



Week Leading up to 5.29.22: Is Jesus Gone?

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Lk 24:46-53**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Jesus You are truly God and yet fully man. Through Your resurrection and ascension, heaven and earth are forever intertwined. You have fulfilled Your Father's will and offered us salvation and eternity in heaven. May we live in such a way that this hope is evident to others. We praise Your Name in great gratitude. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think/feel that Jesus ascending to heaven is important?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on Why the Ascension of Jesus Matters (7:56 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxDTY_9w6ws

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. How do you view death? Do you find yourself looking up to heaven, longing to go to heaven?
3. Have you ever thought about Jesus' having a body and yet being in heaven?
4. What did you think/feel about Bishop Barron's explanation of heaven and earth interlacing with one another?
5. Do you think/feel that you have experienced heaven here on earth? How so?
6. Bishop Barron shares that Jesus Ascension into heaven is actually the transfiguration of earth. What do you think/feel he means by this?
7. Bishop Barron ends the video by saying that, "the Ascension is the commissioning of the church to do it's great work." Have you ever considered that your role is to bring heaven to earth before? How can we do this?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Do one thing each day to bring heaven to earth. Some examples are: be Jesus to someone by expressing hope in your language, perform one act of kindness or service for another, go to confession, participate at Mass fully and joyfully.
- Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1049-1050 and pray the Our Father out loud, slowly, and thoughtfully each day.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Lord, we are called to bring You into this dark world. We humbly acknowledge our need for Your guidance and grace to transform darkness into light. Work through us as we march forward. Fill us with courage and fortitude so that we serve You in all we do. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Acts 1:1-11**; Reading 2: **Eph 1:17-23**

Additional reading: <https://catholicgentleman.com/2014/04/st-maximilian-kolbe-on-how-to-have-heaven-on-earth/>