

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 14, 2007

Passage: Acts 1:12-26

Memory Passage: Psalm 27:14

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:12-14.** What is the significance of the ascension being at the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:1-4; Matthew 24:3)?
- (b) What does Luke tell us about how the disciples returned to Jerusalem and what they did there (Luke 24:50-52)?
- (c) What does Acts 1:13-14 tell us about where they were meeting and what they were doing while they were waiting? How many were present with them (Acts 1:15)? Was this the total number of followers at this time (1 Corinthians 15:6)?
- (d) Who were “*the women*” and what was their connection to the ministry of Jesus (Luke 8:2-3; Luke 24:10)?
- (e) Who were “*his brethren*” and what has happened to them since the resurrection (Mark 3:31-35; Mark 6:3; John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7)? When did this take place (Acts 1:3)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:12-14 and Luke 24:50-52. Talk about what it would have been like to be a disciple of Jesus after the resurrection. How would the ascension change things? Would waiting be easier *before* or *after* the ascension? Explain. Who were some of those present in the upper room that did not believe during Jesus’ ministry? Pray for some family members who need to know the risen Christ as Savior and Lord.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:15-19.** What concern did Peter raise when they were all gathered together (vs. 16)?
- (b) Why was this one of the primary concerns of the early church (2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)? Where did they get this priority (Luke 24:44-47)? What things had Jesus taught during the 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension (Acts 1:3)?
- (c) What had Judas done with the other eleven (Matthew 10:1-8)? What does this tell us about the possibility of false conversion (Matthew 7:21-23)?
- (d) What happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3-10)? How did he die? Compare this with Acts 1:18.
- (e) Why wouldn’t the chief priests and elders take the money back from Judas? How does this show their hypocrisy?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:15-19 and 2 Peter 1:19-21. Discuss the importance of the Bible to the early church. Why was it so important to them? How did Jesus confirm its importance? How important is the Word of God to us today? What habit patterns are you establishing in your life that make God’s Word your primary concern? Spend some time thanking God for giving us His Word.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:20.** What two passages of scripture did Peter say referred to Judas? How did Jesus apply Psalm 69 to himself (Psalm 69:4 and John 15:25; Psalm 69:9 and John 2:14-17)? Also compare Psalm 69:21 and 19:29.
- (b) Read Psalm 69:25-28. What is the general conclusion of the Psalmist for all who persecuted Jesus? How did Peter apply this directly to what happened to Judas?
- (c) Read the remainder of Psalm 69:29-36. What is the contrast that appears here? What requirement for salvation is mentioned?
- (d) How did Peter apply Psalm 109:8 to Judas? How else did this psalm apply to the suffering and death of the Messiah (Psalm 109:2 and Matthew 26:59-62; Psalm 109:5 and John 10:32-33)? How might this have applied to Judas (Luke 22:48; Psalm 41:9; John 13:18)?
- (e) What is the contrast that takes place beginning in Psalm 109:21? How is David’s attitude different (Psalm 109:22)? What did he expect to be the basis of his salvation (Psalm 109:21, 26)? What is the reason for a salvation that depends wholly on the Lord and His mercy (Psalm 109:27)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:20 and Psalm 69. Discuss both the judgment and the mercy of God, especially as we see it in Psalm 69. How did Judas experience the judgment of God? How did Peter experience the mercy of God? Thank God for the mercy that He gives to all who call upon Him.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:21-23.** Why would Peter think it was important that the place of Judas be filled (Matthew 19:27-28; Luke 22:30)?
- (b) What three qualifications did Peter suggest for the one who would take the place of Judas? Why were each of these important?
- (c) How important was it to have eyewitnesses of the full ministry of Jesus (Hebrews 2:3; 2 Peter 1:16)?
- (d) Some have suggested that the disciples made a mistake and that Paul was the one God appointed to take the place of Judas. Which of these qualifications does Paul not fit?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 1:21-23 and Hebrews 2:3. Talk about the importance of eyewitnesses and Christianity. How does this make Christianity superior to other religions? How did the choice of the Twelve provide this kind of testimony? Pray for someone that needs to know more about the evidence for salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 1:24-26.** What was the first thing the disciples did before choosing the one to take the place of Judas? Look up a couple of these passages in Acts: 4:31; 6:6; 13:3; 14:23; etc. What do these passages tell us about the church's priority in decision making?
- (b) What essential theological truth did they acknowledge (Hebrews 4:13; Jeremiah 11:20; 17:10; Proverbs 15:11; Psalm 44:21; 1 Kings 8:39; 1 Samuel 16:7)?
- (c) Why is this important in seeking the Lord's guidance (Proverbs 3:5-6)?
- (d) What "place" did Judas go to (Matthew 25:41, 46)?
- (e) Was the casting of lots biblical (Leviticus 16:8; Numbers 26:55; Proverbs 16:33)? Does this method of decision making appear after the day of Pentecost? What is different now?
- (f) *Family:* Acts 1:24-26 and Proverbs 3:5-6. What is the biblical way to seek God's guidance? Why don't we cast lots any more to find God's will? What heart attitude is most essential in decision making (Proverbs 3:5-6)? Pray for God's direction for your life.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 1:12-26. Why is waiting on the Lord so hard for us? What did the disciples do while they waited on the Lord? Which of their actions are appropriate for believers today? Which might be questionable? Pray for your worship services tomorrow that those who come might desire to hear from the Lord.

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Waiting Prayerfully

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..."