

Title: **The Upper Room (Part 3): Roll Out**  
Text: **Acts 1:15-26**  
Date: **May 21, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

Have you ever had an important decision to make and you didn't know where to start or how to go about it? You want God's will for your life, but sometimes you wonder what that is and if you'll ever really know. What's beautiful about this scene here with these disciples in the upper room is that they show us a way forward in this. They lay out some steps that we can all take when looking for God's guidance in our lives.

### 3. How They Got It

#### Step #1: Scripture

The first thing I want you to see is that Scripture is underneath and guiding all of this for Peter and these disciples. This really is their starting point as they're going about getting this twelfth apostle. God's Word is the sure foundation beneath their feet. But more than that, it's the lamp unto their feet as well: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).

In Psalms 69 and 109 what we have in both cases is David as this innocent, righteous sufferer. He's being persecuted. He's being oppressed unjustly. And he calls out for God to make it right. So in the one case, he calls for their camp to be left desolate. And in the other case, after the enemy has been removed by God, he asks that another take his place of oversight. David's experience and story here is ultimately a foreshadowing of that which takes place with Jesus and Judas.

#### Step #2: Prayer

It starts with Scripture, but then they give themselves to prayer. What I appreciate about this is it brings things into balance for us. Some of us love to do Bible study, right? We're good with the intellect thing. We could parse out the Scriptures all day, read theology and all that. But, if we're honest, we often forget to pray. We don't do this heart

relationship thing with God where we express our needs and our dependence and our feelings. That makes us uncomfortable. It feels too vulnerable, too squishy. But then others of us trend in precisely the opposite direction. We struggle to read our Bibles. It's boring, it feels lifeless. But we can pray and journal about our feelings and where we need God and all this for hours.

But what we see here is we need both working together. Both cylinders have to be firing or we won't be very effective at discerning God's will and walking in it.

#### Step #3: Community

This third step isn't explicitly communicated in our text, but it's implied all the way through. Peter's not pursuing God's direction on this alone, right? He's not just calling the shots and that's it. He's doing it in community. Discerning God's direction in our lives is a community project. Do you have people you turn to for this?

#### Step #4: Lot → "Impression"

God is now able to reveal his will to you in more personal and more intimate ways than ever before. And it's not just for a select few to know God in this way. It's for any who would be united to Christ by grace through faith. Because of the gospel, because of Jesus' work on the cross, God doesn't have to dwell out there somewhere, revealing his will to us from a distance—from the top of mount Sinai, through the casting of lots, etc. Now he can come and dwell in our hearts by faith. Now he's coming in and he can reveal things to us personally, through intimate relationship. No longer do we need the lot because now we have the Spirit!

### 4. Who They Chose

When you've truly been changed by grace you don't need a position, you don't need recognition, because you have salvation.



## Reflection Questions

- First, identify an area in your life where you most need God's guidance right now. Then begin to progress through the four steps outlined above. Which do you anticipate coming most easily for you? Which will likely be hardest? Go for it!

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

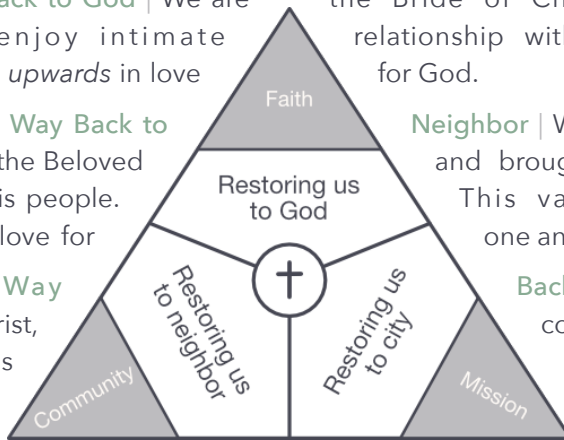
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### All Church Campout - Register Today!

We are excited to announce that we'll be hosting an All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 23rd-25th! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

**Option #1: Day-Use:** For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it : ).

**Option #2: Camp:** This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at  
[info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

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