

# Acts 1:12-26

## Filling the Hole

**Scripture:** Acts 1:12-26

**Memory Verse:** Acts 1:14a *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.”*

**Lesson Focus:** Review the events presented in the gospels around Judas’ betrayal of Jesus, highlighting his foolish desire for a different Messiah. Then we will compare his desires and actions with the apostles as they try to carry out the mission of making disciples of all of the nations.

**Activities and Crafts:** Book of Acts Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Servant Leader Necklace

**Starter Activity:** Would You Rather?

Introduce the lesson with a quick game of, “Would You Rather?” to generate engagement and then to ultimately reveal our own desires as we examine them in Judas. Some examples for teachers:

- Q: Would you rather be able to slide down rainbows or jump on clouds?
- Q: Would you rather be super strong or super fast?
- Q: Would you rather be able to talk to animals or read people’s minds?

And then transition to more spiritual questions that may reveal what really has hold of our hearts:

- Q: Would you rather have Jesus or be famous and powerful?
- Q: Would you rather have \$100 or a Bible?

Well, you might remember Judas was chosen among the twelve disciples (Matt. 10:4). He lived with Jesus, followed Him around, listened to His teachings, saw the miracles. He was even given authority over unclean spirits (10:1). The Bible gives us some clues as to what Judas might have chosen in this game of “Would You Rather.”

He most likely would have taken the \$100 (John 12:6, 13:29). He also wanted the power and fame. In fact, it was most likely that Judas ultimately goes to the Jewish authorities to betray Jesus because he was disappointed in His mission. He believed the Messiah would come and kick out the Romans and establish Israel as the top dog. When it appeared that wasn’t going to happen he betrayed Jesus.

As we continue in the book of Acts today, we will learn a little about what happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus. Let’s take a look!

## **Bible Study:**

**Acts 1:12-13:** Jesus has just ascended into heaven and the disciples are now trying to figure out life with Christ no longer physically present in bodily form with them.

**Acts 1:14:** Q: What are the disciples and everyone with them doing?

A: They're praying. They're devoting themselves to being in communion with God. Their acknowledging their dependence on Him. Asking God for wisdom and discernment. Have the kids note this for later comparison.

**Acts 1:15-17:** The scriptures had to be fulfilled. There is no other way. These things that the Bible talks about and declares by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit must be so. Peter understood that what happened was prophesied in the Old Testament. And because God can not lie, it's impossible for Him to do so (Heb 6:18), and because God knows all things (Heb 4:13, 1 John 3:20, etc) and is faithful (2 Tim 2:13), we can know for certain that what God has spoken concerning us will happen. His promises to us are truly yes and amen. We have a Bible full of promises and predictions that were made by God, written and spoken hundreds of years before they happened, only later at the appointed time, to have happened just as the Bible said they would. This is another reason why we can trust the Scriptures.

Q: If one of your friends came up to you and told you what was going to happen in a couple months from now, and then it happened just as they said, what would you do?

A: You'd probably think that's pretty amazing right? That's not really a normal thing. People don't really have the ability in and of themselves to predict the future with any real certainty.

But the next time your friend came up to you and then told you what was going to happen in the future, you'd probably listen to them a little more, wouldn't you? You probably are more likely to believe them. Well, the same is true with the Scriptures! There are 100's of prophecies already fulfilled, exactly as they were foretold.

Peter recognized this as he was praying and meditating upon the Scriptures, as he was in fellowship with other believers. So, he makes this announcement that what happened, specifically in this case with Judas, had to be fulfilled.

**Acts 1:18-20:** This reviews what happened to Judas.

**Teachers:** Consider summarizing this passage as some of the details here may be too gruesome for little kids. Mainly that he went to the Jewish leaders to betray the Lord. In exchange for money, he would lead them to where Jesus was during a time when the crowds and people wouldn't interfere. He later was overcome with guilt and tried to give the money back to the Pharisees. But they were not able to accept it back into the temple funds and so they purchased a nearby field. This field, which also happens to be the place where Judas hangs himself, is known as Akeldama, which means field of blood. It's a location outside of Jerusalem that's associated with all kinds of wickedness.

