

**Community Group Growth Questions**

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday’s message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Imagine you were one of the apostles – a witness to Jesus’ ascension. What are some of the thoughts, fears, misgivings you might be experiencing?
3. Look at the Greek word for “gazing” found in Acts 1:10: *atenizō*. What English word does this remind you of? The definition is “to look fixedly or gaze intently; to stretch attention toward”. Have you ever experienced this type of behavior? What brought it on? In what ways can you relate to the apostles as you personally “behold” God?
4. Why is the ascension so important? Discuss this in light of these scriptures: Luke 24:51-53; John 14:1-3; John 16:5-11; Ro. 8:31-35; and 1 Tim. 3:16
5. How does this passage say that Jesus will return? Take a look at these verses: Matt. 24:30-31 & 26:64; Heb. 4:13-18 & 9:27-28; 1 John 3:2-3; Rev. 1:7 & 22:12
6. How should we live knowing that Jesus will return? Mt. 24:36-44; Mark 8:36-38; Mark 13:32-37; Php. 1:9-11 & 3:17-21; 1 Th. 3:12-13 & 5:23-24; 1 Tim. 6:11-16; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; James 5:7-9; 1 Pet. 1:13 & 2:11-12; Rev. 16:15 & 22:12-14

**Living on Mission**

1. What hope does Acts 1:9-11 personally give to you?
2. Does your anticipation of Jesus’ return affect your witness in the world around you? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
3. Does your anticipation of Jesus’ return affect your personal pursuit of knowing Jesus and pursuing holiness?
4. What do you think are the characteristics of a faithful witness? Are you one?
5. Are you living in the light of Jesus eminent return?

**This Week’s Reading:**

Monday: John 14:1-3  
Tuesday: John 16:5-11  
Wednesday: Romans 8:31-35  
Thursday: Matthew 24:30-44  
Friday: 1 Thessalonian 3:12-13 & 5:23-24  
Saturday: Philippians 1:9-11 & 3:17-21

**Suggested Resources:**

*Adoniram Judson: How Few There Are Who Die So Hard!* by John Piper.  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/adoniram-judson> (Free download)  
*John G. Paton: You Will Be Eaten By Cannibals!* By John Piper  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/john-g-paton> (Free download)  
*David Brainerd: May I Never Loiter On My Heavenly Journey!* By John Piper  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/david-brainerd> (Free download)

**Welcome to the Church at Martinsburg!**

Whether this is your first time or your next time; whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.

**Financial Peace University (FPU)** will begin Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. This financial class is for anyone wanting to learn how to budget, get out of debt or refresh financial management skills. Cost includes a workbook, book, budget aids and a CD. Please go to [fpu.martinsburgchurch.org](http://fpu.martinsburgchurch.org) or call the church office at 304-596-9330 to register. Registration for the course is required and the final cost will be decided soon. Sign up in the lobby Today!

**Community Groups** have started. There’s still room for you! For more information, visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org) . Sign ups are in the lobby today!

**Pastor On Call:** If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg’s Pastor on call.

**Interested in Membership?** Our next Gospel Class will be offered on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Email [tammy@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:tammy@martinsburgchurch.org) to register.

**Members’ Gathering:** Our next Members’ Gathering is Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-6:30 pm at the Comfort Inn – Aikens Center (1872 Edwin Miller Blvd) in Martinsburg. Hor d’oeuvres will be served. Childcare will be provided up to 5 years.

**Baptism Celebration** is scheduled for Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at [baptism.martinsburgchurch.org](http://baptism.martinsburgchurch.org) or call the church office at 304.596.9330 to register.

**Men’s Gathering:** Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Speaker: Seth Polk – Cross Lanes Baptist Church. Details coming soon!

**Media Team:** Looking for a place to serve? What about media? Talk to Timmy Wilkerson ([timmy@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:timmy@martinsburgchurch.org)) for more information.

**Missionary Toolbox:** The Ascension is:

1. Separation: The bodily separation of Jesus from His followers that inaugurated a time of greater intimacy through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Mt. 28:20)
  2. Consummation: Symbolized Jesus’ work (in His physical body) on earth had come to a close. (Heb. 1:3)
  3. Glorification: Jesus returned in great glory and honor having accomplished the work for which He was sent in His incarnation. (Php. 2:9)
  4. Confirmation: Jesus’ return to the Father vindicated His claim to have come from the Father. Also, it confirms our faith and assurance in Christ. (Heb. 6:19-20)
  5. Transition: The link between the work of Christ in salvation and that in our sanctification; between the gospels and the epistles; between what has been accomplished by Jesus and what is still being done through His Spirit; from the cross to Jesus’ heavenly High Priestly intercession. (Heb. 5:14-16)
  6. Anticipation: Creates in us a sense of expectation as we anticipate His return.
- The Ascension “is not primarily to be viewed as the conclusion of our Lord’s life and ministry, but as the introduction of a new phase of His ministry through His church, empowered by His Spirit. The assurance of His return and the measure of His presence and power in these intervening days is to be found, to a great extent, in His ascension.” Taken from a study by Bob Deffinbaugh