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## Gather in His Name

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**Introduction:** Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit. The apostles, and others who followed Jesus, obeyed his command and when to the upper room and gathered in His name.

**Text: Acts 1:11-26**

**Discussion:**

1. Icebreaker: When have you waited on a gift that you were extremely excited about and knew it was coming?
2. Acts 1:12 “They returned to Jerusalem” These might seem like simple words, but they show that the disciples were obedient to what Jesus told them to do. What does it mean to obey? Why is it important that we obey the commands of Jesus. What does Jesus say about those who love him?
3. Acts 1:14 “All these with one accord” The believers were united. They were together and they had one purpose on their mind—to follow Jesus. They were not divided, arguing, or complaining. Why is it important for a church to be united around the same purpose? Why must the gospel be the central focus of the church?
4. Acts 1:14 “devoting themselves to prayer” They spent time together praying! Why is it important for believers to gather together and pray? How often do you spend praying? What is your goal when you pray . . . is it to seek direction from the Lord?
5. Acts 1:15-20 They were committed to scripture. They knew they were witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy. Judas had turned aside and now the scripture demanded that he be replaced. Jesus had spent 40 days with them teaching and instructing them about himself. No doubt, he showed them the OT scriptures that were about him. The apostles knew they were to obey scripture and did just that. What is your view of the Bible? Do you see it for what it truly is . . . the very inspired word of God? How committed are you in obeying scripture? When you come to a command that convicts you . . . do you ignore it or do you repent? Do you submit to God’s standard, or do you follow your own standard?
6. Acts 1:24 They were dependent on the sovereignty of God. They placed the decision of who was to replace Judas in the hands of God. They were in a place of complete trust and submission to the will of God. How easy is it for you to trust in God’s plan for your life? Do you trust Him with your life’s decisions? How often do you seek direction from the Lord? What does the sovereignty of God mean?

**Think About it:**

Acts reveals the heart of God and the heart of his people. We see Jesus loving his church and providing them instruction on what to do. We see the early followers obeying Jesus and seeking his will. The Lord still loves his church and continues to give her instruction in how to obey.

**Moving Forward:**

Seek direction from the Lord every day. Pray together with your family and make it a priority to have at least a weekly time of family devotion. Thank God for his mighty salvation and his great love for you. Make sure you are reading the Bible and take notes in a journal. Be willing to obey the word of God and immediately put what God says into action.