

# Acts 1:12-26

## May 4, 2025



### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

### **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

The Twelve  
How to Play:

1. Place students in small groups and give each group a pad of paper and a pen.
2. Ask the students to write down as many of Jesus's twelve apostles as they can remember from memory. Set a timer for one minute. When the timer goes off, they should turn in their papers.
3. Tell the students to open their Bibles and write down the names of Jesus's twelve apostles. Give them three minutes for this. When the timer goes off, give them back their original papers so they can compare.
4. Have a leader write the names of the apostles on the board as students call them out.

For Reference: The twelve apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-9; and Luke 6:12-16.

Teaching moment: Today, we named the twelve apostles Jesus chose during His earthly ministry. In our reading today, we will study a time after Jesus ascended to heaven when the disciples chose a replacement for Judas.

**What does it mean for a group of people to be united?**

**Why is it important for the church to be united?**

## ***DISCUSSION***

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 1:12-26.

**What can we learn from the first church's obedience to Jesus in this passage?**

**What does it mean to be "united in prayer" (v. 14)?**

**What details does this passage give us about the believers' growth?**

**How did Peter and the others show belief in and obedience to Scripture?**

**What steps did the believers take in response to the Scripture?**

**What qualifications did Peter give for filling Judas's role?**

**What specific things did the believers pray for? What can we learn from their prayer? How did they show they trusted God's guidance and control?**

## ***GOING DEEPER***

**Why is it important that the church followed God's guidance in selecting a new apostle instead of deciding based on their own preferences? Where do we need to submit our preferences before God's guidance today?**

**How likely are you to pray about big decisions in life? Why is this? How can you grow in this practice?**

## **APPLICATION**

How do prayer and unity play a role in Jesus's command to go and make disciples?

How can our group seek to be "united in prayer" (v.14)?

How can we seek God's guidance in daily lifelike the early church did?

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for this example of how to conduct our lives and what a healthy body of believers should look like. Ask for His help for your group to be unified in prayer like we see in the early church. Pray that the Lord will continue to give you understanding as you study the book of Acts.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

*Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.*

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## **COMMENTARY**

**Acts 1:12-26**

**1:12-13.** Lk 6:14-16 provides the same list of disciples. The lists in Mark and Matthew are similar, except for differences in the names of two disciples between Luke-Acts and Mark and Matthew. Several disciples had alternative names (Simon/Peter, Matthew/Levi; cp. v.23), possibly accounting for differences between the lists. Simon the Zealot of Luke-Acts is probably Simon the Cananaean, and Judas the son of James in Luke-Acts may be Thaddaeus.

**1:14.** The women may have included the wives of the apostles. Jesus had six half-brothers according to Mk 6:3. Jesus appeared to James (1 Co 15:7) and the others may have seen him as well.

**1:15–17.** Peter began to assume his role as leader and spokesman for the apostles. The Scripture Peter referred to was Ps 69:25, quoted in v. 20.

**1:18–19.** The differences between the two NT accounts of Judas's death (here and Mt 27:3–8) should not be overemphasized. Both agree that he died a shameful death and that a field was named after his traitorous deed. Mt 27:5 says Judas hanged himself, while the present passage says he fell headfirst and burst open. Possibly after he hanged himself, Judas's body decayed and fell from the rope, bursting open.

**1:20.** See v. 16.

**1:21–23.** The person selected to take Judas's place had to have accompanied the disciples throughout the course of Jesus's ministry (from his baptism to his ascension), thus assuring that he could speak about things he had seen personally.

**1:24–26.** The disciples prayed for God to make clear to them which person he had chosen as a successor for Judas. The casting of lots was an acceptable method for making decisions in the era before the Holy Spirit was given. The sovereign Lord superintended the event, ensuring that the lot fell in such a way as to identify his chosen man.