

Praise: Start your time in worship together as a family by following the order of service posted by Westview.

Pray: It is important to spend time talking with Jesus. Express exactly what you are going through and thinking to our Savior. Jesus doesn't want perfect prayer or perfect words, remember Holy Spirit is translating and interceding for you anyways. Sit in silence or speak, allow prayer to lead to intimacy with Jesus.

Review: Remember together the lessons of the last week. Last Sunday we celebrated Jesus' resurrection and victory over the grave. On Wednesday we discussed when Jesus met with the disciples on beach and reminded them and us that we can do nothing without his help.

Ask: What is the Ascension of Jesus? (answer: Jesus goes to be with the Father. Important: Jesus does not die again, Jesus is STILL alive)

Read: Acts 1: 1-11

Engage: **What event is Luke summarizing here? This should sound familiar!**

- *Answer:* Luke begins this historical account by retelling the same events that John described in the previous passage. Explain that Luke is the only one who tells us that Jesus visited His followers for forty days. He reminds us again of the important instructions that Jesus gave the disciples when He told them to wait for the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

This is the last physical conversation that the disciples have with Jesus on earth. Look carefully at the words exchanged. What was the last question the disciples asked Jesus?

- *Answer:* "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Can you guess what the disciples might be implying here?

- *Answer:* The same expectation of a military deliverance that misled the Jews at Jesus' birth, still consumed the disciples at His ascension. They realized that His earthly work was done and seemed to assume that the Kingdom of God would result in the Israelites being freed from Roman control and returned to a sovereign nation. Jesus quickly corrects them that this was not to be their concern. Instead, He shifts their attention back to the work of spreading the Gospel.

What were Jesus' very last words to them?

- *Answer:* "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:7-8

What does this mean for us today?

- Even though things may not go the way we want or ask, God has a bigger plan in place. Explain to students that while the disciples are still focused on the immediate salvation for their people, Jesus turns their attention to the eternal salvation of His people! This sets in motion a historical change in the understanding of God's promise. His salvation is not only for the Jews, but for the world.

Remember John 20:21, Jesus said that He was sending the disciples in the same way that the Father sent Him. Jesus came to earth to accomplish what only God could accomplish. This is why Jesus was both Fully Man & Fully God. God did not send Him here as a man to save the world on His own, because only the power of God can save the lost. Similarly, Jesus is not asking us to spread the Gospel as mere men. While we certainly are not God, He promises to fill us with His Spirit as we do His work. Only through His power can we be His witnesses! Jesus' Ascension is the promise that we join his mission on earth, but will also live eternally with God in his Kingdom.

Conclusion/Challenge:

As we learn this coming week more about Holy Spirit & Pentecost, consider prayerfully what God means for you to receive his power and to join in the mission!

Pray!