

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of May 12, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Daniel 7:13-14	Tuesday	Luke 24:50-53	Wednesday	Acts 1:1-11
Thursday	Acts 1:12-26	Friday	Romans 10:9	Saturday	Mark 4:35-41

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Pentecost*

Next week's readings: Acts 2

If Jesus has ascended to the Father, how is he still with us today? Next week is Pentecost Sunday, the annual Christian celebration of the Spirit of Christ poured out on His people on earth. Join us next week to learn about the gift of the Spirit and the power of life in the church of Jesus Christ.



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Group Discussion

Connect	What does it look like to have a lot of power in our world? Who are the people you can think of who are really powerful?
Learn	<p>Read Acts 1:1-11. This is the story of what is usually called Jesus' "Ascension," and it is the climax of the story of Jesus' life on this earth. (The book of Acts is really Part 2 of the Gospel of Luke. You can see in Acts 1:1-3 that Luke connects this book to the earlier events of Jesus's life. This story of the ascension becomes the launchpad for everything else the disciples of Jesus will do in this book.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the question the disciples asked in v. 6. Have you ever asked or wondered something like this? "God, are you ever going to fix things for good?"• The disciples in v. 6 asked about "restoring the Kingdom." Can you think of any things that might have needed to be restored in their lives?• What broken things need to be fixed or restored in our world?• In v. 7 Jesus answers and says we won't know when God will finally bring his ultimate restoration. But then he gives the disciples a job to do. How do you react to this? How do you respond to not knowing the answer to "when"? <p>After this dialog, Jesus is taken from the disciples and a cloud hid him from their sight. We learned in today's message that "ascension" is more about elevation than evacuation. Yes, Jesus is no longer with us in the same way anymore, but the real point of this passage is to affirm his Lordship and authority. Read Daniel 7:13-14 to see an Old Testament prophecy of this kind of ascension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does it help or encourage you somehow to hear the promise that Jesus is the one who has been given real authority in this world? What difference does that make?• To say that Jesus is the real Lord of the world undermines every other power that is not submitted to Jesus. When or how do you find that not only encouraging but also challenging?• When the first Christians spread the word that Jesus is Lord, they meant it as a word of hope and good news to people who needed it. How (or to whom) is it still good news in your world that Jesus is Lord?
Apply	The story of the ascension is dramatic and simple at the same time. At its simplest, the story is meant to say one thing: "Jesus is Lord." What do you think God is saying to your life through this story?
Pray	As you pray for each this week, pray for encouragement and hope and pray also that our church family would become a clearer and clearer sign of the Lordship of Jesus over our life together.