

LIFE Group Guide
Ascended
September 1, 2019
Acts 1:1-11



Prayer Request: Praise the Father for raising the Son from the dead and exalting him to the highest place. Thank the Son for pouring out his Spirit upon us. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to testify to the work of the Son throughout the world, to the glory of the Father.

Icebreaker: When have you had to say a difficult “goodbye”? What made it hard?

Read Acts 1:1-11:

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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 end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Discussion Questions:

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read, what did the Holy Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?
2. Read Acts 1:1-11. What commission did Jesus give his disciples? How are you fulfilling this continuing mission almost 2,000 years later?
3. What promise did Jesus give his disciples? Why is the Holy Spirit absolutely indispensable as we fulfill the Great Commission?
4. Who can you tell about Jesus?
5. Jesus's ascension exalted him to the place of kingly authority. Why is Jesus's sovereign lordship good news for us as Christians in the present world?
6. The angels promise that Jesus will return in the same way he left the disciples. Why is this an encouragement for us as we fulfill the Great Commission?
7. Read Luke 24:50-53. Why did the disciples have joy when Jesus ascended? Why can we rejoice?

Prayer: Our Father, we thank you for the ascension of the Son, whom you have exalted to the highest place. We thank you that you have spoken to us in these last days by your Son, whom you appointed the heir of all things, through whom also you created the world. We thank you that he upholds the universe by the word of his power, and that after making purification for sins, he sat down at your right hand on high as the exalted king. We thank you for the gift of your Spirit, and ask that you would empower us by the Spirit for faithful witness in the Chicagoland area and around the world, until Christ returns. We ask this in the name of the exalted Son, by the power of the Holy spirit. Amen. (*Adapted from Hebrews 1:1-3, Acts 1:1-11*).