And as Peter said, these prophecies written hundred of years before in the book of Psalms have now had their fulfillment!

**Acts 1:21-26:** Notice some of the criteria the apostles were looking for to be chosen. They wanted to find a man who had been with them throughout most of Christ's ministry. Someone who would have witnessed Jesus' teachings, His miracles. They especially wanted someone who witnessed Christ in His resurrected body, which makes sense right? To be tasked with going out into the world and delivering to people the glorious news of Christ's resurrection, to have the same authority as the other apostles, it made sense that that person would have seen the same things. That he would be a witness.

**Teachers:** Ask for four volunteers. The first will be blindfolded with two cups placed in front of them. One will be filled with a few objects, such as dice or little pom-pom balls. The other cup will be empty. Both cups will be placed on a table before them. Next, spin the blindfolded child around a few times and move them around a little bit, and then ask one of the volunteers to now guide and direct them verbally to pour the cup of dice into the empty cup successfully. They only get one chance at this. The other two children should be watching and picking up on the things they would like to do differently.

After the first group goes, then blindfold one of the other volunteers and have one of the kids who watched the first couple attempt the challenge. The hope would be that the second group, would be able to either complete the challenge or have at least some greater success because they benefitted from having witnessed it done before. Conclude the activity by highlighting the principle that it's beneficial for leaders to have witnessed and accomplished something before they get thrown into a position of authority. The apostles wanted to select someone to fulfil Judas' office who had also witnessed the Lord's teachings. These men would have seen many of the same miracles they did and also witnessed the greatest miracle, Christ's resurrection.

**(Teachers:** It may be beneficial to emphasize the fact that this had to do with the office of apostleship. This does not absolve the responsibility of everyone to live a life of faithfulness and to tell people of the good news of Christ but rather in relationship to positions of authority in Scripture).

Also notice that the apostles sought the Lord in prayer.

Q: How many of you guys when facing a big decision, seek the Lord first in prayer?

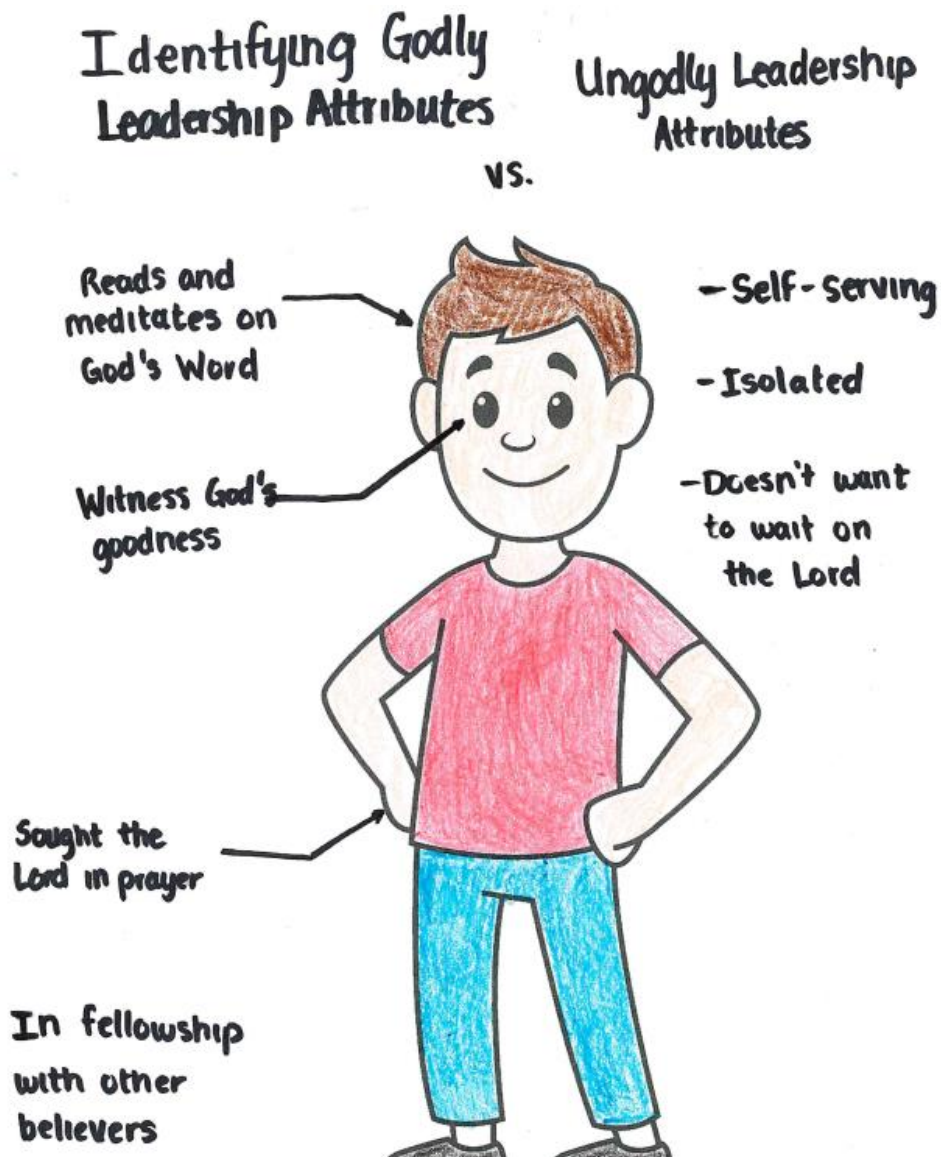
Q: How many of you search the Scriptures to seek out wisdom and then apply it like Peter did, recognizing the Word foretold what would happen to Judas?

