

Session 12

THE SAVIOR'S ASCENSION—PROMISE

(Acts 1:1–11)

FOCUS

A small boy went to the Indy 500 and sat in the grandstand with his father. He hoped to see his favorite driver win the race. As the race began, the boy's eyes fixed on his favorite driver's car. The cars buzzed by in a blur of colors. The boy stared down the track as his hero quickly disappeared from view. He stood and kept looking in that same direction. But his father tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Come on, son, don't waste your time starin' into space. Get yourself ready 'cause the cars are gonna be comin' back round."

Jesus promises to come back round and take you to be with Him. Do you really believe Jesus' promise and act differently because of it? If you knew Jesus would return one year from now, how might you act differently?

INFORM

1. Read Acts 1:1–3. How do we know the disciples were not merely hallucinating or engaging in wishful thinking when they saw the risen Lord?
2. Read Acts 1:4–5. What gift does Jesus promise to send?
3. Read Acts 1:6–8. What misunderstanding of the kingdom did the disciples still maintain? Can we know when Jesus will return? What promise does Jesus give His disciples?

4. Read Acts 1:9–11. After Jesus ascends in the clouds, what message do the two angels give? How will Jesus return?

5. Read Matthew 28:16–20. Why do we call this the Great Commission? How does the church make disciples? In what way does Jesus' promise comfort you today?

CONNECT

1. We say in the Apostles' Creed, "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty." What comfort comes from knowing Jesus sits at God's right hand? Read the hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (*LW* 264). Based on the eight stanzas of the hymn, make a list of what the ascended Jesus does for you in heaven.

2. Would you be disappointed if Jesus returned today? Why or why not?

VISION

Hold on loosely to the world you see around you this week. Rejoice in your heavenward call in Christ Jesus.