

"What if it's True? | Jesus Ascended Into Heaven" July 31

Discussion Questions

- 1. If Jesus did not ascend, and Jesus was still here on earth, what would you want him to do? For you? For the world? Remember that although Jesus is fully God, he is also incarnate in a human body.
- 2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages to our Christian faith between a walking and talking human-divine Jesus, and a spiritual Holy Spirit. A simple example: Jesus got tired and needed to sleep. The Holy Spirit is spirit, and does not need to sleep.
- 3. The Apostle Paul writes that when Jesus ascended, he gave gifts to his people. What types of spiritual gifts have you seen in your own life, or in the lives of other Christians around you?
- 4. For some Christians, parts of the Apostles' Creed can be easily lumped together, or overlooked. For example, the ascension may become a part of Jesus's resurrection, since they both have a "rising" or "going up" theme. Over the preaching series, which lines of the creed have been the most illuminating, new or rediscovered for you?

Ephesians 4:4-13

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it[a] says:

"When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."[b]

9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions[c]? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.