

Acts

OF THE APOSTLES

[2]

WAITING FOR
INSTRUCTIONS

Acts 1:12-26



Jesus was gone. The work He had to do on earth was completed, and the disciples were sent to speak the truth about Jesus to the entire world.

They started their job of witnessing right where they lived. They went back to Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised them before ascending into heaven. They met together and prayed with all the believers in Jerusalem.

The Apostle Peter

One of the main characters in the first several chapters of the Book of Acts is Peter. Do you remember Peter, the disciple who walked on water and later denied Jesus three times? Peter's given name was Simon, but later on Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means "rock." In the Bible, he is referred to as "Simon," "Peter," or "Simon Peter," and sometimes "Cephas."

Matthew 8:14 tells us Peter was

___ single ___ married ___ a grandfather

John 1:44 says he was from

___ Jerusalem ___ Bethlehem ___ Bethsaida

Luke 5:1–3 shows he made his living as a

___ fisherman ___ farmer ___ tax collector

Luke 5:10–11 tells how Peter's life dramatically changed.

He left everything and

___ became a farmer

___ followed Jesus

___ took a vacation



For three years, Peter and the other disciples followed Jesus wherever He went. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter was with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Read John 18:10–11. What did Peter do? How did Jesus respond? _____

Peter promised Jesus that he would never deny Him. But what did Peter do under pressure? Matthew 26:69–75

Peter was often impulsive and outspoken, but Jesus still had a plan for him. Read John 21:15–17. What did Jesus call Peter to do? _____

Into

THE WORD

Acts 1:12–26

1. Jesus was gone! The one with whom the disciples had spent three years of their lives disappeared into heaven. We might expect to find them desolate. But what does Luke tell us in his Gospel (Luke 24:52)?

2. When the apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, how did they spend their time? Acts 1:14

3. How many disciples are listed in Acts 1:13? Why weren't there twelve?

4. What happened to Judas Iscariot? Matthew 27:3–5

5. What concern did the disciples have? Scan Acts 1:16–21.

6. In verses 21–22, what qualifications did Judas' replacement need to have? Needed to be . . . (check all that apply)
____ from Galilee
____ a man
____ a parent
____ a witness to Jesus' resurrection
____ a companion of the other disciples and Jesus
____ educated in Hebrew

7. What two men were nominated? v.23

The disciples depended on God to guide them in the right choice for the new apostle. They prayed, confident that God would hear their request for guidance. Then they cast lots, believing the result would indicate the man of God's choosing. Casting lots was a common way for the Jews to make decisions. When the lot was cast, Matthias was chosen to be the twelfth disciple.





MEMORY VERSE

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:6–7*

Extra Memory Challenge: Psalm 6:9

NEW IDEAS

What's So Important About Prayer?

- In Acts 1:14, we read that the believers prayed continually.
- In Acts 1:24, they prayed that the Lord would guide their choice for the new apostle.
- Our memory verse, Philippians 4:6–7, tells us to pray about everything.

Look up these verses to learn what God says about prayer:

Matthew 6:5–7 _____

Colossians 4:2 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____

Jesus was devoted to prayer. He prayed often. He got up early in the morning to pray. Before His crucifixion, He prayed all night long. He prayed while He was hanging on the cross.

Jesus even prayed for us! In the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed “for those also who believe in Me through [the apostles’] word” (John 17:20). Like Jesus, we should pray that everyone who hears the Word of God would come to believe in Christ, who saves us from our sin.

discussion questions

As time allows, discuss one or more of the following:

1. Jesus ascended into heaven. He would no longer physically walk with the disciples on earth. Yet the disciples were full of joy. How is it possible to have joy in difficult times?
2. The disciples faced a difficult choice when they chose Matthias as the twelfth disciple. What is the first step you should take when facing a difficult decision? Why? Read Luke 11:9–10.
3. Is there anything you should *not* pray about? Why or why not?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday	I Peter 1:1–9
Monday	I Peter 1:18–21
Tuesday	I Peter 1:22–2:3
Wednesday	I Peter 2:4–10
Thursday	I Peter 2:13–22
Friday	I Peter 4:7–11
Saturday	I Peter 5:5–11

The Lutheran Church

ITS CONFESSIONS, CREEDS, & CATECHISM

- *History and Content of the Nicene Creed*

The Nicene Creed was adopted by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. This creed was written to refute false teachings about the nature of Christ and declared that Jesus was God from eternity. Still today, this creed is a unifying expression of our Christian faith.

1. How can the use of a confession of faith in a worship service bring praise to God?
2. According to Ephesians 4:3–6, 13–14, what is the benefit of believing and speaking as one?