**Key Point:** God is a God of order. And He designed the world in such a way that we are to be submitted to authority, or leaders. The story of Acts is going to highlight and show God growing these men and women of the early church, working through them by the power of the Holy Spirit, empowering them with great wisdom, courage and boldness. Here, in this first chapter, we can already see some key attributes, or characteristics of people in whom God raised up to be leaders. We should, in many ways ascribe to be leaders, to develop these character traits ourselves. But we also want to be wise about the people we follow, don't we? And so it's wise to be able to identify good godly leaders.

**Teachers:** It may be helpful to use the whiteboard to do a compare and contrast diagram. See the picture below.

What makes a good godly leader? We can see that godly leaders devote themselves to prayer and supplication. We can see that they seek to be with other believers, that they are in fellowship. It's evident that they must know the Word (Peter was able to reference the Scriptures in application). They were witnesses to God's goodness weren't they? And so are you and I! Look around you. We are blessed and God has been so good to us. Godly leaders can and should be able to witness to the blessing God has given them. And finally, they sought the Lord in prayer before they reaching a decision.

Contrast that with what we see in Judas and talked about with him. Remember, Judas was originally among the twelve, so he had some authority, he would have been a leader. But his character was self-serving. He wanted to increase his wealth. He ultimately isolated himself from the rest of the believers when he went to the Pharisees and betrayed the Lord. He didn't care to wait upon the Lord, he wanted the kingdom now, he wanted the Messiah to overthrow the Roman government. So, let us be wise about who it is that we follow and the virtues in us that we hope to develop. One way leads to life, the other as in the case of Judas, leads to death.



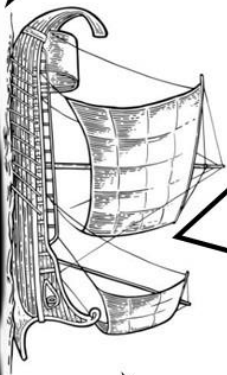
# FIND THE TREASURE

**Mediterranean World**  
Countries or Areas and Islands



**Read Acts 1:14**  
What did the disciples do  
as they were waiting for  
the Holy Spirit?

**PARENT CHALLENGE**  
What do you think a godly leader  
looks like?



**Read Matt. 26:14-16**  
Why did Judas betray  
Jesus?