to God’s way, **timing** and purposes. v.6; Isaiah 55:7-8; John 20:28; Galatians 2:20

Word bank: authority, boldness, heaven, identity, interceding, Lord, now, our, OVER, place, plan, seated, send, timing, walk, work, worship

For reflection and Life Group facilitation:

- 1) Imagine yourself standing there watching Jesus go. What would have been your reaction?
- 2) Why was the request of the disciples for Jesus to “restore the kingdom to Israel” (v.6) too small a request?
 - Do you ever ask God for too little?
 - Is it possible to ask God for too much?
- 3) How do you respond when God seems slow in answering prayer?
- 4) Do you feel confident to stand against the powers of darkness? Why or why not?