



Week of May 13, 2018

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said,

¹⁶ "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus--

¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."

²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴ Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen

²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. How good are you at making decisions? Do you trust your head or your gut?
- B. What's the best prediction you ever made?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Why do you think the number of persons present (120) was important enough to mention in verse 15?
2. Do you believe that Judas could have refused to betray Jesus?
3. In verse 23, do you believe Joseph and Matthias were the only two who qualified under the criterion they set forth? Why do you think they didn't go on to narrow it down to one? How do you think they felt about being chosen by lot?
4. Neither Matthias nor Joseph are ever mentioned again. Why do you think it was important to include their selection story in the book of Acts?
5. Why do you believe we no longer cast lots to make decisions? Should we?
6. What is a big decision that lies ahead of you? How will you discern the will of God?
7. Clement of Alexandria said that God doesn't choose the worthy; we become worthy in having been chosen. For what purposes of God do you believe you have been "chosen"?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can pursue the mission to which he/she has been chosen by God.