

**Series:** Mark: the Life of a Disciple

**Title:** Ascension

**Passages:** Mark 16:1–8; Acts 1:3–11

- When you hear "Easter," what parts of the story usually get the most attention? What parts get overlooked?
- Before today, how familiar were you with the ascension of Jesus?

**READ: MARK 16:1–8**

- What stands out to you about the women's experience at the tomb?
- What emotions do you see in this passage? Where do you see fear, confusion, or faith?
- Why do you think Mark ends so abruptly at verse 8?
- How does this ending put the focus on the reader rather than just the story?
- The women are told to "go and tell," but they leave afraid and silent.
- Where do you see that tension in your own life?
- What are common reasons people stay silent about Jesus today?
- Who is one person you feel prompted to share the hope of Jesus with this week?
- What would it look like to take one small step of courage?

**READ: ACTS 1:3–11**

- What instructions does Jesus give his disciples before ascending?
- What do the disciples seem focused on? How does Jesus redirect them?
- Why do you think the angels ask, "*Why do you stand looking into the sky?*"
- What does it mean that Jesus "*ascended*" and is now reigning?
- How does knowing Jesus is reigning (not absent) change how you think about your life right now?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is not just alive—but enthroned?

**REFLECT FURTHER: WHY IS THE ASCENSION GOOD NEWS?**

1. Jesus' Power →

- Acts 1:8 says we will receive power. What kind of power is this?
- How is this different from how the world defines power?
- Where do you feel weak or inadequate right now?
- How would your mindset shift if you truly believed Jesus' power was at work in you?
- What is one situation this week where you need to rely on God's power instead of your own?

2. Jesus' Presence →

- How does the ascension actually increase Jesus' presence rather than remove it?
- What stands out to you about the promise of the Holy Spirit?
- When do you most feel alone or distant from God?

- What would it look like to live aware of Jesus' presence in everyday moments?
- Practice one moment each day this week where you intentionally acknowledge Jesus' presence (prayer, pause, gratitude).

### 3. Jesus' Advocacy →

- What does it mean that Jesus is at the right hand of God for us?
- How does this shape your confidence before God?
- Where do you struggle with insecurity, guilt, or feeling "not enough"?
- How does Jesus advocating for you change that?
- The next time you feel condemned or unsure, remind yourself: Jesus is for me, not against me.
- How can you extend that same grace to someone else?

### CLOSING

What is one thing from today that challenged you?

What is one step of obedience you will take this week?