

# The Holy Spirit at Work: Small Group Guide

## Week 3: Preparation and Position

April 26, 2026

---

**Icebreaker Question:** Share about a time when you stayed committed to something even when no one was watching or recognizing your effort. What kept you going?

---

### Scripture Reading

Have someone read Acts 1:12-26 aloud to the group.

---

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Faithfulness gives substance to everything else we do** - Without faithfulness, our ministry activities become just branding and empty statements.
  2. **God does His best work in hidden years** - Preparation often happens in seasons that aren't visible or recognized by others.
  3. **Don't despise the day of small things** - God is not intimidated by small beginnings or slow progress (Zechariah 4:10).
  4. **Not every faithful person gets the same role** - Being passed over for one role doesn't mean being passed over by God.
  5. **God's faithfulness meets us in our unfaithfulness** - Our place in God's story is secured by His track record, not ours.
- 

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Text

1. **What stands out to you about the apostles' response immediately after Jesus' ascension?**  
(They gathered together and prayed before taking action)
2. **Why did Peter quote from Psalms 69 and 109 when addressing Judas' betrayal?** How does this show us the importance of interpreting our circumstances through Scripture?
3. **What were the specific qualifications Peter laid out for replacing Judas?** Why do you think these particular qualifications mattered?

## Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon mentioned that "faithfulness is so simple it is often easy to overlook." Where in your life have you been tempted to overlook simple, faithful obedience in favor of something more impressive or visible?**
5. **Think about Barsabbas (Justus) and Matthias - two men who followed Jesus for years without being named in Scripture until Acts 1. What "hidden years" are you currently in? How does this passage encourage you about that season?**
6. **The sermon asked: "Where are you being asked to stay faithful without applause?" Share one area where you're serving or obeying without recognition. How can this group support you in that?**

## Application and Growth

7. **Ross mentioned several examples of "ordinary faithfulness" in the church: writing encouragement cards, preparing lessons, listening to middle schoolers' stories. What acts of ordinary faithfulness have you witnessed recently that impacted you?**
8. **Both Matthias and Justus were qualified, but only one was chosen for that particular role. How does this truth help you process times when you've been "passed over" for an opportunity you felt ready for?**
9. **The sermon emphasized that "our ability to remain faithful is not what brings us into the kingdom of God." How does remembering God's faithfulness to you (rather than focusing on your faithfulness to Him) change your motivation for serving?**

---

## Closing Prayer

### Prayer Focus Areas:

- Thank God for His faithfulness to us even when we are unfaithful
- Ask for grace to remain faithful in the hidden, ordinary moments
- Pray for those in the group who are in seasons of waiting or preparation
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize where He's calling us to faithful obedience

**Optional:** Have each person share one specific area where they need God's help to be faithful this week, then pray for one another.