



Rolling The Dice

<sup>12</sup>“Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. <sup>13</sup>When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). <sup>14</sup>They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. <sup>15</sup>During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. <sup>16</sup>‘Brothers,’ he said, ‘the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. <sup>17</sup>Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.’ <sup>18</sup>(Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. <sup>19</sup>The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means ‘Field of Blood.’) <sup>20</sup>Peter continued, ‘This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ <sup>21</sup>‘So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus— <sup>22</sup>from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.’ <sup>23</sup>So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they all prayed, ‘O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen <sup>25</sup>as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.’ <sup>26</sup>Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.”  
Acts 1:12-26

**How The First Christians Made A Difficult Decision**

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12

2. They \_\_\_\_\_ v. 17-21

3. They sought \_\_\_\_\_ v. 13-15

4. They Connected With \_\_\_\_\_ Through \_\_\_\_\_ v. 14, 24

5. They \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ v. 26

**Memory Verse**  
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .**

- Make Life’s Most Important Decision by surrendering control of your life to Jesus Christ for the first time
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6
- Accept the Acts Challenge: Read a chapter of Acts a day for the next 28 days
- Get the most out of today’s teaching by attending my Life Group



## Discussion Questions - Week #7

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Rolling the Dice," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

▶ This weekend we learned that the apostles made a decision by 'casting lots,' similar to modern-day rolling of dice. Have you ever made a decision using similar means? (i.e., rolling the dice, flipping a coin, etc.)

▶ What is your typical decision-making process?

▶ In retrospect, how do you determine whether a decision you have made was a good one or a bad one?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Exodus 18:13-27. Do you have anyone in your life who has played the role of Jethro, speaking words of wisdom when you needed them most?

What was the wisdom or guidance they offered?

What do you currently need wisdom for in your life?

Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." Many of us feel as if we have no Jethro's in our lives; how do we go from having none to the multitude the proverb suggests?

How might we become people who not only receive wisdom but who are sought for our wisdom?

2. Read Psalm 119:1-24. What stands out to you in this passage?

Psalm 119 opens by suggesting that following God's law is the way of blessing. Where have you experienced blessedness in your life due to following God's way?

How do you think we can come to appreciate God's word as the Psalmist does?

What would you say to someone who told you they sought God's guidance, but He didn't answer?

Is there any practical step you could take to hear God's voice through His word better?

### FOR PRACTICE

In his book *Hearing God*, philosopher Dallas Willard states, "I fear that many people seek to hear God solely as a device for obtaining their own safety, comfort and sense of being righteous." The opposite of which would be to hear God, not as a means for achieving the things we want but achieving the things He wants. It's the mature follower of Jesus who realizes that what God wants happens to be the best thing for us. Consider setting aside some time this week to practice listening prayer, and like Samuel in the House of God at Shiloh, be prepared to answer, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for ERBC-supported missionaries Kevin and Leilani Humble as they witness to Muslims in Indonesia. Pray also for their work of raising up and pouring into indigenous leaders and for these leaders as they share the gospel amongst unreached people groups.