

Salford Elim Kid's Church

Acts Chapter 1: 12-26

Hello folks, hope you're all doing well and have had a good week ☐ ☐ Today we look at the rest of Acts Chapter 1 and how the disciples now decide to choose someone to take the place of Judas. As always, read over this before going through anything with your child/children, so you can be familiar with it and leave out the bits you think won't work for your household/damage limitation! Also, share any pictures, questions or thoughts on Beyond Sunday so other children can see what you've got up to ☐ ☐

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GAME: Play a few rounds of Rock, Paper, Scissors. See who is the champion of your household. Consider having some 'forfeits' and some 'benefits' for participants. Ask your children how they feel after getting a forfeit or a bonus benefit through a game of chance. For younger children, you could roll a dice and have the forfeits or benefits linked to a number on the dice. Ask if they ever use this game, or a strategy like it, (Eenie Meenie Mineie Moe, flip a coin...) to make decisions. Talk about if or when it feels 'fair'.

BIBLE BIT: Read Acts Chapter 1:12-26. Here it is from the International Children's Bible version:

"A New Apostle Is Chosen

12Then they went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. (This mountain is about half a mile from Jerusalem.) 13When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon (known as the Zealot), and Judas son of James were there. 14They all continued praying together. Some women, including

Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers were also there with the apostles.

15 During this time there was a meeting of the believers. (There were about 120 of them.) Peter stood up and said, 16-17 "Brothers, in the Scriptures the Holy Spirit said through David that something must happen. The Spirit was talking about Judas, one of our own group, who served together with us. The Spirit said that Judas would lead men to arrest Jesus. 18 (Judas bought a field with the money he got for his evil act. But Judas fell to his death, his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out.) 19 Everyone in Jerusalem learned about this. This is why they named the field Akeldama. In their language Akeldama means "field of blood.") 20 In the book of Psalms, this is written:

'May his place be empty.

Leave no one to live in it.' Psalm 69:25

And it is also written:

21-22 "So now a man must join us and become a witness of Jesus' being raised from death. He must be one of the men who were part of our group during all the time the Lord Jesus was with us. He must have been with us from the time John began to baptize people until the day when Jesus was taken up from us to heaven."

23 They put the names of two men before the group. One was Joseph Barsabbas, who was also called Justus. The other was Matthias. 24-25 The apostles prayed, "Lord, you know the minds of everyone. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to do this work. Judas turned away from it and went where he belongs. Lord, show us which one should take his place as an apostle!" 26 Then they used lots to choose between them, and the lots showed that Matthias was the one. So he became an apostle with the other 11."

Here is the video from last week, that gives a very short account of Acts Chapter 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOPKQjZROE>

- For younger children, you might want to read ahead yourself and retell it in a way you know they will understand. Be sure to let them

know that at this point, there wasn't much of a plan and they weren't 100% certain on what was going to happen, but in verse 14 we see what they do do, ('do do'. Ha.) is pray. Plus, the fact that we are told about Judas, shows that it wasn't perfect and those 'in-charge' weren't perfect, like us, but God still used and asked them to be His witnesses all over the world.

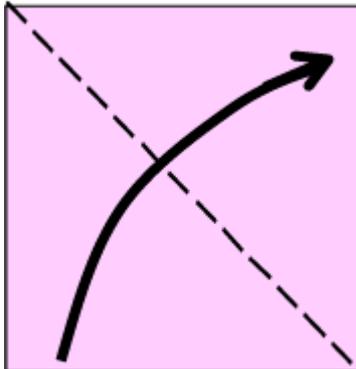
- For older children- ask them what stands out from the text. Did they notice there was no plan, but prayer, continuous prayer before anything else. How is your prayer-life going? Ask if they're finding it easier to pray being stuck at home, or is it something that they've been neglecting? Encourage them to keep going or get going again.

