

2024 - Family Devo

Jan 14 - a



READ: Acts 1:12-14

Main Idea: Now the apostles wait. They have seen Jesus conclude his earthly ministry and go back to heaven. They have received all their training from him. The next training and leading will come from the Holy Spirit. Until then, they are told to wait. While they do, they gather in an upper room and pray. With them are the women disciples and Jesus' mother and brothers.

DISCUSS

Children: Close your eyes and try to think about what that upper room felt like that day. Were they afraid? After all, they were Jesus's followers, and he was just killed in a horrible way. Were they looking over their shoulders for the soldiers to come and get them? What kind of a prayer must that have been! Have you ever prayed really hard for something?

Teen: What were the disciples devoted to while they waited? Should the church today be devoted to the same while we wait for Jesus' return?

Adult: What is the hardest wait you ever had? For some, it may be the return of test results. For others, it is the 9 months preceding the birth of a child or grandchild. How would you have felt waiting with the apostles and other disciples? It doesn't appear that they knew how long the wait would be. Do you wait well or poorly? What do you do when you are waiting? Do you, like the apostles did, turn to prayer? If not, why not?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."



2024 - Family Devo

Jan 14 - b



READ: Acts 1:15-26

Main Idea: Peter speaks up to all who had gathered with the apostles (120 now). Peter quotes from Ps 109:8 which speaks about another taking his office. They understand this to be talking about Judas who had killed himself. So, they needed a replacement. The new apostle needed to have been with Jesus as the eleven had, from the beginning through the resurrection. They narrowed this search to 2 and asked God to show them which should be chosen. While waiting in between the guidance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit they do well by relying on God's word and God's leading.

DISCUSS

Children: They chose that next apostle by casting lots. Do you know what that means? It would be like flipping a coin today. They used a variety of objects to make a choice. Coins, polished sticks, what ever they might have handy. Matthias was the one chose by 'lot', but what do we know about him? Not much. The Bible doesn't tell us what he looked like or if he had a wife or kids. We just know that he was a faithful follower of Jesus from the beginning of his ministry.

Teen: Who spoke through David concerning Judas? Why did Peter want to replace Judas? How did he know to do so? In what ways does God give us direction today?

Adult: The apostles could have decided to choose a replacement for Judas entirely by their own wisdom. After all, Jesus was no longer with them. But they turned to God for guidance. When you make important decisions, how much do you pray for God to help you? Do you think of scripture that would guide you and help you make a good choice?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

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