

Bible Story 2: MATTHIAS REPLACES JUDAS AS AN APOSTLE

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:12-26; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 27:3-5

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:6

BIBLE STORY:

When the disciples arrived in Jerusalem, they went upstairs to a room where they had been staying. Those present were the **apostles** (Simon) **Peter** and his brother **Andrew**, **John** and his brother **James** (sons of Zebedee), **Philip**, **Bartholomew**, **Matthew**, **James** (son of Alphaeus), **Thomas**, **Simon the Zealot**, and **Thaddaeus** (also known as Judas son of James) (Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16). Also present were some women, the mother of Jesus (Mary), and His brothers. They continually prayed together in unity.

On a certain occasion Peter stood up and spoke to around a hundred and twenty believers. Peter said, *"The apostle (disciple) Judas Iscariot is no longer with us. Judas betrayed Jesus. Afterwards he committed **suicide**, hanging himself. Now it is necessary to choose a person to replace Judas. The person should be someone who has been with us since the Lord Jesus was living among us. So the person would qualify to become a witness of Jesus' resurrection."*

The group suggested Matthias and also Joseph (who was known as Barsabbas or Justus). They all prayed, asking for the Lord to guide them to choose the right person for this ministry. Then they **threw lots**, as was the custom in those days. The lot fell on Matthias.

Matthias became the twelfth apostle, replacing the traitor Judas Iscariot.

Apostles
were also known as
"His Twelve Disciples."
Jesus chose and trained
these men to be his witnesses.
They were to preach the gospel,
the Good News about Jesus,
to all nations
(Matthew 10:2-4; 28:18).

ATTENTION: When telling this story to children, especially young children, omit the fact that Judas committed **suicide**, hanging himself (Matthew 27:3-5). Just tell the children he died.

Casting of Lots
was used in Bible days.
After prayer,
something like sticks, stones,
straws or dice were thrown,
trusting God would direct the lot
to fall on the right person. Soon
after this story lots were not used
to get God's direction
in making decisions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Ask questions appropriate for your group of listeners.)

PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

GENERIC QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face? What happened?
5. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Judas Iscariot?
 - What did he do to Jesus?
2. What does it mean to betray a person?
 - What happens to the person who is betrayed?
 - What are some suggestions to help the person overcome being betrayed by someone?
 - How can you help the person who has been betrayed by someone?
 - Why is it important not to betray someone?
 - Think about an experience when you were betrayed by someone. If you are willing, share this with the group.
3. Since Judas Iscariot was no longer with them, what did Peter ask the group to do?
 - How did they respond?
4. How can we help our leaders:
 - In the church?
 - In our country?
 - In our community, work and/or school?
5. What are some things we can do to help us make good choices in our life?

LIFE LESSONS: (Choose Life Lessons appropriate for your group of listeners.)

1. The person who is making a decision needs to pray and seek God's guidance.

Peter and the group first prayed, seeking God's help in choosing the right person to become the twelfth apostle. Seek God's help first when you have a decision to make.

2. Godly leaders should make wise choices.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, resulting in Jesus' death and eventually his own life. Peter denied knowing Jesus, but asked forgiveness. Peter became a great leader in the church and its outreach for Jesus. Make wise choices that will have a good impact on others as well as your own life.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES:

(Choose an activity or activities appropriate for your group of listeners.)

PRAYER:

Option 1: Mini Prayers

- Ask the group to mention leaders in their church, country, neighborhood, work, school...
- Ask volunteers to pray mini prayers (short prayers) for these leaders.

Option 2: Prayer Chain

- Beforehand, cut strips of colored paper to use to make links for a paper chain.
- Ask for someone to mention the name of a leader. Then write that name on a colored strip of paper and staple or glue the ends together.
- Ask for someone else to mention the name of other leaders. Write that name on a colored strip of paper. Put that piece of paper through the previous colored strip and staple or glue the ends together.
- Continue the process, making a prayer chain.
- If possible, show a real metal chain. Let someone pull on it to show how strong it is. The the leader says something like, "A chain is strong. Strong leaders help make our churches, country, and neighborhoods strong. We need to pray for them."
- Ask for one person or volunteers from the group to pray for these leaders.
- Afterwards, hand out individual strips of paper from the chain. Ask them to pray during the week for these leaders.

Option 3: Prayer Walk

- Ask your group to walk around your church together. If you walk outside around your church, stop at different times to pray for the leaders within your church. If you walk inside your church, stop at different places to pray for the leaders who work in that area.

Examples:

- In the entrance, pray for those who greet people when entering the church.
- In the sanctuary, pray for the pastor, music leader, choir, etc.
- In the classrooms, pray for the teachers.
- In the sound room, pray for those involved in taking care of the sound, power point presentations, etc.
- In the kitchen, pray for the ones in charge of preparing church meals, etc.
- Stop and pray for other church leaders, such as the church staff, deacons, treasurer, maintenance/janitor; groundskeeper, etc.

THANK YOU CARDS:

- Either make or purchase thank you cards. Write a thank you message to leaders, showing appreciation for the work he/she does. Give these cards to them personally or mail them.