



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS 1:12-26 / *SEPTEMBER 16, 2020*

Welcome! We are so glad you are joining us in studying through this book! Have you ever read through Acts? What is your understanding of what the book is about?

**Acts is the story of the continued work of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in His church.**

What do you hope to learn through this Bible study through Acts?

How can we as a church community help hold each other accountable to staying in our Bibles?

**Today's study is from Acts 1:12-26.** Acts begins with Jesus ascending to heaven and giving His followers a command to wait for His Holy Spirit.

**Begin by reading Acts 1:12-26.** How would you summarize what is happening in this text?

**Re-read verse 14.**

–Who are “all these” in that verse? Why do you think they were together instead of in their own homes? How would you have felt to be in that room?

– What are they doing and why? What are some of the prayers that you might have heard in that room?

–What can we learn from these followers in this verse?

**These first followers were being obedient to Jesus by waiting for, expecting, longing, and praying for the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had promised.**

–Why do you think they might be praying for the Holy Spirit when it has already been promised? (*We are called to be dependent on the promises of God, and prayer shows our dependency.*)

–What are some of the promises God has given that we should still be praying for?

**Re-read verses 15-16.**

–Who speaks in these verses? Who is Peter, and do his actions in these verses surprise you? Why?

**Peter does not have the Holy Spirit here, but he stands up and speaks with authority, because he believes in the authority of Scripture and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures. In verse 20, he quotes from Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8.**

–Who is Judas and why is Peter talking about him?

**The apostles are fulfilling Scripture by picking a replacement for Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus.**

**Look again at verses 21-26. Both Justus and Matthias have been with the disciples from the beginning of Jesus' and would be equally valuable as an apostle.**

–What things do they do to help make this decision?

**The disciples pray, and then they do a weird thing and cast lots. In both of those actions, they show that the Lord is in control and they trust Him.** (Read Proverbs 16:33.)

–What do we learn about God in this story? *(Possible answers include: God has always had a plan. He is always in control. God, through the Holy Spirit, is the author of Scripture.)*

–Why is what we learned about God good news for us and how can it shape our lives?

**Respond in prayer.** Thank God for giving us the Bible so that we can know him and love Him. Ask God to help you faithfully study through the book of Acts with the church. Pray for understanding during your studies. Pray for each member of our church to be “in one accord” waiting for and trusting in Jesus together. Pray that you would be an encouragement to others. Choose a person that you know needs to hear the Good News of Jesus and pray for them today.

**If you have questions, need to pray, or just need to talk through this study with someone, contact one of our pastors or a fellow church member anytime!**

## KIDS FOCUS

**The book of Acts begins with Jesus returning to heaven after He died and was raised to life. But before He leaves He gives His disciples a command to wait for His Holy Spirit.**

**Begin by reading Acts 1:12-14.** What is happening in these verses? Who are these people? What are they doing? How would you have felt to be in that room?

–Why are they together waiting and praying? What can we learn from the people in this room?

–How do the disciples know they can trust and obey Jesus? How do you know you can trust and obey Jesus, too?

**Because Jesus is God and because he died on the cross for our sins and rose to life we can trust and obey Him!**