

## Ascension

# Small Group Questions

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- What are some examples from the biblical story of places where God shares space with humans such as the Garden of Eden or the Temple? What do these stories have in common with each other? Why are they important to the story and are there any parts of these events that remind you of Jesus?
- The word Ascension implies “going up”. Can you think of examples of humans ascending to meet God in the Biblical story? How many of these stories involve mountains? What is significant about these stories? What is significant about the people whom God met with...or is it significant that they were insignificant?
- What are the implications of God descending to become human and then raising Jesus back to the God-space? Consider Jesus words: “He who humbles himself shall be exalted and he who exalts himself shall be humbled” (Matthew 23:12). How does it look when we allow God to do the exalting and humbling as opposed to trying to put ourselves on a pedestal? How did Jesus model this? (See Philippians 2)
- Jesus spoke of his body as the temple (John 2:19-21). What does this mean if the temple was intended to be a place where God and Humans could coexist? In light of this, how should knowing that we, as the church, are part of the body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:27) affect our witness?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Consider the role of the priest in the Old Testament and compare and contrast this with Jesus, the great High Priest who has Ascended to Heaven. How did Jesus fulfill the role of the priest and why does it matter that He has ascended to Heaven?
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and Romans 12 speaks of offering our bodies as “living sacrifices”. It can be challenging to translate these images into our modern world where temples and sacrifices don’t have a lot of meaning. How do you think that we can live out these verses today? Why does it matter that Jesus is advocating for us at the throne of God the Father?