

May 17, Ascension Sunday – Small Group Questions

Acts 1:1-14 “Christ is Reigning”

The disciples expected the kingdom of God to arrive in political and immediate ways, but Jesus redirected their expectations toward his reign, the coming of the Spirit, and their calling to bear witness. This week we reflected on the Ascension not simply as Jesus “going away,” but as Jesus taking his throne and reigning over heaven and earth. The church is called to become a signpost to that reign as we await his return.

Read Acts 1:1–14

1. The disciples ask Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). What assumptions or expectations seem to be underneath their question? In what ways do people today still misunderstand what the kingdom of God looks like? (vv. 6–7)
2. Why do you think the angels tell the disciples to stop “looking into heaven” after Jesus ascends? How does this reshape the way we think about the Ascension? (vv. 9–11)
3. Jesus does not encourage us to look at circumstances as the primary evidence of his reign, but at his people: “You will be my witnesses.” What do you think it means for the church to become evidence of Christ’s reign? (v. 8)
4. Which example from the early church in the sermon stood out most to you, and why? What might it look like for Christians today to recover that kind of witness?
5. In the sermon we were asked two questions. What does the reign of Jesus look like in the ordinary fabric of life? Where in my life am I functioning as though something other than Jesus is reigning? What comes to the surface for you in those questions?
6. Jesus says, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.” Why is it important that witness is presented here as a promise and not a command? (v. 8)
7. Near the end of the sermon we heard a prayer: “Come Holy Spirit — give us more of Jesus - bring your truth home to our hearts in power” What do you think it looks like for a church to be rooted in both truth and power — both Word and Spirit?

Close by praying together for the filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit — that our community would become a visible signpost to the reign of Jesus in the ordinary fabric of life.