



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**May 6-12, 2024**

### **Ascension Sunday**

### **Sermon Title "I Spy with My Little Eye" by Bayo Ogungbade**

**Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.**

#### **Family Focus Question (before sermon):**

Do you have a memorable experience of playing "I Spy" with your friends and/or family?

#### **Questions for Small Groups and Individuals:**

1. How do you think you would've reacted if you witnessed Jesus ascend to Heaven on a cloud right in front of you?
2. In Acts 1, verse 7, Jesus tells the apostles that it is not for them to know God's timing. However, he encourages them to hold on to the promise that they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit in due time. Clearly, this is an implicit explanation of the nature of what faith is. Can you remember times in your life where all you could do was trust in God's timing and promises that everything would work out?
3. In Acts 1, verse 11, the angels tell the apostles at the end of the passage that the same way that Jesus ascended to Heaven will be the same way that he will return. If Jesus were to return today, would you feel content with all that you have done in your life? Are there areas in your life where you're discontented?

#### **Monday, May 6: Read Acts 1:1-5**

How much are we paying attention to the workings of the Kingdom of Heaven right here on Earth, in our everyday lives? This week we prepare for our celebration of Ascension Sunday and a sermon by Bayo with the intriguing title, "I Spy with My Little Eye." We may have played this seemingly simple children's game as a distraction on a long car ride or to keep restless kids (or ourselves) entertained while waiting in a doctor's office or restaurant. But something happens when we play it – we start to pay more attention to our surroundings. We look for clues. We notice things we never would have before. This week we will be challenged to recognize the clues all around us pointing to the presence of God and the workings of the Holy Spirit in building the Kingdom of God. We will be challenged to be like the writer of Luke and Acts in today's reading, to recognize the "convincing proofs" (verse 3) that Jesus is alive and at work in our lives and world.

- **Study Opportunity:** *Take time this week to study your surroundings for proof of Christ's presence and work.*

## **Tuesday, May 7: Read Acts 1:6-11**

Verse 11 reads, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking towards Heaven?” This is the question asked to the apostles by the angels who came once they witnessed the radical ascension of Jesus Christ to Heaven as they all stood – jaws dropped and eyes gazing at the sky, wondering what in the world just happened before their eyes. Who wouldn’t?! But what if we paid attention...really paid attention...to the miracles of life, love, and God’s providence here on earth, on the ground, happening every day? Wouldn’t our jaws drop open then, too? Shouldn’t they? This Sunday, Bayo will challenge all of us to look at our world through the lens of the childhood game, “I Spy” and play a more active role in being a witness and builder of the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth.

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Play “I Spy” this week with someone and give it a twist – look for evidence of God’s kingdom and opportunities to partake in the building of it.*

## **Wednesday, May 8: Read Luke 24:44-53**

The book of Acts is actually a continuation of the Gospel of Luke, written by the same author. While they are separated by the Gospel of John in our Biblical canon, our reading today is in essence simply flipping back a few pages from our previous days’ reading to hear the words Jesus gave his disciples immediately before his ascension. Jesus teaches his followers to recognize the evidence of his true identity as contained in the Hebrew law, the prophets, and the psalms. When we intentionally look for the signs of the Messiah, they are there. Jesus also urged the disciples to look for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, which would enable them to be “clothed with power.” What signs from our past are we ignoring that clearly point to the presence God has always had in our lives? How can we be better anticipating...and using...the power of the Holy Spirit that has already come?

- **Relationship and Study Opportunity:** *Discuss with your small group or family where you have each seen evidence of God’s power and work in your past that you once overlooked. Where might you be overlooking the power of God’s Holy Spirit?*

## **Thursday, May 9: Read Ephesians 1:15-23**

The opening of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians shows such joy, appreciation, and presence. Paul has been listening in real time to what the church at Ephesus has been doing, and partnering with them, even while in prison, by lifting them up in prayer and thanksgiving. In the best way he could, he offered them support, wisdom, guidance, and hope. 2000 years later his efforts are still uplifting billions of people. How could we pay better attention to those in our world who are doing the work of God? How could we better support them through prayer, financial resources, letters of encouragement, and active partnership?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Research organizations and individuals who are actively involved in kingdom-building and pick one new way to support them through words, financial support, and prayer.*

## **Friday, May 10: Read Psalm 47**

Constantly looking for evidence of God’s kingdom results in a life of constant joy, thanksgiving, and praise. Today’s psalm calls us to remember God’s presence in our past, recognize God’s presence in every aspect of our lives today, and live in peace and joy that God has already won the victory for us through God’s grace made known and available to us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Join at least one other person in a prayer of thanksgiving where you praise God for something in each of your pasts, your presents, and your futures.*

## **Saturday, May 11: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Acts 1:11b**

“Why do you stand looking towards Heaven?”

## **Sunday, May 12: Let us prepare our hearts and minds by praying our Prayer of Common Confession:**

*God of Wonder, we thank You for Your miraculous power and Your sovereignty. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the promises of the resurrection, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. However, while we know of Your grace, we recognize that we don’t always choose to do better with our knowledge. We find ourselves distracted by many things going on in our own worlds and in the world around us. Help us, O God, to not let our gaze wander away from You. Help us to remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is not only in the sky and that we have a role to play in bringing it here on Earth. We ask all of this in Christ’s Name, Amen.*