

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, May 21, 2023 (Ascension of our Lord)**

#### **Acts 1:1-11**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. In this passage Jesus promises the Holy Spirit. What do His disciples think will happen when the Holy Spirit arrives? How does their idea of a kingdom differ from the plan of Jesus?
2. What was the impact of Jesus' words on His disciples? His departure? The promise of the angels? What is the impact of those three things on disciples today?
3. How would you describe the evangelism strategy of Jesus? What is our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and ends of the earth?
4. Why did Jesus make the disciples wait to get the Holy Spirit? Why not give it to them right then and there?
5. Why was the ascension of Jesus necessary?

#### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Paul identifies two characteristics about the Ephesians that prompt to pray for them. What are they, and why would they move Paul to prayer?
2. In your own words, what does Paul pray for the Ephesians?
3. Are the requests made by Paul for physical needs or spiritual needs? How does that compare with prayers you (and others) typically offer on behalf of someone else?
4. Paul prays that the "eyes of the heart" in the Ephesians might be opened. What does he want them to see? Why is it important to see those things?

#### **Luke 24:44-53**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Why does Jesus make the connection between His ministry and the teaching of the Law and the Prophets? Why would that matter at this point?
2. Why would the departure of Jesus cause such joy among the disciples?
3. What specific message does Jesus instruct His disciples to proclaim?
4. What difference does the ascension of Jesus make? How would life and faith be different if He had just died a martyr's death?
5. What disciples have been key communicators of the good news in your life? With whom are you sharing the good news?

#### **WRAP UP**

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?