



## Lesson 6

The church exists to execute ministry. God has given the church authority to go develop relationships and make disciples allowing people to identify with God and His church through baptism so that people's lives can be changed by the Gospel in all the world. When all the members of the church collectively abstain from food for a certain period for spiritual gain it's called a \_\_\_\_\_

The fasts we've studied weren't just for leaders and leadership, but \_\_\_\_\_.

### FASTING FOR AFFIRMATION

Examine: Acts 14:21-25. In this instance, the fast that was called was in order to affirm the leaders of the various churches. Notice prayer and fasting were part of the process of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. It's important that the church have the right people lead! Paul and Barnabas pray and fast because they need the Lord's guidance about who should be affirmed for leadership. Examine: Acts 1:23-26. Did you notice the progression? When you appoint leaders without the proper motive or order \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. This is the last time Matthias was ever mentioned in scripture.

### FASTING FOR PREPARATION

Another reason for fasting is preparation. We've already seen Jesus supernaturally fast as preparation for His earthly ministry. Let's look at another instance of fasting for preparation involving Paul and Barnabas.

Examine: Acts 13:1-3. The Bible says as they were praying and fasting \_\_\_\_\_ They were being prepared for a specific work that they had to do. As they were going about to serve the Lord, prayer and fasting helped prepare them to be effective in their ministry work.

### CORPORATE FASTING

Let's look at some of the results of corporate fasting.

1. Corporate fasting helps \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Thess. 5:17)
2. Corporate fasting brings us all closer to God. (James 4:7-10)
3. Corporate fasting increases \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2)
4. Corporate fasting helps the church respond to singular vision and helps the church put a check on selfish ambition. (Philippians 2:3-4)
5. Corporate fasting prepares our hearts to receive the necessary \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2)