John 17: 6-19

[Jesus prayed:] 6“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
15In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 16“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—17for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” 21So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” 23So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

John Questions:

* What are you hearing in this text?
* What does joy being made complete look like?
* What do your prayers consist of for those close to you?
* Why do you think Jesus takes time toward the end of His life to pray for His disciples?
* Jesus is praying in this text. He’s praying for his disciples and those coming after, what is he praying for?
  + Why are these things important do you think?
* What does it mean to be one of Jesus’?
  + What comes with being set apart from the rest?
* The church is undoubtedly in the world, but are we of the world?
  + In what ways is our Shepherd community proclaiming the in-breaking Kingdom of God?
  + In what ways can it?
* What in our lives calls us out into the world and what called us away from it?
  + How do we insulate ourselves from the world? How do we become less like the world and more like Christ?
* What does it mean to be sanctified?
* If our goal is to be more like Christ then we are to be holy. How are we made “holy”? Are we made holy by moralism and/or legalism or is it something else? What is it?
* God has put people in our lives to help us along. Who do you have in your life that is helping you on your sanctification process?

Acts questions:

* What sticks out to you in this text?
* When you were growing up, how did you and your friends choose teams for games of kickball, tag, or other such games?
* When you work together with other people, what kind of role suits you best?
* Why was adding another to the number important? *Were they just filling in a vacant committee position or something else? What?*
* How would you feel if you were Matthias and chosen to be one of the 12?
  + How would you feel if you were Barsabbas not chosen to be one of the 12?
* We see that in the midst of choosing their next they prayed. How important it is to slow down and pray? Why?
  + How do we do things at shepherd? Do we dive in and just go or do we start with prayer?
  + Does beginning with prayer feel differently than if we don’t start that way?
* Do you pray before making all of your decisions? Or just the big ones?
  + What qualifies as a big one?
* How else can we include God in the decision making process?
* We see Peter step in and up to the leadership role, but he denied know who Jesus was. . . how do you think the disciples might have felt about Peter’s leadership? Why?
* How might these two texts link?