

# THE ASCENSION: WHY IT'S GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS IS GONE

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Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:50-53

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Who are some people in your life that moved away and that you miss now? What do you miss about them?
- Can you think of any way that their moving away is actually good news for you?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Jason shared four reasons why it's actually good news that Jesus is gone.**

### Three Reasons We Overlook The Ascension:

- Is the ascension a doctrine that you've overlooked? Which of these three reasons resonates with you? Can you think of other reasons that the ascension is sometimes neglected or forgotten?
  1. **The ascension event is barely mentioned in the Bible.**
  2. **The ascension seems like a bad plan.**
  3. **The ascension event is a little weird.**
- How would you respond to a skeptic that questions the ascension based on one of the reasons above?

### Four Reasons Why It's Good News That Jesus Is Gone:

1. **Jesus had to leave for the Holy Spirit to arrive (John 16:7)**
  - Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Helper" and "the Comforter". If you are a Christ follower, talk about specific times the Holy Spirit helped or comforted you personally in recent days.
  - What is happening in your life right now that wouldn't happen if the Holy Spirit were to be suddenly removed? What is happening at Saylorville right now that wouldn't happen if God removed the power of the Spirit?
2. **Jesus had to leave so He could reign as King (Ephesians 1:20-22)**
  - What are some areas of your life, or situations in the world right now, where you find it difficult to trust that Jesus is reigning as King? Why do you think those specific situations rise to the top for you?
  - If you truly believe that Jesus is on the throne right now, what can you do this week to release control of the areas of your life where you think you need to rule instead of Him?
3. **Jesus had to leave for the gospel to spread (Compare John 20:29 with 1 Corinthians 2:4-5)**
  - Do you think it takes more or less faith to believe the gospel message without Jesus on earth? Why?
  - If Jesus were physically walking around on earth today, how might that change the way you were motivated to obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?
4. **Jesus had to leave so He could return (Acts 1:11)**
  - Be honest with yourself and your group - are you looking forward to Jesus's return, or would you rather He didn't come back yet? What does your answer reveal about your heart right now?
  - What are some ways you might celebrate the Ascension of Jesus this week?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Praise God for the event of the Ascension of Jesus, and for the repercussions it has on your life.

