



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 This series has focused on why Jesus came. In this lesson Rick reminded us that Jesus also talked a lot about leaving. **Read John 16:5-7.** Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to know why he was leaving? How do you think they felt knowing Jesus was leaving?

2 JESUS WAS eager to leave. Read Luke 9:51. In what ways did "his going away" give him courage to go to the cross (as he "resolutely set out for Jerusalem")? How is his leaving connected to more of the kingdom coming? Follow up discussion: **Read Acts 1:9-11.** Why do you think the ascension of Jesus is not mentioned often when people speak of the gospel? Why should the message of Jesus not stop with his resurrection?

3 JESUS LEFT to declare his reign. While the resurrection declares that Jesus is Savior, his ascension declares that He is King. **Read Acts 2:32-35 and Ephesians 1:19-21.** Share some examples of how followers of Jesus can experience "his reign as a present reality." What role does the Holy Spirit play in this?

4 JESUS LEFT to ensure our salvation. What are some of the reasons that Christians often doubt their salvation? **Read Hebrews 9: 24; 10:12-14, and Romans 8:34.** In what ways do these amazing verses remind you of the powerful ways Jesus ensures our salvation? What encourages you the most from these verses?

5 JESUS LEFT to prepare our home. Has the Holy Spirit ever prompted you to consider that the world we have is not the world we are meant for? Explain. **Read John 14:1-2.** How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for his people?

6 Rick pointed out that "What we believe about the future shapes how we handle the present." How have you experienced that to be true? **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** How does setting your sights on "the realities of heaven" change your outlook while on earth?

7 JESUS IS eager to return! Read John 14:3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. Rick reminded us that "Jesus is not sending a subordinate; he is coming for us himself." With that in mind, how can we "encourage each other with these words" (as Paul said in verse 18)? What else resonated with you from this message and what is one thing you are convicted to do because of it?

