



Discussion Guide Church — Part 2 LEADER GUIDE

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You were made for more than a comfortable, self-focused faith. You were made to be part of something bigger. In this series, we're rediscovering what the church was always meant to be: not a program to consume, but a Spirit-filled, Jesus-shaped community that's alive, vital, and still changing the world. We'll look at the stories competing for our hearts, and rediscover the one true story we were made for!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"Pray without ceasing on behalf of other men... For cannot he that falls rise again? "
[Ignatius of Antioch]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - After receiving instructions from Jesus (and the angelic beings), the apostles immediately start obeying and preparing for what Jesus has purposed. In other words, they commit. Their commitments are reflective to the church for all ages.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

Would you go on a hot air balloon ride if they were offering them for free?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Lord, teach us to pray. Devote us to prayer. Let us wait on Your Spirit to guide us into all truth.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize the new verses together by having each person read them aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[Hebrews 10:24-5, ESV]

BIG IDEA || **Leader Note** *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

We grow to love as Jesus loved when we are devoted to the kind of church Jesus built.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || **Leader Note** *Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two*

reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Acts 1:12-26 in the ESV.

1. Who was at this first prayer meeting of the church? *There is diversity of socio-economic, political, gender, and nationality here. There is oneness, not of "like-minded individuals" but of people utterly devoted to Jesus.*
2. How long were they there? What is the longest prayer event you've ever attended or been part of? *The text says "in those days." It was multiple days, probably around 10.*
3. What would it look like for us to devote ourselves to prayer like this? *Discuss logistics. Think through feeding people or fasting, how to care for little ones in the group, what would be prayed for, etc. What would be sacrificed to make room for prayer of this nature?*
4. How did they choose to move forward after Judas' betrayal and death? *See vv. 15-26.*
5. How can we be unified in Christ while still having distinctions between us? *Differences can be a point of celebration when there is already unity and peace. The thing that will compromise unity most is idolatry—if we make something about ourselves supreme and forget that Christ is MORE.*
6. What differences do you most struggle to accept in others? *Ideas? Background? Past sins? Personality issues? Lifestyle differences? What holds us back from unity can be confessed and repented of.*
7. What is your role in the ministry of the gospel? What is your role in this group? *Answers may vary. You may be able to call out apostles, teachers, shepherds, deacons, those who have gifts of mercy, etc. Pray that God makes each person's role in the body clear so they can function in it well and be supported in it.*
8. Which is more challenging: to play great parts without pride or small parts without shame, comparison, and jealousy? *Answers will vary.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

The kingdom does not advance only by those in leadership, but by **countless unseen disciples who quietly, steadily, and lovingly live for Christ.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How can you be devoted to prayer? 2) What is your role in the body of Christ?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!

"Spirit of Christ, free us from the powers of fear, social pressure, nostalgia, and selective obedience. Prepare for Yourself a people willing to step into ministry who will wait for You to direct and guide us. Amen"