

A New Disciple

Acts 1; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 829-835; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 25-34

Have you ever lost a friend? A close friend who decided to be mean and hurtful? A long time ago one of Jesus' disciples chose to betray Jesus. Because of that choice, Jesus' other disciples and friends chose someone to take Judas's place. Let's find out who it was.

So much had happened in the past six weeks. The disciples could still feel the panic and taste the fear. They had run away from the garden when the soldiers arrested Jesus. And they had seen Him die. When they closed their eyes they could almost hear the crowds shouting, "Crucify Him!"

They would never forget the emptiness after Jesus died. Visitors to Jerusalem came looking for Jesus only to be told that He had been crucified. Everyone felt numb.

On Sunday morning, the light of hope had begun to shine again. The women came bursting into the upper room and shouted, "Jesus is alive!" It seemed so incredible. At first they could not believe the good news. Then Jesus had appeared to them.

During the past few weeks they had spent time together

listening and learning more about the Master. A few days ago they had walked with Jesus to the Mount of Olives. There He gave them another promise. "Wait in Jerusalem until I send the Holy Spirit to you. He will guide you and comfort you."

Then they had watched Jesus rise up into the air. They had stared into the sky, trying to see Him one last time.

Every day after that the disciples and other believers met in a large room. They talked about the things Jesus had taught them and prayed together.

One day about 120 believers were gathered there. Peter stood up. Everyone was quiet as he began to speak. He reminded them about the



The Message

Jesus' friends know Him well.

Memory Verse

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
(Acts 1:8, NIV).

work Jesus had given them. “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,” Jesus had said, “and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV). “Tell the people that I love them. Tell them that I came to save them from their sins.” Yes, it was time to spread the good news throughout the world.

“Judas is no longer with us,” continued Peter. “We should choose someone to take his place.”

The others spoke little, but nodded their heads.

Peter went on. “The person we choose must be one who traveled with Jesus the whole time He was with us.”

Peter wanted someone who had followed Jesus since John had baptized Him, someone who knew that Jesus had been taken up again into heaven. Someone who could tell people about Jesus' love, and how He died just for them.

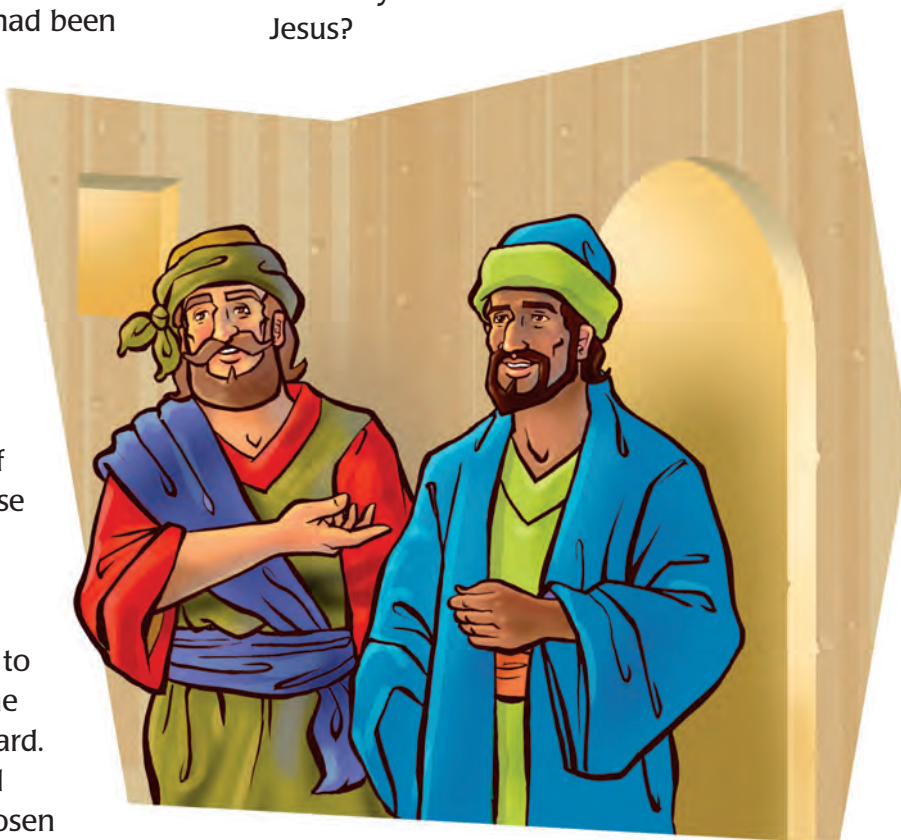
The others in the room agreed. Soon two suggestions were made: a man called Joseph and another called Matthias. It was a difficult decision. They prayed together: “Lord, You know the thoughts of everyone. Show us which of these two You have chosen. Who will serve in place of Judas?”

In those days it was the custom to draw lots. One way was to use two sticks, one long and one short, to decide how to go forward. We do not know which method they used, but Matthias was chosen

to replace Judas. From that day on, Matthias would serve with the other disciples. He would tell the world about Jesus and His love for all.

Today, Jesus still needs disciples to follow Him—people who know Him and will serve Him. People who will tell others about His love, and how He came to save them.

Will you tell others about Jesus?



S A B B A T H

DO Jesus walked to a small hill with His disciples before He ascended to heaven. If possible, go for a walk with your family up a small hill. Look at the different cloud formations. Do the shapes remind you of anything?

DO Write each word of the memory verse on a piece of paper. Put the paper in a container and shake well. Tip out the words and put them in the right order. If necessary, use your Bible. Thank God that we have the hope of going to heaven to live with Him.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship today, read and discuss Acts 1:12-26.

READ Read Matthew 27:7, 8 to discover what happened to the money the priests paid to Judas. Judas chose not to serve God. What have you decided?

PRAY Ask God to help you find ways to serve Him.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 4:18, 19 with your family. What did Jesus tell His new friends they would do? Talk about ideas for a family project to serve others. Start planning how to put it into action. Ask God to bless your project.

SING Sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 135) before prayer.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Acts 1:1-11. Find Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria on a Bible map. Where else did Jesus tell the disciples to witness about Him?

DRAW Draw 11 circles. (Draw around a coin.) Draw the faces of the disciples as they watched Jesus going to heaven.

DO The Mount of Olives is 2,700 feet high (about 820 meters). Can you find a place near you that is near the same height?

PRAY Thank God that He sent Jesus, and that Jesus is coming back soon.

People in Bible times believed that God would guide casting the lots so the person or thing He wanted would be chosen.



W E D N E S D A Y

READ For family worship today read and discuss Luke 24:36-53. The disciples praised God. Ask your family: How many blessings can you think of?

ASK Ask an adult to tell you about a way they serve God.

PRAY Thank God for His blessings.

T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What should we do as friends of Jesus?

THINK A disciple is one who follows a leader. Play "Follow the Leader" and think what it means to be a follower. Whom do you choose to follow?

DO Make a plan for a "Secret Service" project. Do something nice for someone in your family. Don't tell anyone, but leave a note that says, "Jesus loves you, and so do I." Ask God to bless your secret service project.

F R I D A Y

DO For worship today, review and discuss Acts 1 with your family. Act out the different parts of the story.

DO Help your family get ready for Sabbath.

SING Sing some praise songs, then ask God to be with you on His special day tomorrow.

A New Disciple PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to find out the names of the two men who were nominated to replace Judas as one of the disciples. Then circle the name of the man who was chosen.

