

Hello everyone,

My name is Janis Cox. I have volunteered to help Harry with the Sunday School lessons while we are in COVID. This lesson is based on the lectionary reading for Sunday.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com. And don't forget to send pictures and videos to Harry.

Lesson: Choose to Pray Before Making a Decision

Background and Story

Before Jesus left the earth and ascended to be with His Father, He told the apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit and they were to wait for this to happen. The eleven, along with some women and Jesus' brothers prayed in a room.

There were only 11 of them now, as Judas was the one who betrayed Jesus and died. Now to make 12 again one other had to be chosen from among the Brothers (believers). It had to be someone who had been with them from the beginning and who could be a good witness to tell others about Jesus.

Peter spoke to 120 believers about the decision that had to be made. Two men were nominated (chosen to be possible candidates). In order to make a good decision, the apostles had learned to pray. Before the Holy Spirit was given to them, they used lots (or drew straws) to find out what God wanted. But prayer had to come first.

After praying, they chose by lot between Justus and Matthias. Matthias was chosen to be the 12th apostle.

Scripture

Acts 1:15-17; 21-26 (NIV)

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he

belongs.”²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Memory Verse for youngest ones

Always talk to God when you want to decide something important. (Or anytime you want to know what God wants you to do.)

Memory verse for older ones

Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry. (Acts 1:24, 25, NIV)

Here are a few ideas to memorize verses:

1. Cut the words out separately and then mix them up. Now try to put them back together. 2. Using actions say the verse.

For this week you could use these actions:

Then they prayed (put hands together in prayer), “Lord (point up), you know (tap your head) everyone’s heart (tap your heart). Show us (make a questioning face) which of these two (put up two fingers) you (point up) have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry (point around to others).

3. Print out the words on a card. On the back of the card, print the first letter of each word. Now try to say the verse.

Thinking about the Lesson

Questions:

1. Who stood up to talk to the believers? (Peter)
2. What problem did the apostles have? (They needed another apostle to make 12.)
3. How many believers were there with Peter? (120)
4. Which apostle was being replaced and why? (Judas. He had betrayed Jesus. He died.)
5. What were the conditions for the new apostle? (He had to have been with Jesus all the time they were learning from Him and had to know about resurrection of Jesus.)
6. Who were the nominees? (Barsabbas called Justus, Matthias)

7. How was the decision made? (First prayer, to have God make the decision. Then by lot.)
8. Who was chosen? (Matthias)

Discussion

Look closely at the prayer the apostles said:

Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry

How much does God know about our thoughts and feelings? (God knows everything.)

Who was really doing the choosing? (God)

Prayer:

Talking to God can help us. The disciples prayed and God helped them make a good decision.

How often do you talk to God?

Here is one way to talk to God throughout the day. It's called a **Breath Prayer**.

When you feel you need help for anything try this method.

When you are angry: Lord, (breathe in), please help me to calm down (breath out).

When you are sad: Lord, (breathe in), please make me feel better (breathe out).

What is one problem you would like God to help you with?

Try the Breath Prayer.

Pray together

Lord, we know that You know everything. We would like right now to ask You (insert your own desire)..... We know that Your decision is best. We will take time to listen for Your answer. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Activities

1. **Make a booklet.** Use one piece of paper (this can be any type of paper, construction paper, plain paper). Fold in half. On the front put the words: Who Will God Choose? (Acts 1: 15-26)

Open the booklet. On the left draw a picture of Justus. On the right draw a picture of Matthias. Put a name above each picture. Show that Matthias was chosen in any way you want.

On the back you could write this scripture:

Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry. (Acts 1:24, 25, NIV)

2. Word Search

Blessings,

Janis

You can reach me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com for questions or comments.

Matthias is Chosen as the 12th Apostle

P	E	T	E	R	D	L	O	T	S	E	L	H	C
S	R	E	T	S	I	S	U	T	S	U	J	E	I
E	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	L
T	S	V	S	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	D	O
W	S	A	B	R	A	C	H	O	L	Y	T	Y	T
I	A	P	H	E	T	P	H	A	A	S	R	A	S
T	M	S	I	D	L	M	O	O	D	T	S	U	O
N	E	N	W	R	L	I	S	S	S	S	R	B	P
E	O	W	T	O	I	L	E	I	T	E	N	L	A
S	E	I	A	L	E	T	N	V	T	L	N	E	T
S	J	E	S	U	S	I	A	C	E	P	E	E	M
U	J	O	H	N	M	E	A	T	P	R	A	S	O
E	D	A	V	I	D	H	E	A	R	T	S	B	S
S	A	D	U	J	B	A	R	S	A	B	B	A	S

- BARSABBAS
- WITNESS
- BELIEVERS
- HEART
- SISTERS
- SPIRIT
- NOMINATED
- APOSTOLIC
- MINISTRY
- RESURRECTION
- APOSTLES
- MEN
- HOLY
- JOHN
- TWO
- CHOSEN
- LOTS
- LORD
- DAVID
- JUSTUS
- PETER
- JUDAS
- BAPTISM
- JESUS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2391275/>

