**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Witnesses: Study of Acts*

*Sermon: Discerning and Making Decisions*

 *2-16-20*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question:Go around the room and have each person answer the following. What is your favorite winter comfort food or drink?

*(***Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

**I. After the Ascension**

**II. Peter Addresses the Group**

**III. The Apostles Cast Lots for the New Apostle**

**Two Criteria for Apostleship**

1) They must have accompanied Jesus and the original twelve during Christ’s earthly ministry.

2) They must have been an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.

**Guidelines for God-Glorifying Decision Making**

1) Recognize that most of what God wills for you has already been clearly revealed in the Word of God.

2) Recognize that all other decisions must be made in faith, on the foundation of God’s Word and with God’s purposes in mind.

3) Recognize that you will need to seek the Lord in prayer daily so that he can conform your will to his.

**Into The Text** (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Acts 1:12-14. *Ask: Did the disciples obey Christ’s instruction in v4-5? Why does Luke list Peter, John and James first in his order of the disciples? What does it mean that the disciples were in ‘one accord’? What did Luke mean when he said they ‘were devoting themselves to prayer’? What is significant about Luke mentioning Mary the mother of Jesus and the women?*
2. Ask someone to read Acts 1:15-20*. Ask: Why did Peter say ‘the scripture had to be fulfilled’ in v16? Why does Peter attribute the Holy Spirit to the OT scriptures? What is Luke communicating to us about Judas? How does Luke’s account differ from Matthew’s? (Matthew 27:3-10) Why did Peter believe the disciples should replace Judas with another person?*
3. Ask someone to read Acts 1:21-26.  *Ask: What were the qualifications for the new apostle candidates? Why are those criteria/qualifications significant? Did the disciples pray and seek the Lord before making the decision? Was the casting of lots a common practice in the 1st century? How did the disciples interpret the lot falling to Matthias?*

**Application**

1. Say: **Let’s move to discussion and application**. Ask: *How did the coming of the Holy Spirit change the way the church made decisions from this point forward?*
2. Ask: *How do you typically make big decisions? Have you ever faced a significant decision in which all of your options seemed to be good choices? How did you decide?*
3. *Ask: Are we supposed to be pursuing absolute certainty in all of our decisions? What role does faith play in the decision-making process of believers? Should we expect to make decisions in faith? (Certain of what we hope for and sure of the unseen Heb 11:1)*
4. *Ask: How can it help you to understand that God’s will for your life is God himself? Is God hiding his will from you? Is Jesus simply the key to finding God’s plan or is Jesus the plan itself?*
5. Ask: *In what specific ways has God already revealed his will to you? Is prayer designed to convince God to get on our side or is it designed to conform us to the will and purposes of God? Why is that so important for us to understand?*

**Closing Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Instead of asking God to help you find his will, ask God to conform you to his will and purpose for your life. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*