

## Children's Church at Home 16 May 2021

### Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

**Craft:** paper, Pritt stick, scissors, pens, either a long stick or cane or string or wool.

**First:** Have you ever been the new person? New at a club, new to a group, new in a class? How did that feel? In today's story, we hear about the new person who joined Jesus' working party to replace Judas.

And that brings me to another question: has someone ever let you down? Someone you knew well, someone you thought was a good friend, a person you could trust. Imagine you still needed your special teddy to get to sleep and confided in your good friend. But your good friend told everyone and made a joke of it. Soon everyone was chuckling and whispering and giggling about it. How cruel! How would you feel?

**The Story:** After Jesus had gone to Heaven, Peter and a whole lot of his friends had a meeting. 'Jesus chose us to be part of his team, but Judas has left us now, so we do need to choose someone else to take his place. It should be someone who has been in the group from the time John started baptising people.' Announced Peter. There were two people who could have joined, one was called Joseph and the other one, Matthias. So they prayed. "Lord, you know everyone inside out. Show us which one of these two men you choose to do this work. Judas turned away from it and went away. Lord, show us which man should take his place in the team!"

Then they drew lots (a bit like picking a name out of a hat) and Matthias was chosen.

[Acts 1:15-17, Acts 1:21-26 ERV - After a few days there was a meeting of - Bible Gateway](#)

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/HC3LqgZaSmA>

**Quiz:** when did this happen? What did Peter want them to do? What qualifications did that person need to have? How did they ask God for help?

**Think:** Judas had been part of the team. But he had let Jesus down so badly. He was the one who led the soldiers to Jesus at the beginning of the Easter story. And yet he had been part of the team. How do you think the others felt about that? They had trusted him. he had been one of them. What he did was far worse than telling secrets and making cruel jokes. What he did was the start of Jesus being killed on the cross. Peter and the others must have been horrified, heartbroken, furious. Now they had to put all that behind them and start again. Not easy. But here they are, setting to work together. Hooray!

In the story, Matthias is the newbie. He's been one of Jesus' friends from the beginning, but he hasn't been one of the working party. Now he's been selected for the group, he'd probably like a helping hand to show him around, explain how they do things and maybe suggest where he might fit in. There were probably meetings he needed to go to, and jobs to do. I expect all the people already in the group shook his hand and told him he was welcome. Perhaps they gave him a hug and a pat on the back.

Well, if you have been a newbie, you know that it can be quite a scary situation. You're not quite sure what you have to do, where you have to sit, what time lunch will be ... lots of things. In Cubs, for instance, there's a special scarf to wear. If you were joining, you'd need to know how to put it on and where to sew your badges. So it can be really nice if people are friendly. What could you say to someone new in your group or club? 'I'll show you where to put your stuff,' 'I'll introduce you to everyone,' 'this is where we meet at the start,' 'I'll show you the way,' let me tell you about what we do,' 'it would be really helpful if you could do this job,' 'you will say if you need help with anything, won't you?' 'I hope you enjoy being part of our group,' 'WELCOME!'

**Craft:** Make a banner or bunting.

**Activity:** a game to play outside. You need some pegs. Decide how many pegs each person is going to have. 5 is a good number. Peg them onto the bottom of your t shirt, jumper or coat. The game is to capture as many pegs as you can from other people without losing yours! You have to move quickly!

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, where we have been let down by someone, help us to forgive what they did and move on. Help us to look forward to a great future, like Jesus' team did, and not dwell on things that have happened in the past.

And Lord Jesus, it's so easy to ignore new people because we're so busy getting on with what we want to do, chatting to friends, playing football, talking about stuff. Show us who needs help, who would like to be included, who is feeling lost. Remind us what it feels like to be the newbie and help us to be kind and welcoming.

Amen.

**The Grace:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.