

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 6 - Acts 1:12-26

Summary of this week's teaching: This week we learned about what the disciples, family, and closest followers of Jesus were up to in between His ascension and Pentecost. This was a time of great anticipation! They spent much of their time praying together, and had to reckon with Judas's betrayal and how and with whom they would replace him. We discussed how they acted without the Holy Spirit and the similarities and differences in how we interact with God now that the Holy Spirit is with us.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What was the most recent time of anticipation (positive or negative) that you experienced?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 1:12-26, John 17:11-23

1. What role does prayer play in the lives of Jesus followers in passage in Acts? How does their prayer reflect their faith and reflect the way Jesus showed them to pray?
2. In his prayer in John 17:11-23, why is Jesus so concerned that his Disciples and anyone who would believe in Him would be one?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. How has the Holy Spirit helped you make decisions in your life? Are there ways in which you would like to grow in seeking the Lord in large or small decisions?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Discussing Judas's fate can cause us to wonder how God's sovereignty interacts with human responsibility. In your own life, are you more tempted to deny God's sovereignty or your responsibility? (this is not a time to argue your case, but to share from your heart) What does it look like to trust the Lord in this area?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Alec shared in his intro about how the Lord has led him to examine the fact that he often is more eager to find the right answer to a question by listening/reading to resources from other godly people rather than listening to or wrestling with the Lord personally. Can you relate? What would it look like to intentionally make time to hear from the Lord this week?

