

INTRO

- Was there a tradition or a religious tradition practiced in your family that was meaningful to you as a child (or continues to be meaningful to you)?

READ

Luke 24:50-53

Acts 1:1-11

REFLECT

Today, we will focus on the following line of the Apostles' Creed: He ascended into heaven; he is seated at the right hand of God.

1. According to Acts 1:3, after the resurrection of Jesus, he appeared to his followers over a period of 40 days before his ascension.

Qu: From what you know from the accounts of Jesus' life in the New Testament, or from what you might imagine, what was Jesus doing during that time?

2. The ascension of Jesus is the departure of Christ from earth into the presence of God in heaven. We confess in the creed that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" — Mark 16:19

"At the right hand of the Father, Jesus assumes authority over the world. In this exalted position, Jesus is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. All authority on heaven and earth rests in his hands." — R.C. Sproul *What We Believe*

Qu: Considering the position of Jesus, seated at God's right hand with all power and authority, what sort of confidence and strength should there be in the heart of each believer?

3. We see that Jesus continues to be our advocate. He continues to intercede on behalf of humanity.

...Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. — Romans 8:34

"Interceding ... the intervening of one who has sovereign right and power to make requests and take action in another's interest." J.I. Packer *Affirming the Apostles' Creed*

Qu: Can you think of a difficult time in life that you had a certainty of the interceding presence of Jesus in your life? Or can you think of a time you wish you'd have been confident that Christ was interceding on your behalf?

4. During that 40 days Jesus was with his disciples before the ascension, he was speaking to them of the kingdom of God.

When we talk about the Christian faith, we tend to emphasize the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the impact on the life of the individual. His ascension reminds us of his ultimate mission, to see his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

In the final moments before his ascension, Jesus reminded his disciples, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Qu: How can taking time to remember the ascension refocus us on our mission with him?

RESPOND& PRAY

"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." —Hebrews 7:25

Begin with thanksgiving that Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, is your advocate. Then, pray for one another, for a growing confidence that Jesus is interceding on your behalf.