

CREED

STUDY GUIDE

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” – Acts 1:6-11

THE POINT: More than any other time in our lives, we need to know what we believe.

The Apostles' Creed describes the load-bearing walls of the Christian faith. Over the past several weeks, we have examined God as Father and Almighty Creator, Jesus' identity and ancestry, our understanding of the Cross, and the joy of the resurrection.

The next load-bearing wall is the ascension. The ascension of Jesus initiated the explosion that spread Christianity around the world. Just when Jesus' followers thought He was going away and would be separated from them forever, they found Him drawing closer and learned that they would never be separated from Him again. His ascension changed everything in three ways:

Representation - Jesus stands in for us. Every believer can go straight to the Father through Jesus Christ.

Return - He is coming back. He will return to judge the living and the dead.

Responsibility - Because of the return of Christ, we have a responsibility to prepare ourselves and those around us for that day.

Because of the ascension, we can lead a calm life, no matter the situation; involve Jesus in every aspect of our lives; and be FOR Asheboro by engaging others and pointing them to Jesus. This same Jesus who ascended into heaven will return again. Are you ready?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We have holidays that celebrate the incarnation (Christmas), the crucifixion (Good Friday), and the resurrection (Easter), but we rarely think about celebrating the ascension. If the ascension is one of the load-bearing walls of the Christian faith, why do we seem to ignore it?
2. Before the ascension, if you wanted to get close to Jesus, be healed by Jesus, know Jesus, be ministered to by Jesus, you had to go physically to the place where Jesus was doing ministry. The ascension changed all that. Now Jesus is with us, right here, right now! How should this change the way we live our lives, especially in times of fear and uncertainty like today?
3. Because of the ascension, we have representation before God through Jesus. How do you feel knowing Jesus hears your prayers and intercedes before God on your behalf?
4. Because of the ascension, we know Jesus will return. Read **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**. How does knowing that Jesus will return and knowing how he will return change the way you live your life?

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5. Because of the ascension, we have a responsibility. If you are to be FOR Asheboro, what things are you going to do to be part of God's plan at this time?

NEXT STEPS

1. **Train Your Soul** - Continue taking a one-minute pause two or more times a day using the One Minute Pause App (www.pauseapp.com) or other reminder. This week, focus on the ascension and your responsibility as a believer.

2. **Know Your Why** - Continue to read or recite the Apostles' Creed daily and reflect on its truths. In addition, read and reflect daily on one of the following scriptures: Act 1:6-11; John 16:7; Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:11:12.

3. **Know What You're FOR** - Through the ascension, Jesus gives us His presence, His power, and His Spirit and makes us part of His plan. Identify ways you and your Community Group can be FOR Asheboro by engaging people that we live and work with, pointing them away from their fears and uncertainties and to Jesus.

*North Ridge Church is a movement FOR all people
to discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus.*