

**THE DEATH
OF DEATH**
DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Ascension

Acts 1.1-11

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- **Summer Studies, June-July** | Make sure and register for one or more of these great summer offerings. <https://goo.gl/DtB9XV>

OPENER

A possible icebreaker question: What's one thing you're looking forward to this summer?

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer: *Lord God, help us to live into the joy of the resurrection. Open our minds and fill our hearts with the truth that we have a Risen Savior. Help us tonight to make sense of how this should impact our lives. Amen.*

STUDY/DISCUSSION

We believe that people experience and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also hearing from each other. That's what we're hoping for tonight.

1. **Read Acts 1.1-11.** As a a group, tease out all the main action in the narrative (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
2. What does the term "gospel" mean to you? Is the good news only about Jesus' atonement, or does it involve his ascending to heaven to rule as King?
3. Do you find yourself hampered in mission by cynicism or apathy?
4. On Sunday Josh said that the Ascension is not about God withdrawing, but about him drawing even closer to his children. Agree or disagree? Why?
5. Do you find yourself bored in your prayer life? Shy? Neglectful? If Christ is now in the presence of the Father interceding for you, what does this mean for your prayer life?
6. W.H. Auden wrote: "*Tragedy is at the heart of Classical civilization, comedy at the heart of the Christian one.*" Do you see your life as more tragic or comic? How does the ascension enable us to laugh in the face of challenge and opposition?

7. How does this passage send us into mission in our neighborhoods, workplaces and schools?
8. What is one thing you need to believe or apply from this passage THIS WEEK?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Exchange prayer requests.