

A Necessary Transition

Acts 1:1-12

Getting Started

- ❖ Share your most recent life transition. How would you describe it?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The First Transition: The Ascension of Jesus (v.1-3; 9-11)
2. The Ascension of Jesus: The Necessity of this First Transition (v.4-5)

Takeaway Truth: Transitions are often an opportunity to experience the presence and power of God more vividly.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline. Read the sermon text and answer the following:
 - As a group, brainstorm what you know of Luke and create a composite summary of his life and ministry.
 - In what ways did Jesus prepare and equip his apostles to continue his ministry and life on earth?
 - What was the significance of the fact that Jesus showed himself to the apostles and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive?
 - How would you fill in the blank: “The Acts of _____”? Why?
 - How would the apostles’ ministry be affected by the fact that Jesus chose, taught, commissioned, and instructed them? What was their role in the Early Church?
 - What difference would the ascension of Jesus and the promise of his return make in the ministry of the apostles?
- ❖ Read John 16:5-15
 - Do you agree or disagree that it is better that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to earth rather than remaining on earth? What questions does this idea create in your mind, if any?
 - According to Jesus why is it better for us and the world that He send the Holy Spirit?

Apply It!

- ❖ Why do you think we often respond to transitions in a negative manner?
- ❖ Why should the truth of the Ascension of Jesus encourage and strengthen us? How has the Ascended Jesus blessed you this past week?
- ❖ What impacted you the most in the message?

Think About It!

The ascended Christ was to be the confidence—the flame—of the apostolic movement. Having ascended, he now intercedes for the Church and has sent the Holy Spirit, “another Comforter” just like Himself. And so we can be his witnesses. (Kent Hughes)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

September 19, 2021 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SONGS

YOUR LOVE AWAKENS ME

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala, 2016

There were walls between us, by the cross you came and broke them down, you broke them down. And there were chains around us By your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.

You called me out of the grave, you called me into the light, You called my name and then my heart came alive.

*Your love is greater, your love is stronger,
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.*

Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life, I'm back to life. Hear the song awaken, All creation singing we're alive, 'cause you're alive.

And what a love we've found, death can't hold us down We shout it out, we're alive 'cause you're alive.

LAMB OF GOD

Words by Jason Ingram, Andi Rozier, and Meredith Andrews, 2014

You came from heaven's throne, acquainted with our sorrow, to trade the debt we owe—Your suffering for our freedom.

*The Lamb of God in my place. Your blood poured out, my sin erased.
It was my death You died I am raised to life.
Hallelujah the Lamb of God.*

My name upon Your heart. My shame upon Your shoulders. The power of sin undone. The cross for my salvation.

There is no greater love. There is no greater love. The Savior lifted up. There is no greater love.

GOODNESS OF GOD

Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, 2018

I love You, Lord. Oh Your mercy never fails me; all my days I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so good;
with every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love Your voice; You have led my through the fire. In darkest nights You are close like no other. I've known You as a Father; I've known You as a friend, and I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me (2x)
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give you everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU (PSALM 130)

Words and Music by Jordan Kauflin, Matthew Merker, Keith Getty, and Stuart Townend, 2018

Out of the depths I cry to You, in darkest places I will call. Incline Your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways, how could I come before

Your throne? Yet, full forgiveness meets my gaze, I stand redeemed by grace alone.

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You, on Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You till my soul is satisfied.*

So put your hope in God alone, take courage in His power to save, completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave.

His steadfast love has made a way, and God Himself has paid the price, that all who trust in Him today find healing in His sacrifice.

LIVING HOPE

Words and Music by Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham, 2017

How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your name into the night. Then through the darkness Your loving kindness tore through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

*Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah!
Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain;
there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope!*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe. Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the grave has no claim on me. Jesus Yours is the victory.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 93; 2 Kings 4:8-37; Acts 9:10-31; Luke 3:7-18

MONDAY | Ps. 57; 2 Kings 5:1-19; 1 Cor. 4:8-21; Matthew 5:21-26

TUESDAY | Ps. 54; 2 Kings 5:19-27; 1 Cor. 5:1-8; Matthew 5:27-37

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 65; 2 Kings 6:1-23; 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11; Matt. 5:38-48

THURSDAY | Ps. 143; 2 Kings 9:1-16; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18

FRIDAY | Ps. 20; 2 Kings 9:17-37; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9; Matt. 6:7-15

SATURDAY | Ps. 100; 2 Kings 11:1-20; 1 Cor. 7:10-24; Matt. 6:19-24

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Gracious God, you told the disciples that whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. We confess that we are often driven by selfish ambition and a desire to be the greatest. Grant us a humility of heart that, in your name, we would welcome the children among us. Help us to serve others rather than ourselves; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



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