

Growth Group Questions

Ascension Celebrated, June 1, 2025

Introduction

We celebrate Ascension every year as part of the Church Year. This weekend we also celebrate 50 years of sharing Jesus through our Salem Lutheran School. If you grew up in a Christian family, share a story or two about what you remember from school, Sunday school, home devotions, etc.

Into the Word – Acts 1:1-11

1. When was Jesus' promise in verses 4-5 most obviously fulfilled? In what sense are they still fulfilled today?
2. What is the problem with the disciples' question in verse 6?
3. It seems the very last thing the disciples said to Jesus before he left them showed a serious misunderstanding of his whole purpose! How does remembering their question and Jesus' response help mature Christians as they serve others with less understanding?
4. Contrast the disciples' staring into the sky with Jesus' last words to them. Why were the angels right to mildly rebuke them?
5. Sharing our faith is a challenge because Satan works very hard to keep us from doing the most important things. In the Saturday sermon I spoke about our power, our purpose, and our urgency as we see it in this text. Discuss:
 - Power (v. 4-5, 8a)
 - Purpose (v. 8b)
 - Urgency (v. 11)

Into the Word – Revelation 19:11-16

6. Pick your favorite parts of this illustration of Jesus in power and glory. What does that part of the picture say about Jesus?
7. We tend to picture Jesus as humble servant and shepherd, and for good reason. Google some pictures of Jesus as "warrior king."
8. While the blood on Jesus' robe in verse 13 could be his own, in this section of judgment and power, who else's blood could it be? (Compare to Revelation 14:14-16)

Into the Word – Luke 24:44-53

9. Why is it so important that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies about him?
10. What must happen before we can understand the Scriptures. (v. 45)
11. In his Gospel, Luke records where the Ascension took place and what the disciples did afterward. Find those details and share.

Into the Word – Deuteronomy 31:12-13

12. Pastor Birkholz chose this for his sermon text on the School's 50th Anniversary. Why do you think he chose it for this occasion?
13. How do we as a church help parents in this important task of teaching children in faith? What could we do better?

Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, you returned to heaven after your work to save sinners was complete, and after you proved that victory complete in your resurrection. Bless us with your Spirit's power to be your witnesses, in our homes, our community, and in our church. Amen.

