

THE BENEFITS OF JESUS LEAVING

Luke 24:36-49

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell 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.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Think about the last time you said goodbye to someone and you weren't sure when you were going to see them again (a friend moving away, a child going to college, a family member after a vacation, etc.).
 - Describe the emotions that you experienced during that goodbye, and in the days to follow.
 - Put yourself in the place of Jesus' followers. How do you think they felt after Jesus went to heaven?

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** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
 - **Read** passages below. In his message, Pastor Brad mentioned **five comforts because Christ has left**.
- 1. We Have Complete Redemption (Hebrews 9:11-12)**
 - a. Jesus offered Himself as a one-time sacrifice securing salvation for those who trust in Him alone. Think theologically and practically: If you're a Christian, what have you been redeemed from?
 - b. Jewish priests continually offered sacrifices in the temple, but Jesus only needed to offer Himself once (Hebrews 10:11-12). Why is it comforting to know that Jesus' sacrifice only needed to happen once?
 - 2. We Have a Seat (Ephesians 2:4-6)**
 - a. Pastor Brad told a story about a time when he was at a basketball game and his seat wasn't secure. As a Christian, what difference does it make this week to know that your seat in Heaven is secure - that nobody can ever take it away from you?
 - 3. We Have a Comforter (Luke 24:49)**
 - a. Before He ascended, Jesus told His followers that He would leave the Holy Spirit with them. Can you think of several reasons why it's better to have the Holy Spirit inside you rather than Jesus beside you? How does the Spirit actually help you personally each day?
 - 4. We Have a Message (Acts 1:8)**
 - a. Jesus' followers were commanded to share the message of what they had seen Jesus say and do. As a group, condense the message of the Gospel into a short paragraph. Use Bible verses.
 - b. Who is someone that you will share that message of the Gospel with this week?
 - 5. Jesus is Coming Again (Acts 1:9-11)**
 - a. Jesus is returning one day! How might our attitude and actions be different today if we thought about Christ's return more often?
 - b. Matthew 28:18-20 records Jesus' final instructions to His disciples. As a group, note the four major tasks that Christians should be working on until Jesus comes back. Are you doing those things?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Take several minutes to pray through the five comforts listed above. Which is most meaningful to you?