Growth Group Lesson
April 15 & 16
Jesus Ascended - Acts 1:1-11

Spend some time praying with your group. Praise Jesus for his continual mediation between the Father and us. Thank him for his constant prayer for us.

Last Week: Jesus, after being buried for three days, is raised to life! He has defeated the power of death and has purchased new life for us!

Read Luke 24:36-53 and Acts 1:1-11
After the resurrection, Jesus spends time with his disciples, teaching them about what the scriptures say about his life, death, and resurrection. Then he is taken up into the clouds.

1. Where does Jesus go? **Hebrews 1:1-3, Ephesians 1:19-23**

Before Jesus is put on trial and killed, he has a discussion with his disciples that reveals his intentions for ascending. **Read John 14:1-4, 25-31, John 16** (everyone will want to open here to answer the next questions)

2. Why does he leave earth?
3. Why is it better that Jesus leaves? **John 16:7, Hebrews 8:1-6**
    a. What will the advocate do? **John 14:16, 26-27, 15:26-27. 16:8-15**
4. What will Jesus be doing when he ascends? **John 14:1-4, 1 Peter 3:22, Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:22-25**
    a. What is your reaction (physical, emotional, spiritual) to what Jesus is doing in heaven now?
    b. How does knowing this change or reinforce your thoughts and feelings about Jesus?
    c. How does knowing this affect how you interact with God? With others?
    d. How is God leading you to act this week in light of Jesus working on our behalf in heaven?
5. How will his disciples get there? **John 14:5-6**

Hebrews paints a beautiful picture of Jesus as our High Priest, who mediates between the Father and us in the New Covenant. Over this next week, read through Hebrews and trace the concept of Jesus as High Priest. The culmination of Jesus as High Priest is revealed in **Hebrews 10:19-39 and 12:1-3**.

6. What is the author of Hebrews trying to guide the church in as a result of the mediation of their High Priest, Jesus?
7. How has your own endurance in trials and suffering been recently? What has been your reaction to it?
    a. How have you seen the Holy Spirit work in you during these times?

In the same way that Jesus ascended, he will also return to earth to bring salvation and judgment. **Read Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 24:30-31, Revelation 1:7**

Spend some time praying.

- Thank Jesus for praying for us and being our advocate to the Father.
- Ask God for opportunities to encourage fellow believers to persevere and trust Jesus.
- Ask God for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others.