

Discipleship Notes 1: May 2020

“Jesus taken Up into Heaven”

Acts 1: 1-11

Opening Thought:

Can you recall something good that has happened to you recently? What was it?
How did you mark the occasion?

When do you next expect to have something good happen? Are you looking forward to this future event?

Welcome:

The ascension of Jesus into heaven marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry.

How do we feel about the ascension? Are we happy because Jesus had successfully completed his mission? Or are we sad because Jesus appears to no longer be with us?

There can be times when we wonder what on earth we are here for. What are we, as followers of Jesus, to do with our lives. Acts begins the story of the early church. As Jesus' disciples look intently into the sky, they are given a message of hope. Jesus will return.

Read: Luke 24: 50-53 & Acts 1: 1-11

- Imagine you have been appointed as a reporter for the 'Daily News' – Jerusalem's top news scroll. How would you report these events?
- Why were the disciples to wait in Jerusalem? What do you think would have happened had they not waited?
- Look at verse 2. How does Jesus give us instructions today?
- What is the message brought by the two men in white? (See verses 10 and 11)

- Global and national events at the moment are unsettling. Do you think we should be preparing for the return of Jesus?
- Is Jesus' return a future event we are looking forward to? Do we feel prepared?

Reading 2: John 5: 16-30

- Why did Jesus' words cause such upset?
- What are some of Jesus' roles as outlined in these verses?
- What is the role of a judge?

Closing Worship:

Slowly read through Philippians 2: 5-11.

Read the passage through once.

Now, read the passage again. This time pause briefly after each verse.

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for children and young people being educated at home. We remember those who were due transition events and exams. May God guide them to new schools, universities and futures.
- We ask that God will strengthen families and grant them peace.
- We remember those who are self-isolating at home. May God help them to stay well.

- We pray for national leaders and those with expertise in medicine and science. May God lead our nations to a solution to this covid-19 crisis.
- We pray for the staff and residents at our local care home, Austen House.