GRADES K-6

THE TWELVE DISCIPLISS

Printable Lesson Kit



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LESSON OVERVIEW



THE TWELVE DISCIPLES MIGHTY MESSAGES

Who were the 12 disciples? Why did Jesus pick them? Are they anything like us? What would it have been like to be one, to be beside Jesus, almost every day? This lesson on the 12 Disciples will give help put children there, alongside these men who were so thrilled to be with Jesus, but were also as human as the rest of us.



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have alloted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Brad Fasteners (craft)
- Scissors
- Pencils or pens
- Hole punch
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)



SCRIPTURE & LESSON

EXCERPTS FROM MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN NIV

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



EXCERPTS FROM MARK. LUKE. AND JOHN

MARK 3:16-19

- ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter),
- ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder").
- ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot
- ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.





- ⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
- 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;
- ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.
- ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"
- ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Rebuke means to correct someone for a wrong idea.)

JOHN 18:1-11 (AT JESUS' ARREST)



- ¹When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.
- ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.
- ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.
- ⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"
- ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.
- "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)
- ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.
- ⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"
- "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.
- ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."
- ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."
- ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)
- ¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Questions for Children about the Twelve Disciples:

- 1. In Mark 3:17, Jesus gives James and John the nickname "sons of thunder." What do you think that means? What does thunder do? It makes a lot of scary noise. Jesus was saying that these brothers were highly opinionated and bit fiery. Before he met them, you "wouldn't want to mess with them." It also means they liked the truth and were willing to defend it against wrongdoing.
- 2. What did the disciples ask Jesus in Luke 9:54, when the people in Samaria didn't welcome Jesus? They asked if he wanted revenge or retribution. How did Jesus respond? He rebuked them, or told the disciples to leave the people alone and move on.
- 3. The John 18 passage describes two disciples who both did wrong. Who were they, and what did they do wrong? Judas betrayed Jesus and Simon Peter cut off a man's ear. If you ever thought the disciples were not normal people with lots of flaws, what do you think now? Jesus healed Malchus after Simon Peter cut off his ear, even though he loved his disciples and Malchus was there to arrest him. What does this tell you about God's love? If he is capable of turning his disciples into godly men who were peaceful, he can surely love us to make us into good Christians.



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

The disciples were very young men. Think of some of your youngest school teachers. John was allegedly still a teenager. They were committed to their teacher and prophet, Jesus of Nazareth. But they would not have seemed like the types to run a worldwide evangelistic surge that would change the course of mankind.

Throughout Christ's three-year ministry, they were messing up a lot. They often did not understand Jesus' teaching. When he performed miracles, some of them doubted, right up to the moment it happened.

They created embarrassments. They argued among each other, pulled rank on each other, gossiped, and got their parents involved. When we look at the gospels and get the big picture of this, it can raise the question, "Why exactly did Christ pick these guys?"

Jesus never said why these 12 were picked. But we are led to believe Christ saw their potential, which, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, would reveal extraordinary strengths and virtues.

The big message: The disciples were a lot like we are. They were just human guys. If you ever doubt that God can do great and amazing things with your life, think again! God is just waiting to make you into someone who is important to the kingdom. Don't doubt! Just listen to God's voice daily and tell him you want to become like these men were in the end! They told people about Jesus and wrote about him. Two thousand years later, we are still reading about all the disciples did and how they became great leaders with the help of the Holy Spirit. Are you ready to follow them?





PRINTABLE CRAFT

12 DISCIPLES FAN

Kids will get to make their very own 12 Disciples Fan! We are providing two craft templates- one in color, the other in black & white. Please choose whichever version you prefer.

(Note- if you want the craft to take longer we suggest using the black and white template as the kids will need to color in their fan blades prior to assembly)



MATERIALS:

- Brad Fasteners (1 per child)
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers (optional- if using black & white template)
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Fan Template- 1 copy per child (for best results print on thick paper or cardstock)

INSTRUCTIONS:

