

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



Discerning the Invitation of God Together

Week 01 | Beginning With Prayer (Acts 1:12-26)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the [Guideline For Growing](#) on our website.

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

What is a Discipleship Menu?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

GBC Sermon Podcast and The Big 3

Podcast

Don't forget you can review this week's sermon on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the Big Ill podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The Big Ill comes out on Wednesdays.

Overview

Over the course of this series we will delve into three stories where the people of God have sought the will and guidance of God; seeking to learn and apply the lessons we find. In this first example, the apostles seek the Lord to discern who to appoint as Judas Iscariot's replacement among the apostles.

What is striking is that the believers themselves discern the need – in the context of lots and lots of prayer and after meditation on Scripture and theological reflection on their purpose. Having perceived the need, they created the parameters and even nominated two men before bringing them to the Lord and casting lots (a way to be impartial).

The lessons for us are to surround any discernment process with lots and lots and prayer and to carefully consider how the eternally relevant, alive and active Word of God speaks into our situation and to reflect on our purpose as a community of faith, seeking to be impartial or indifferent in our decision-making.

Passages to Read

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read, we encourage

people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The passages this week have been chosen because they speak about discerning God's will and guidance.

- Jeremiah 23:16-24
- Haggai 1:2-11
- Psalm 25
- Joshua 18:1-10
- Acts 12:25-13:3
- Mark 1:29-39

Questions to Reflect on

These questions can be used as the basis of a small group discussion or as journal questions. As with the rest of this menu, use the questions that are most useful for you or your crew.

1. Reflect on a time you have part of a group that needed to make a decision (as important or trivial as you like). What practices facilitate effective decision making? What obstacles do groups have in making good decisions? What aspects of your experience can be adapted to spiritual discernment?
2. Share a time when Scripture has helped you make a decision.
3. How do we foster an attitude of indifference in our decision-making? Trusting God to lead and guide, using our own discernment, and holding the final outcome loosely?
4. How can we maintain unity in decision-making?

A Prayer to Pray

These are the areas of prayer that were listed in The Long Read for our discernment process as a congregation. Commit to pray through these.

You may also want to choose one to focus on each day and practice what is known as "breath prayer" where we pray a short prayer (one breath long) as often as it is brought to mind. Convert one of these prayers into a one sentence prayer and commit to praying it for that day. Repeat as often as you want. E.g., Lord Jesus, align our hearts to your heart. Amen.

- Thanks for the ways our community of faith has responded to God's invitation in the past.
- Thanks for God's faithfulness to our community of faith.
- That God would move our hearts for his purposes and plans.
- That God would fulfill his word to us to build his church and make all things new.
- That we would fulfill our mission, vision, and purpose.
- That we would genuinely be indifferent; open to hear God's "now" invitation.
- For the appointment of the Discernment Group.
- For our Day of Discernment on Saturday September 17; that we would be unified and truly see God at work in this process.