



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

The
Ascension of
Jesus

The Holy
Spirit brings
clarity and
unity

MIDWEEK GUIDE

To Love like
Jesus

2016

May

Your small group does not need to answer every question provided in the Midweek guides. There are a range of questions so that each group can answer questions that are applicable to them and that they are comfortable with. Also, take your time with discussing the questions and don't feel the need to rush through them in order to answer every one.

2016 May MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: The Ascension of Jesus

Bible References

Ascension recorded by Luke
Mark 16:19-20
Luke 24:46-53
Acts 1:1-14

Jesus referring to his ascension
John 3:13
John 6:62
John 20:17

Paul referred to the Jesus's ascension
Ephesians 4:10
1 Timothy 3:16
1 Peter 3:22
Hebrews 4:14

Benediction
2 Corinthians 13:14

NAC Catechism

3.4.12 The ascension of Jesus Christ

12.5.5 Ascension Day

1. In the video we heard, "they were all in one accord because they were able to set aside personal feelings and commit themselves to one task..." What is the one task that we have to commit to as a congregation? What do you need to set aside to engage in it?

2. How does Jesus's resurrection affect our lives today?

3. After the ascension of Jesus, the disciples started to put all the pieces together from His teachings through His death, resurrection, and ascension. They started to understand that God had a plan and each step was orchestrated by Him. In retrospect it's easier to see the bigger picture of God's plan. How could you be more aware of His plan as it's unfolding?

Going Deeper

The ascended Lord is with us in the struggle here, and we know that he has gone to heaven “our entrance to secure and our abode prepare.”

Importance of the resurrection:

The resurrection provides evidence of the deity of Christ.

The resurrection is the event by which Jesus was exalted into heaven.

The resurrection provides a basis for the justification of believers.

The fact of Jesus’ resurrection provides confidence for the coming resurrection of all believers.

Because of the resurrection, all believers have an incentive to endure and persist in Christian living.

The fact of Jesus’s resurrection is the event that has prompted human beings to believe in Jesus as Lord. The resurrection has led individuals to experience hope for the future and encouragement and help in this life. The resurrection has placed Christianity in the unique position of having a historical basis for the supernatural faith which it declares.

4. Can we see a parallel between the blessing of the Lord Jesus as He ascended and the benediction that we receive at the end of every service?

5. As followers of Jesus we see the ascension of our Savior as a preview of what will one day happen when He returns. Does Jesus’ ascension give you hope for the future? How does this hope guide and inspire you?

6. Compare the disciples’ actions after Jesus’ crucifixion to their actions after Jesus’ ascension. What was the cause of the differences between their actions on these two occasions?

7. We heard in the video that “The fellowship [the disciples] shared with the resurrected Jesus allowed them to await the promise of God with joy.” How is this statement still relevant even though we never physically lived or walked with Jesus?

Session 2: The Holy Spirit brings clarity and unity

1. In John 10:10, Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” What life is Jesus talking about? How does your eternal life impact your natural life?

Bible References

John 11:25
1 Corinthians 12:3
Psalm 62:8
Romans 15:13 (NIV)
Romans 8:26
John 10:10
Revelation 22:17
Acts 8:12

NAC Catechism

8.3 Holy Sealing

Holy Sealing is the sacrament through which the believer, through the laying on of hands and the prayer of an Apostle, receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and becomes a child of God with the calling to become a firstling.

2. How do you live and walk in the Spirit in your family? In your workplace? In your community?

3. If the Holy Spirit unifies, why is there discord in our congregations? How can you contribute to the unity?

4. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, His fruit becomes a part of our nature. Do those around you experience the fruit of the Spirit through your words and actions?

5. Discuss one moment in your life when you felt the impulse of the Holy Spirit prodding you to do something that you hadn't planned on doing. Did you act according to the impulse? What happened?

6. How is walking in the Spirit both personal and communal?

Session 3: To Love like Jesus

Bible References

Leviticus 19:18
Mark 12:30-31
John 13:34-35
1 John 4:19
Romans 5:5
Ephesians 4:1-3

1. When asked what the most important commandments are, Jesus references two from the Old Testament. Did this surprise you? Do you think that we sometimes discount what is found in the Old Testament?

2. Godly love in us has often been defined as “I want the same salvation for my neighbor’s soul as I want for mine.” What does this mean to you? What is salvation?

3. “I want all souls to be saved, but...” Have you ever thought this? What conditions do you put on salvation for others? How can Christ’s love be a motivation for us to address our “but”?

4. The video mentioned a few ways that we can sacrifice for others to show our love for them. What are some other things we can sacrifice to show our love for our neighbor?

5. In Leviticus 19:18, God tells Moses “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus was also asked, “And who is my neighbor” (Luke 10:29). What is our current understanding of the word “neighbor”? How can you love someone you don’t know?

6. When Jesus gives the new commandment of love, He doesn't use the word "neighbor". He says, "as I have loved you, you also love one another." Is there a significance between the words used to describe the people we must love in this verse and Leviticus 19:18? How does the wording show how our understanding of love evolved throughout the Bible?

7. In order to love like Jesus, we need to be able to see people differently. Share an experience from your life where your perspective of someone changed. What happened that changed your view of them?

8. Have you ever connected sharing the Gospel with someone as a way to show your love for them? How does sharing the Gospel tell someone that you love them?
