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empowered by the Spirit

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 3 • JAN 26



NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: When have you been chosen by a group of people to take on a role or responsibility? What was it?

BACKGROUND

Blessing and Praise. This is what you see at the end of Luke's Gospel (24:51-53). Jesus edifies the disciples as He is *taken up into heaven* and the disciples worship and praise Jesus *continually in the temple*. The disciples' life in Christ did not end at His ascension, it only just begun.

Even though the Holy Spirit had not yet descended upon the disciples, they gathered to conduct the task of replacing Judas' position as one of the twelve disciples. In Acts 1:15-26, it was Peter who stood up and made the recommendation to fill Judas' position per the fulfillment of Scripture in Psalms 69:25 and 109:8. And in staying true to the character and experience of a disciple, Peter listed the requirements for such a nominee.

Two names were given as replacements - Joseph (also known as Barsabbas or Justus) and Matthias. The disciples then sought the Lord on which of them should be selected. They did this through prayer and casting of lots, a common practice used to determine the will of God. The result was for Matthias to replace Judas and be added to the eleven apostles.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** Luke 24:51-53

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

READ: Acts 1:15-26

**HEAD LEVEL:** These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. What happened to Judas Iscariot, per verses 16 – 19? How was it foretold?
2. What did Peter say was necessary? Why?
3. What were the three requirements of a nominee to fill Judas' position?
4. How was Matthias selected?

**HEART LEVEL:** These help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. As one of the disciples present, how would you have received Peter's guidance for choosing another disciple to replace Judas?
2. Regarding the casting of lots, how does this ritual show that God is present even in the smallest details?
3. Is casting lots (rolling dice) a good example of how we are to discover God's will today? Explain your answer.
4. The Scripture does not talk about the following interactions between Matthias and the other nominee – Barsabbas. What might you think could have taken place?



HANDS LEVEL: These help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. By trade, Peter was a fisherman; and yet, he knew Old Testament Scripture and made a decision based upon them. Considering that, how would you ensure your decisions are based on God's Word?
2. We were not simply told Judas was replaced; we were warned he suffered God's judgment. How does this emphasize the point that the Lord makes certain He would have us follow a separate path to the world?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:16a

Brothers and sisters, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)