

Palm Sunday to Pentecost

Read Ephesians 1:15 - 23:

What does Jesus' resurrection and ascension tell us about God's power?

What hope does this give?

We often feel helpless against the powerful forces in the world. How does Jesus' ascension give a different perspective on this?

What are we reminded of about our relationship with Jesus?

How does knowing Jesus is the ascended King encourage you?

Study 6: The Ascended King.

Readings: Luke 24:44 - 53
Acts 1:1 - 11
Ephesians 1:15 - 23

The Ascension is a step in the process that started with Jesus' death and resurrection, through which Jesus takes his rightful place as King. When Pilate put that sign on the cross, "This is the King of the Jews" he affirmed far more than he ever understood.

Not through winning a great battle, but through his death on the cross Jesus defeated the devil and death, he paid the price and established his kingdom.

Jesus now rules at the right hand of the Father. He is the one we are called to obey, but he is also the one who makes obedience possible through his laying down his life for us.

As Paul says in Philippians 2:5 - 11 Jesus took on the nature of a servant, obedient even to death on a cross, but now having ascended is the name above all names.

In Luke's two-part story of the life and ministry of Jesus, The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, we are told twice about the ascension of Jesus. This is the turning point from Jesus' ministry in person and the continuation of that ministry by his disciples.

Read Luke 24:44 -53 and Acts 1:1 - 11:

What is the significance of Jesus' declaration in Luke 24:44?

What does the Old Testament teach according to Jesus?

What promise does Jesus make in v49 and how does this relate to what he says in v48?

How do these declarations encourage you in your faith?

What do the disciples witness in v50 and 51?

How do the disciples respond?

In Acts 1, how does Luke recap what he has said in the Gospel of Luke (v1 – 5)?

What do the disciples want to know in v6? Why do you think they asked this?

What is Jesus' response, how is this similar or different to what Luke has written in Luke 24?

What do the disciples witness in v9? Compare the response of the disciples to what is recorded in Luke 24.