

Wednesday

Read: Luke 24:48-49 *The promise of the Holy Spirit*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why wait in the city?*
2. *How are we clothed in power from on high?*

Prayer Focus You are our faithful God, who keeps your promises and never leaves us to struggle on alone. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit as our guide and our inspiration.

Thursday

Read: Luke 24:50-51 *Jesus ascends*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Jesus choose to leave in the middle of a blessing? How might you have reacted?*
2. *Ask for God's blessing today and give thanks for the freedom to ask, in Jesus' name.*

Prayer Focus Bless us, Deliverer. Forget that we are so often a mess, and offer your loving forgiveness. Stretch out your hands and bring us peace to be open to all your words and laws.

Friday

Read: Luke 24:52-53 *The joy of the followers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How often do you feel great joy in worship? Is it always necessary to be in church for you to worship joyfully?*
2. *How could you share that joy today? What would it look like?*

Prayer Focus Holy Spirit, stir us to worship in joy and to witness in love. Give us courage to sing of your strength. Guide us to feel the joy of your compassion. Grant us wisdom to know your will for us, today and always.

Open Minds

Pastor's message: Luke 24:44-53, Ascension Sunday
Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Recall a time when you had to say goodbye to someone important. How did it make you feel?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Luke 24:44-53**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?*
(This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

OPEN MINDS **ASCENSION SUNDAY** **May 21, 2023**

Monday

Read: Luke 24:44 *Jesus speaks again*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Jesus point his companions back to the Scriptures?*
2. *How are the old scriptures relevant today?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, send us to the words that have told your story from the moment of creation. Show us what it means to have that story fulfilled, brought to life in you.

Tuesday

Read: Luke 24:45-47 *The resurrection story*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever had a special encounter with the Scriptures? What did you experience?*
2. *What does it mean to open your mind?*

Prayer Focus Teacher, we want to know more, be clearer, be assured of how you came to be our redeemer. Be a new lens for us to see and understand how you've been with us all along. Remind us that you are risen, living, and with us every moment.