Did they make the connection between the game of Rock, Paper, Scissors and the way that the disciples choose Judas' replacement? Does this surprise you/them? Notice prayer came before the casting of lots. Have you ever made 'big' decisions using this method? Discuss the idea of praying and asking God to reveal His will through casting lots. Do you know of any other places in the bible where this is done? You will probably remember after Jesus died, they divided up His clothes by casting lots- does this seem like a more suitable use for the practice? Do you think there are some things that need far more consideration, thought, prayer and working out than simply to cast lots over? If so, what like and why? (A further task could be to look in the bible where the act of casting lots takes place.)

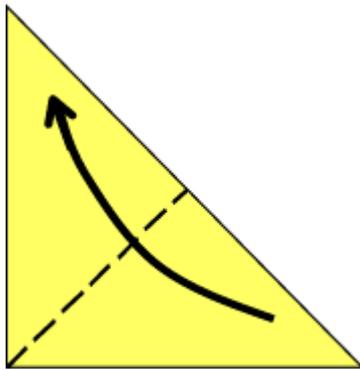
Highlight to them the fact that in mentioning Judas and how badly it ended for him, Luke doesn't gloss over the bad parts, he tells us, right from the start of the early church, there was failure. They, like us, were human and unsure at times of what the plan was and how they were going to go forward. This gives us hope and encouragement again, as we see God's intention to use us, even though we aren't perfect.

ACTIVITIES: Make a 'Salt Cellar'(sometimes called Fortune Teller)
Below are some instructions on how to do this ☐ ☐ Younger children will need help with this, but some of you may remember making these as children yourselves! You will need a square piece of paper to begin with. Or here is a link to a video showing you how to do it.

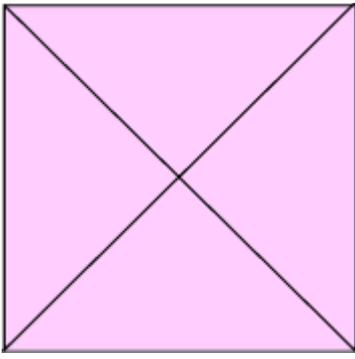
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAhillTxUYA>



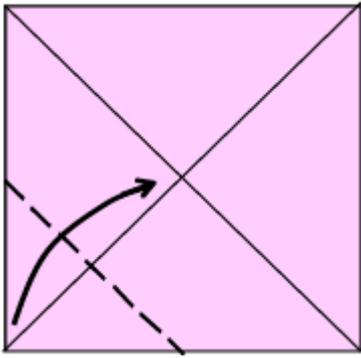
- Valley fold paper from corner to corner, making a triangle.



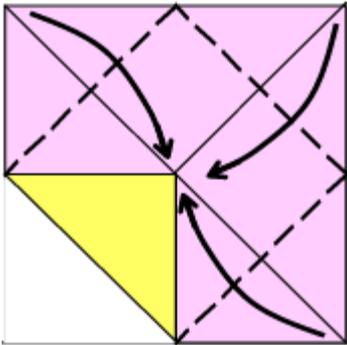
- Valley fold the triangle from corner to corner, making a smaller triangle.



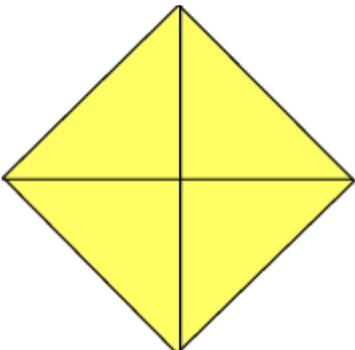
- Unfold everything -- you'll have a square of paper with an X crease.



