

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Ascension**

LUKE 24:5-52

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinners. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe Jesus' claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 24:13-49

1. Read Luke 24:13-49
2. Identify how Luke highlights the real, bodily resurrection of Jesus? Why is the teaching of glorification (full adoption, redeemed bodies) important for our Christian story and faith?
3. In this passage, what is Jesus' attitude toward the Bible? How can we learn from this?
4. What is the difference between "believing" (mere intellectual assent) and believing/repenting/trusting? How does this occur according to this passage and how does that inform our evangelism and discipling?
5. Who are some people in your life you are actively praying and seeking to share the gospel with?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 24:50-53

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: Jesus accomplished all he came to do on earth, then ascended into heaven.

1. Read Luke 24:50-53.
2. Verses 50 and 51 refer to Jesus blessing his disciples. What does this mean?
3. According to verse 51, what happens to Jesus?
 - a. Theologically, this is called the Ascension (cf. John 20:17).
 - b. Read Acts 1:1-11. Verse 6-11 expand on Luke 24:50-53.
 - c. In what physical state was Jesus when he ascended? What's the significance of this?
 - d. Discuss a few "benefits" of our Lord being alive in heaven right now.

4. How do Jesus' followers respond to their last interaction with Jesus? Why worship? What's significant about these followers worshipping Jesus?
 5. Notice the text says they "returned to Jerusalem." What does this tell us about their obedience (cf. v. 47)?
 6. How does the text describe their emotional state? Why did they have great joy? How does the joy in verse 52 differ from the joy in verse 41?
 7. Remember Jesus own words from earlier in Luke. What's the reason he came? (cf. 9:51; 18:31-33). How do these verses show that Jesus accomplished all he came to do?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Follow up from the previous week(s).