

One Accord *when different people want the same Lord.*

Real unity isn't sameness. It's a group of very different people choosing to pursue the same Jesus.

ABOUT THIS PASSAGE

After Jesus ascends, the disciples wait in Jerusalem. Luke shows us a room full of mismatched people: fishermen, a zealot, women, Mary, and Jesus's own brothers who hadn't followed Him during His ministry. The first thing they do isn't plan or organize. They pray together in one accord. This passage reveals that real unity isn't organizational order or polite compliance. It's people who want what Jesus wants more than they want their own way.

OPEN THE ROOM

Think of a team or group that actually worked well together. What made it work?

READ THE PASSAGE

Read Acts 1:12–26 aloud together. Suggest splitting verses across two or three readers.

Acts 1:12–26



Unity rests on people who want what Jesus wants more than they want their own way.

Acts: One Accord

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- 1** Who does Luke list as being in the upper room, and what strikes you about how different they are from each other?
- 2** What exactly are they doing while they wait, and what phrase does Luke attach to that activity?
- 3** How do they decide who replaces Judas, and what qualification must the replacement have had?

INTERPRET — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- 1** The room includes people with every reason to resent or distrust each other. What does that tell us about what "one accord" actually requires?
- 2** They cast lots to decide, and then Scripture never mentions casting lots again. What does that shift signal about how God leads after the Spirit arrives?

INTERPRETATION

APPLY — HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD

What assumption about unity does this passage challenge, whether in the church, at home, or in your friend group? Name one belief that's being reshaped.

HEART

Where do you notice yourself wanting your own way more than you want what Jesus wants, with your family, team at work, or this group?

HANDS

Name one relationship or conversation this week where you'll pursue one accord by putting Jesus's will ahead of your preference. What will you actually do or say?

THE GOSPEL TURN

The apostles and Jesus's own brothers were messy, distrustful, and still ended up in that room together. Where do you need Jesus's faithfulness most when unity falls apart?

Acts: One Accord

BIG IDEA

Real unity rests on people choosing to pursue Jesus's will together, not on sameness or organizational hierarchy.

CROSS-REFERENCES

- 01 Deuteronomy 6:5, 7: A shared pursuit of God as the center of daily life is how families and churches hold together across generations.
- 02 John 17:20-23: Jesus prays that believers would be one, not through sameness but through being loved by the Father as Jesus is loved.

CULTURAL / HISTORICAL

The Greek word *homothymadon* means "same passion" or "same impulse." Luke uses it repeatedly in Acts, always right before God moves. Notice what happens next: they cast lots, an Old Testament method of seeking God's answer. This is the last time lots appear in Scripture. After Pentecost, the Spirit leads directly, not through a method.

IF THE GROUP GOES OFF-TEXT

If conversation drifts to church politics or personal hurt, ask "Where do we see that in Acts 1?" and return to the text: ordinary, mismatched people pursuing one shared Lord.

Plan for 30 seconds of silence after each question. Five questions that go deep beats ten that go fast. Your job is to draw out, not deposit. Speak less than 10 percent of the meeting.

Acts: One Accord

PER-QUESTION NOTES

• OBSERVE 1

Strong answers notice fishermen, a zealot, women, Mary, Jesus's brothers (absent during ministry), and Judas's fresh betrayal. If quiet, try: "Pick one person. Why might they feel out of place?" Watch out: Don't skip Jesus's brothers. Their presence is the pivot.

• OBSERVE 2

Strong answers: they continued in prayer and supplication "with one accord." If quiet, try: "What's the one activity Luke mentions, and who is doing it?" Watch out: Someone may jump to Pentecost. Hold that for another week.

• OBSERVE 3

Strong answers: they proposed two candidates, prayed, cast lots. The replacement attended from John's baptism through ascension. If quiet, try: "What did they do first and last?" Watch out: Male-only requirement may spark debate. Acknowledge, then move forward.

• INTERPRET 1

Strong answers: one accord isn't absence of difference or authority structure. It comes from shared pursuit of Jesus's will. If quiet, try: "Could this group unite around an organization chart? Why not?" Watch out: Someone may say unity means "everyone agrees with me." Ask "Agrees with whom?" and point back to text.

• INTERPRET 2

Strong answers: after Pentecost, the Spirit leads directly, so unity rests on the Spirit, not method. If quiet, try: "What changes about seeking God's will once the Spirit arrives?" Watch out: Don't debate whether guidance looks like coin flips. Keep focus on what the text shows.

• APPLY HEAD

Strong answers name a specific belief: unity means sameness, or it's the leaders' job, not mine. If quiet, try: "What did you used to think a united church looked like?" Watch out: Push past abstract answers. Ask for one example.

• APPLY HEART

Strong answers name a specific tension: control, being right, a plan they won't release. If quiet, try: "What's one decision you've been digging in on lately?" Watch out: Go first with a short, honest example of your own to make it safe. Don't force disclosure.

• APPLY HANDS

Strong answers: specific time, place, person ("At Thursday's dinner I'll stop arguing and ask my wife what she thinks God wants"). If quiet, try: "Who's hardest to be in one accord with?" Watch out: Push past "I'll pray about it." Ask "What will you actually do or say?" Specificity is the prayer.

• GOSPEL TURN

The landing point: Jesus doesn't give up on messy groups. The apostles and Jesus's own brothers didn't deserve that room, yet the Spirit was promised to them anyway. NEVER answer this for the group. It lands harder when they say it.

PRAY AND SEND

Invite the group to pray for the specific relationship or conversation each person named in the Hands question. Pray for willingness, not outcomes. Send them this week as people who want what Jesus wants more than what they want, and watch what He does with a room like that.