



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 3



Matthias is Chosen

Acts 1:12-26

Supplemental Scripture

John 6:64-71
Matthew 10:2-4
Mark 3:16-19
Luke 6:12-16
Matthew 28:18-20

Memory Verse

Those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

Lesson Goals

Understand that we are to be obedient to God

Understand that we might sometimes have to wait

Understand that prayer and Bible study are important even when we are waiting

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

What have you learned about running the race so far? Can you be a part of the race and sit in the stands at the same time? No! Where does God want you to go and what does He want you to do? He wants you to tell others about Him, starting where you live and moving out from one end of the world to the other.

What have we seen so far in the lives of the disciples? Well, we know that they saw Jesus after the resurrection. They walked and talked with Him for forty days and then He was gone! Where did Jesus go? He returned to heaven. What did Jesus tell the disciples before He left? He told them to wait in Jerusalem. He would send them the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit would come the power to go all over the world telling others about Him. Let's see what happened next.

The Bible tells us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives where they had seen Jesus go up into heaven. It was a mile from the mountain back to the city. (Acts 1:12) But, what is so important about them returning to Jerusalem? It is called **obedience!** Jesus had told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. That is what they were doing. They could have all returned to their homes in other cities, but they chose to obey Jesus instead. What were they supposed to do in Jerusalem? They were to wait. Is it easy to wait? No, most of us would rather be doing something. We don't really like to wait around for anything. And how long would they have to wait? Jesus didn't tell them that, only that they were to wait for God to send His Holy Spirit.

When they arrived in Jerusalem they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. (Acts 1:13) Peter and his brother Andrew were there. John was there with his brother James. Philip was there, as well as Thomas. Bartholomew and Matthew were there, too. James, the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas, the son of James were all there. All eleven disciples were there. Eleven? Weren't there twelve? There were, but Judas Iscariot, the

Application

Our memory verse says, "Those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary." Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

Can you imagine running a race and not getting tired? How is that possible? What does the memory verse say? If we wait for the Lord, He will give us new strength. What does it mean to wait for the Lord? Does it mean just sitting in the sidelines? No. In this verse, wait for means to look for or expect. Are you looking for God? Do you know Him? He can be found— He wants to be found. Will you submit your life to Him today?

If you have already submitted yourself to God, are you waiting for Him? Do you talk to Him (pray) and study His Word? Will you commit yourself right now to run the race in a way that you won't be tired?

disciple who betrayed Jesus, took his own life.

While the disciples were there in Jerusalem waiting, they did something very important. They stayed connected to God; they came together regularly and prayed. Women joined them. Even Jesus' mother, Mary, and His brothers were there. At one point, as many as 120 people were there.

The disciples did another important thing - they studied God's Word, the Bible. From their study, they knew that they needed to replace Judas Iscariot. He would be replaced by a man who had been following Jesus as long as the twelve disciples had been, from the time when John was baptizing until Jesus was taken back up to heaven. This man must also believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Two men were suggested, Joseph and Matthias. Then the disciples prayed again. "Lord," they said, "you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen." (Acts 1:24 NIV) Matthias was the one chosen and he was added to the eleven.

Review

1. What did the disciples do once Jesus returned to heaven? (They went to Jerusalem.)
2. What did the disciples do in Jerusalem? (They obeyed God and waited.)
3. What else did the disciples do? (They prayed and studied Scripture.)
4. What did they learn from their studying? (That the disciple Judas should be replaced.)
5. Who was chosen to replace Judas? (Matthias)

Next Week
The Holy Spirit Comes
Acts 2:1-13

Preschool Lesson

After Jesus went back up into heaven, the Bible tell us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. It was a mile from the mountain back to the city. (Acts 1:12) What is so important about them returning to Jerusalem? **Obedience!** Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. The disciples obeyed.

Is it easy to wait? No! Most of us want to be doing something. We don't really like to wait around for anything. And how were the disciples supposed to wait? Jesus didn't tell them. He only said that they were to wait for God to send His Holy Spirit.

When the disciples arrived in Jerusalem, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. (Acts 1:13) Peter and his brother Andrew were there. John was there with his brother James. Philip was there, as well as Thomas. Bartholomew and Matthew were there, too. James, the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas, the son of James were all there. Who was there? Repeat the names after me; **Peter . . . Andrew . . . John . . . James . . . Philip . . . Thomas . . . Bartholomew . . . Matthew . . . James . . . Simon . . .** And **Judas**, the son of James.

While the disciples were there in Jerusalem waiting, they did something very important. They prayed. They did another important thing, too. They studied the Bible. From their study, they knew that they needed to replace the disciple who betrayed Jesus. He would be replaced by a man who had been following Jesus as long as the twelve disciples had been. That means that he would have followed Jesus from the time when John was baptizing until Jesus was taken back up to heaven. This man must also believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Two men were suggested, Joseph and Matthias. The disciples prayed again. "Lord," they said, "you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen." (Acts 1:24 NIV) Matthias was the one chosen and he was added to the eleven.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Make origami or construction paper eagles. Make one for each word of the verse, as well as the reference. String a line across your study space and hang each eagle on the line, but out of order. Encourage your students to order the verse. This can become a race to see who puts the verse together the fastest!

Make “Fishers of Men” posters or bulletin boards. Include your students names and talk about running the race.

Sing a song about the disciples. Practice their names.

Discuss John 6:64-71. Talk about the commitment and faithfulness of Matthias to have been chosen as a disciple. He had walked and talked with Jesus the same length of time as the twelve, but without being chosen as one of the twelve. He could have turned away from Jesus, too. Talk about Simon Peter’s confession in verse 68.

Re-enforce the previous lessons by encouraging your students to role play Acts 1:1-26.



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Isaiah 40:31



Racing Riddles

MATTHIAS

While the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, they prayed and studied the Bible. They also replaced the disciple Judas with Matthias. Matthias had already been running the race with these disciples. How many new words can you form from the name “Matthias?”

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Word Search

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i n u a i a n w a i a s r h
b u r i d m a u g n l e b t
l p e t t e w o e w k e n g
e r a f i l n e w s n n j n
s a a o a a o t o t o r o e
t d b r p s t h r i t u b r
u r d t e u g r i a f i s t
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y r a e w e b t o n k l a w
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s r n o t g e t t i r e d n
o o t r e l p s u r l u e r
s t u d y r i t d y c l n u

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Jerusalem

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Bible study

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e r a f i l n e w s n n j n
s a a o a a o t o t o r o e
t d b r p s t h r i t u b r
u r d t e u g r i a f i s t
d a h h l r e i s u s e a s
y r a e w e b t o n k l a w
v k o l o j m l t i u n e e
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