

“Commissioned” - Acts 1:4-11, 23-26

Ask - “Have you ever been tasked or commissioned to do something? Share your story.”

Background - The book of Acts documents the beginning and early growth of the New Testament Christian Church. Starting in Jerusalem, the gospel spread throughout the world carried by Peter, Paul, and many other faithful disciples.

“The Promise of the Holy Spirit” - Acts 1:4-8

(v4-5) What did Jesus command His disciples to do? Why were they to do that? What had the Father promised? How would this baptism differ from John’s?

(v6-7) What did the disciples think that Jesus might be doing by sending the Holy Spirit? How did He answer their question?

(v8) What did Jesus charge His disciples to do? Where? Who would empower them to accomplish this monumental task?

JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO WAIT IN JERUSALEM FOR THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ONCE HE ARRIVED, THEY WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO CARRY THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT THE EARTH.

“The Ascension of Jesus” - Acts 1:9-11

(v9) After commissioning His disciples, what happened to Jesus? Where did He do and who witnessed it happen?

(v10) Who appeared beside the disciples? How were they dressed? What is this reminiscent of (Luke 24:4-5)?

(v11) What did the angels say to the disciples? Discuss.

AS THE DISCIPLES WATCHED, JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN. A PAIR OF ANGELS TOLD THEM THAT HE WOULD SOMEDAY RETURN IN THE SAME WAY.

“The Replacing of Judas Iscariot” - Acts 1:23-26

(v23) Who were the 2 candidates the disciples put forward to replace Judas Iscariot as the 12th apostle? What do we know about these men (*research in advance*)?

(v24-25) What did the disciples do? What did they ask the LORD to do?

(v26) Having prayed and sought God's direction, what did the disciples do next? Which of the 2 candidates were chosen?

THE DISCIPLES PRAYED, CAST LOTS, AND CHOSE MATTHIAS TO REPLACE JUDAS ISCARIOT AS THE 12TH APOSTLE.

Application - Before departing the earth, Jesus promised the soon coming of the Holy Spirit. He told His disciples to wait and pray until the Spirit arrived, then once empowered to carry the gospel to all the nations. Then, as they watched, Jesus ascended into heaven. In the days that followed, while waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples chose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot as the 12th apostle. What aspect(s) of today's lesson stands out to you?