

MAY 5, 2016
ASCENSION DAY

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Jesus is ruler over all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your Ascension Day celebrations.

Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	Christ present in all times and places
Friday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Saturday	Psalms 47	God rules over all nations
Sunday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Christ seated at the right hand of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this, he left and was taken up to heaven.”

Luke 24:50-51 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Day:

Lord Jesus from on high, bless my life and my home this day and always. Amen. (Luke 24:50-51)

Mealtime Prayer:

God above, who blesses in love; God beside, with us to guide; God all around, your praises we sound! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit come upon you, giving you power and hope as you follow Jesus. Amen. (Acts 1:8,11)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is it like to say goodbye to someone you love? Talk about your experiences.
- In Luke 24:51-53, Jesus blessed his disciples and was taken up to heaven. The disciples then worshiped him, were filled with joy, and returned to the temple praising God. Why do you think the disciples responded this way?
- How would you have responded to Jesus' blessing and departure?

DEVOTIONS

In the story of Jesus' ascension in Acts 1:1-11, he tells his disciples that they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to go to the ends of the earth as Jesus' witnesses. How does the ascension of Jesus inspire you to go into the world with his message of repentance, love, and forgiveness?

SERVICE

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his followers likely felt some sort of loss. When significant people "leave" our lives, we feel sadness. Is there someone in your congregation or community who has recently had a loved one die or move away? How might you encourage or support them? Plan an act of kindness for them this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ascension Day is one of the five great festivals of the church, celebrated from the fourth century onwards. It marks the last earthly appearance of the Lord Jesus after his resurrection. Ascension Day falls on the fortieth day of the Easter season.

Jesus blessed his followers the day he ascended into heaven (Luke 24:50). A great gift of the Christian life is to bless others. Use the blessing in this Taking Faith Home insert with family and friends to celebrate this Holy Day.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org