

**Community Group Growth Questions**

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday’s message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. What image(s) come to mind when you hear the phrase “push while you pray”? After hearing Sunday’s message, has your view of “waiting” on God changed? In what way?
3. What do these prophecies concerning Judas teach us about God’s sovereignty? Is this a comforting truth to you? Why or why not?
4. Define and discuss the nature and function of the apostolic office according to 1:21-26? In other words, what were the special characteristics of the apostles?
5. How do you think Matthias felt when he was chosen as one of the twelve? Privileged? Excited? Qualified? Unqualified? Humbled? How do you think Barsabbas felt when he wasn’t selected? Rejected? Unqualified? Relieved? Disappointed? At peace? How might these verses speak to us about times when we are chosen or passed over for a particular mission? John 3:27; Psalm 84:11; John 15:16; John 21:21-22; Ro. 8:28-32

**Living on Mission**

1. How are you at waiting when God asks that of you? Are you waiting on a promise of God right now? In what way are you “pushing”?
2. Do you believe God will always call you to something that you “want” or “like” to do? Has this message challenged you to think differently? Are there areas that God may be asking you to yield to Him but you haven’t simply because you think “surely He wouldn’t ask that of me...”? Ask God to reveal any areas of your life you may be attempting to withhold from Him.
3. Does Judas’ betrayal, end, and replacement shake you up in any way? If yes, how? If not, does God’s sovereign use of Judas shake you up? If yes, in what way? If no, how does the sovereignty of God bring you comfort?
4. Who do you most relate with: Matthias or Barsabbas? How or why?
5. Are you currently praying for others in ministry? How are you “pushing” while praying for others? What might this look like as you pray for the salvation of those who are far from God?

**This Week’s Reading:**

Monday: Psalm 33:10-11  
Tuesday: Proverbs 16:9 and 19:21  
Wednesday: Isaiah 25:1 and 45:5-9  
Thursday: Daniel 4:34-35  
Friday: Isaiah 55:8-9  
Saturday: Nehemiah 1

**Suggested Resources:**

Adoniram Judson: *How Few There Are Who Die So Hard!* by John Piper.  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/adoniram-judson> (Free download)  
John G. Paton: *You Will Be Eaten By Cannibals!* By John Piper  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/john-g-paton> (Free download)  
David Brainerd: *May I Never Loiter On My Heavenly Journey!* By John Piper  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/books/david-brainerd> (Free download)

**Welcome to the Church at Martinsburg!**

Whether this is your first time or your next time; whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.

**Ripple Reports:** How is God at work in your community group, our church, and your life in general? Let us know with this hashtag: #ripplereport .

**Pastor On Call:** If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg’s Pastor on call.

**Interested in Membership?** Our next Gospel Class will be offered on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Email [tammy@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:tammy@martinsburgchurch.org) to register.

**Members’ Gathering:** Our next Members’ Gathering is Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-6:30 pm at the Comfort Inn – Aikens Center (1872 Edwin Miller Blvd) in Martinsburg. Hor d’oeuvres will be served. Childcare will be provided up to 5 years.

**Baptism Celebration** is scheduled for Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at [baptism.martinsburgchurch.org](http://baptism.martinsburgchurch.org) or call the church office at 304.596.9330 to register.

**Men’s Gathering:** Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Speaker: Seth Polk (Cross Lanes Baptist Church) - Location: Baker Heights Baptist Church. Sign up in the lobby today!

**Media Team:** Looking for a place to serve? What about media? Talk to Timmy Wilkerson ([timmy@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:timmy@martinsburgchurch.org)) for more information.

**STUDENT COMMUNITY GROUP:** Meeting the **Second and Fourth** Sunday of each month at the Culbertson’s Home – Contact Justin at [justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com](mailto:justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Missionary Toolbox: Push While You Pray**

“Prayer is rarely all we can do. We can pray *and* we can prepare. We can ask God to intervene *and* we can initiate changes in our lives to make it happen. We can ask the Lord to fight for us *and* we can pull out our swords and start fighting in his strength. Sun Stand Still prayers are integrated prayers: They join our faith-filled prayer with our faith-filled action.” Steven Furtick

Acts 1:4 tells us that the apostles were to “wait” for the promise of the Father. In Acts 1:15-26 we find them still waiting, but we find them working. In Isaiah 40:31 we are told those who “wait for the LORD shall renew their strength...” Literally, Isaiah says “waiters” for the LORD shall renew their strength. The Hebrew word is “qavah” and it means “to bind together” like weaving finer twine into a rope; or it can mean “to wait with expectation, to collect or gather together”. As we read this passage in Acts, we find a community of people who are obediently waiting, expecting Jesus to come through on His promise, but proactively trusting in the purposes of God. Like waiters waiting on tables, they are attentive to the One they wait upon. They know His character and they know His will. As they pray, they act on the revealed will of God in Scripture, moving forward. They have released anxiety in order to engage in watchful faith. Like a waiter standing ready to fill the cup, to bring the next course, they wait upon God in anticipation of joining Him in His sovereign will.