

Welcome to Bible Study – 21st May 2023

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Opening Prayer (pray together)

Dear Lord, open the windows of our souls to the world and its needs. Let us herald the good news of Jesus, to be your servants to those in need, to visit the sick and the imprisoned, to remember the forgotten in our society, and to work for justice and peace.

Use our varied gifts so that we all might do our share in the ministry of Jesus. Encourage all of us in those moments when we feel inadequate for the task and make us brave, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Can you please share a story about someone who had a huge impact on your life who is gone but never forgotten?

Worship 🎵

Choose your own favourites this week.

Perhaps a chorus or two that speaks about the Ascension of Jesus, Hallelujah!

Word; Psalm 68:1-10 Praise and Thanksgiving

¹ Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.

³ But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴ Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds
- his name is the LORD - be exultant before him.

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Word; Acts 1:6-14 The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The disciples had seen many incredible miraculous sights throughout their time with Jesus: the healing of diseases, the multiplication of food, control over weather, demons cast out, Christ transfigured, resurrections from death. Still, they never stopped being amazed by such acts from God.

Q 2 The Ascension of Jesus was both great and sad news for the disciples. His Mission was accomplished and Jesus reigns as King. Discuss the ‘Kingship’ of Jesus and what this means for you and your loved ones?

Q 3 The sad news was that Jesus was no longer with the disciples physically. In what ways is this a turning point for the disciples? Please discuss

Q 4 Could you imagine witnessing Jesus’s ascension. How do you think you would have felt? What would have been your reaction?

Works

The disciples left Mount Olivet saddened that Jesus was no longer with them physically but they went back and gathered together for prayer 🙏 Who can we pray for today as a group

Ending Prayer (pray together)

Holy God, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son, and to care for those who are our companions, not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love, be at our side as we minister to others in need of your spiritual help, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (ref Roots on the Web, The Message)