

Community. Scripture. Mission.

Acts 1:12-26

January 27, 2019

*In Acts, believers meet as a **community** to seek God's will; turn to **Scripture** to understand what is happening to them; then, take the next step in order to move forward in **mission**.*

1. **Community** of believers meet to seek God's will (1:12-14)
 - a. **Obeying** Jesus' command (Acts 1:4)
 - b. **Gathering** in the same place at the same time
 - c. Constantly being of one mind and praying (Acts 2:46; 4:24)

A **unified** community will **pray** .

A **praying** community will be **unified** .
2. **Scripture** informs and forms their response (1:15-20)
 - a. Holy Spirit ➔ Human authors ➔ **Scripture** (2 Peter 1:21)
 - b. Judas' treacherous deed and **gross** death (12:23)
 - c. Peter connects Psalms to current events (esp. Psalm 69)
3. **Mission** objectives **require** strategic change (1:21-26)
 - a. Specific and limiting criteria for an **apostle**
 - b. Praying and worshipping "*Lord, knowing **hearts** of all,*" (1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 44:21; Jeremiah 17:10; 20:12)
 - c. **Submitting** to God's prior choice (Prov. 16:33)
 - d. Adding to the original apostles aka "**sent ones**"

Life Group Homework

1. READ John 14:25-27. Why do you think that Jesus waited ten days after His ascension to send the Holy Spirit?
2. Who were all these people (120) who were "of one mind" and what was different in their backgrounds from their previous encounters with Jesus? Rich/poor. Believing/doubting. Etc.

"the women" READ Luke 8:1-3; 23:49, 55, 24:1, 10

"Mary, mother of Jesus" READ LUKE 1:30-33; 2:34-35

"His brothers" READ Matthew 12:46-47; 13:55-56; Gal. 1:19
3. List some possible benefits or results of praying with fellow Christians who are different from you.
4. How does Scripture inform your response to life's challenges?
5. The situations that the early church faces in the book of Acts seem to be constantly changing. What stays the same?