

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **September 8, 2019** sermon, "The Prayer Factor." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 1:12-26) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

WHEN NEEDING GUIDANCE DURING TIMES OF TRANSITION . . .

1. Seek God's will prayerfully (12-14)
  - a. We often ask God for too little, looking for "signs" when he offers himself as "the Way."
  - b. In crucial moments needing direction, it sometimes feels as if God has "stranded us."
  - c. They devoted themselves to prayer. When God is truly pursued in prayer (vertical), divisions (horizontal) are replaced with 'one accord' living. Prayer brings unity.
2. Seek God's will scripturally (15-22)
  - a. The authority for what to believe and what to expect comes from Scripture.
    - i. It is crucial to know the Word of God well.
    - ii. It is crucial to apply and trust the Word of God to your situation/life.
  - b. Note that Peter instructs, and there is accountability and community in application.
3. Seek God's will discerningly (23-26)
  - a. Two excellent and qualified candidates are put forth to replace Judas.
  - b. They appeal to God's will by submitting to the "Lord." No one human will dominated.
    - i. NOTE: casting lots as a means of decision-making disappears after Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit comes to all believers.
    - ii. Together, they submitted themselves to the Lord's clear leading among them.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Is there anyone in your life in the church with whom you have ongoing and unresolved conflict? Is the conflict a matter of biblical content or personal opinions? What impact does the conflict have upon your prayer life? What impact does your prayer life have upon the conflict? How can we pray for you?
2. Based on #2, above: We must be extremely careful when applying the Scriptures to our lives because of our tendency to see things selfishly, take things out of context and simply misapply. Talk about a specific situation in your life where you are leaning on the Word of God for direction or waiting on the Lord to fulfill a promise. How might this community help you apply the principle to your decision-making?
3. Based on #3, above: Even though we prayed, and we have God's Word, we still may be in a situation where we need to make a decision of the will. Talk about a situation where you still have to make a choice. How does timing (or waiting) impact the situation? And what factors go into choosing? How does community and accountability come into play? If you are married, how does your spouse's desire come into play?
4. Based on #3, above: Times of transition require incredible discernment. We may feel "stranded," but we actually have help from the Lord. How has the Lord revealed his closeness to you even when everything seemed to be changing? How was his Word like a "lamp"?