

MAY 10, 2018
ASCENSION OF
THE LORD



Jesus promises his followers power from on high.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	The ascension of Jesus
	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is ascended
	Psalm 47	God rules the nations
	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer for the church

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASCENSION DAY

“And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ascension Day:

Almighty God, we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may be your witnesses to the power of the resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, ascended above, thank you for your gifts of love. For food and home and all our days, we offer up our prayers of praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the ascended Lord Jesus give you power from on high. May he bless you and fill you with joy.



© 2017 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

MAY 10, 2018

HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

*A Hymn of Glory
Let Us Sing!*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is it like to wait for something you want to happen now?
- In Acts 1:6 the disciples asked Jesus whether this was the time for him to restore the kingdom to Israel. What do you think the followers of the resurrected Jesus wanted him to do?
- The disciples had their hopes for what God would do through the resurrected Jesus. What would you like to see God do today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:44-53.

The Ascension of Jesus shows God's power, but that power does not mean that human history as we know it comes to an end. Instead, Jesus' followers are given power to be witnesses to Jesus as the Messiah, the one who had to suffer, die, and rise on the third day (v. 46). That message gives the followers of Jesus power to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to the whole world. By that same power, we are given understanding of the Scriptures (v. 45); we are able to worship God and be filled with great joy (v. 46) even as we wait for the completion of history with the return of Christ (Acts 1:11). Being "clothed with power from on high" (v. 49) is not the same as marching through cities with armies like the Romans did. God's power gives hope and courage, not fear or despair. Reflect on how your life has been empowered by the Holy Spirit with forgiveness and hope.

Pray: **Dear God, help us, your followers, to wait with hope and trust in the power of forgiveness and new life that you give us to share with the whole world. Amen.**

SERVICE

As Christians we have a power unlike any other, the power to care for others as servants of the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, the name that is above every name (Ephesians 1:21). It includes the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to witness to God's love and forgiveness (Luke 24:47). As a servant of God, extend a word of forgiveness and hope in Christ to someone this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Begin a tradition of making cloud parfaits by alternating blue Jell-O or blue ice cream with whipped cream in a tall glass. While making this treat, read Psalm 47:5-7 and talk about what this scripture means to you. After enjoying it, bless one another as Jesus blessed his disciples when he ascended. **May the ascended Lord Jesus give you power from on high. May he bless you and fill you with joy.**



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