- Fold the corner to the center of the square (where the X crosses)

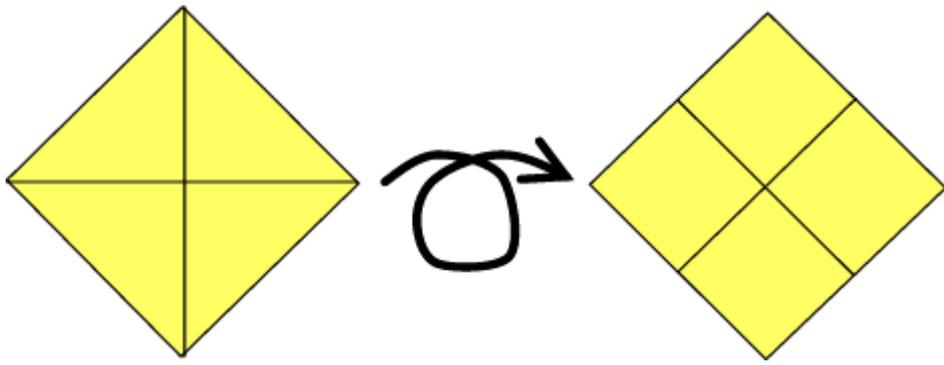


- Repeat with the other three corners.



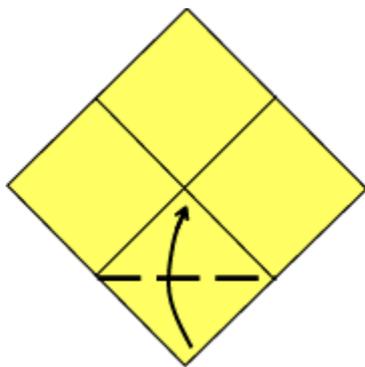
- And you end up with a smaller square!

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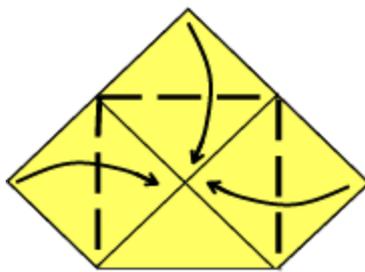
Flip your paper over

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Fold the corner to the centre of the square (where the X crosses)

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Repeat with the other three corners and you'll end up with an even smaller square

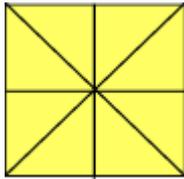
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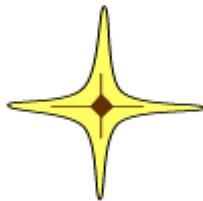
Fold and unfold the bottom edge of the square up to the top



- Fold and unfold the left edge of the square over to the right



- so that the creases look like a star across your small square



- This bit is easier to do than it is to explain -- basically, you want to push the four corners of the square together in the centre and then slide you fore fingers and thumbs of each hand into the flaps of your fortune teller, creasing the folds back so your fingers fit in nicely. You'll be able to move the flaps with your fingers like little puppets.

Then you need to write inside it! Think of things you could challenge the recipient or yourself with- maybe 'Pray for the same person everyday for a week', 'Read 1 chapter of Acts every day until you finish the whole book', 'Send a letter to someone from Kids' Church' or anything you think will be a helpful activity ☐☐

Fancy a quiz? Here's a little quiz to test your children's knowledge of the passage:
<https://www.worshipousekids.com/kids-worship-song-tracks/39843/acts-1-1226-everyminutecountdowns>

SONG: Here's a song for younger children about prayer. As it plays, it misses out some words so they can sing or shout out the missing lyrics!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rw4pQKOgWw>

Here's one with some actions about shining bright for Jesus!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8NEFZVWdXo&list=PL5aPdmniG3y-TW1mLZkc5h0eudUFIFokD&index=7&t=0s>

This one is for older children and talks of being sent out to be God's witness with His power and belonging to His family. They could watch it and make it their prayer if they don't fancy singing! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cs2SBZIAhZ8&list=PL5aPdmniG3y82iDvFFRTUrYDxXOe05o3b&index=26&t=0s>

Thank you, have a good week,

Morag ☐ ☐