



WE ARE
THE CHURCH

ST. LUCAS UCC

*Transforming lives
as the hands and feet of Christ*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

May 12-13

“Apply Within”

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What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; <https://bit.ly/2wFgzLq>

Big Ideas Raised

- Here in the first chapter of The Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit is about to do something big! The day of Pentecost is near and the church, God's church, is about to be born. Jesus is now a Risen One, and the men and women who followed him during his ministry on earth are now tasked with carrying on his mission.
- Luke, ever with the eye for details, writes about the qualifications necessary for the one who would take the place of Judas among The Twelve. We are told that there is a group of 120 believers gathered, including some who had been with Jesus for quite some time, dating back to the Baptism of his cousin John.
- Kintsukuroi means "to repair with gold"; it is a Japanese Art of ceramic repair. Because real 24 karat gold is used in this restoration process, the once broken pots are rendered more precious, more beautiful, and even more valuable than they once were before they had ever been damaged.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- This story centers around the leadership roles among the disciples. Are you now, or have you ever been, involved in a leadership role at church? How has church leadership enhanced your own path of discipleship?
- Joseph Barsabbas was passed over for the apostleship position once held by Judas. And though we have no additional scriptural references of him, we know that such rejection did not stop his involvement in the early Jesus movement, for he ultimately died a martyr of our faith and is a venerated saint of the Roman Catholic tradition. Now recall a time in your own life when you experienced a rejection or a big letdown. How was this experience formative to your spiritual growth? Or was it?
- In the book of Acts the church was in formation and here in the year of our Lord two-thousand and eighteen, the church continues to form and reform. And, just like in those ancient days of Acts, we (the church) are still trying to follow a Christ who is Risen and therefore not here in the flesh like he once was. How are current topics in church life, such as diversity and inclusion for LGBTQ Christians, opportunities for us to be the hands and feet of Christ on Earth?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>