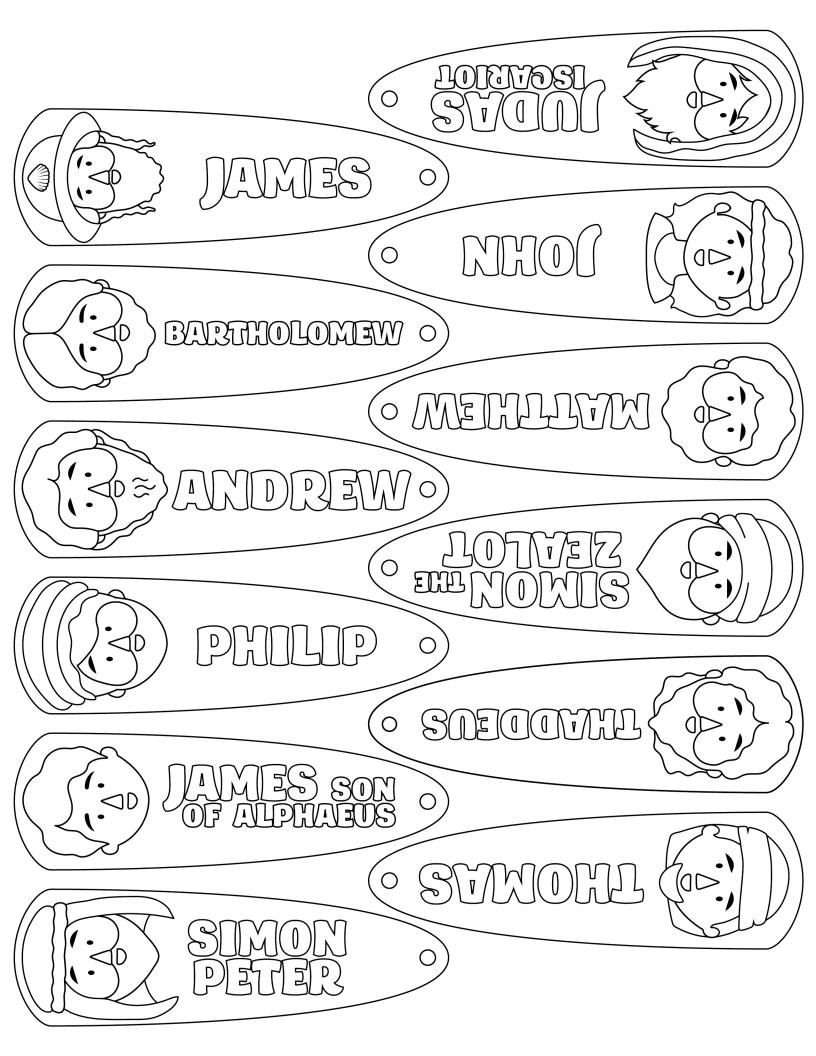
- 1) If using the black and white template, have kids color in their fan blades with whatever materials you have on hand (crayons, markers, etc.)
- 2) Have kids cut out their 12 fan blades.
- 3) Use a hole punch to make an circle opening where indicated on the fan blades
- 4) Stack up the fan blades, and thread the brad fastener through the lined-up holes.
- 5) Open the brad fastener to secure the blades together and fan out the blades.





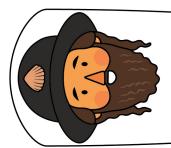






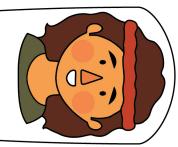






MES



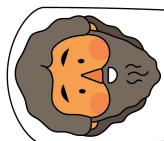




BARTHOLOMEW

O

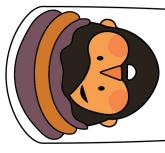




ANDREW







PHILIP







OF ALPHAEUS







0

0



GAME

DISCIPLES JEOPARDY

Use one or both rounds of this Disciples Jeopardy game to get students looking up Bible passages and finding out all sorts of great things about Jesus' 12 disciples. Have a couple of NIV Bibles on hand and have them answer these Jeopardy questions.



MATERIALS:

Two NIV Bibles



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Divide the class into two teams, splitting evenly the reading ability and age level.
- 2. Give them each a Bible.
- 3. Begin asking the questions in order. There is no way for students to pick questions in this game.
- 4. Repeat each guestion as well as the verse. Repeat as needed.
- 5. Give students about a minute to find the verse and read it.
- 6. Give the assigned point value to each right answer. Give an extra bonus points if the team remembers to say the answer in "Jeopardy question form," for example, What is the Day of Pentecost?
- 7. The team with the most points after one round or two rounds wins.

ROUND ONE:

2 points:

A mighty wind roared around the disciples and they began to speak in other languages on this particular day. LOOKUP: Acts 2:1-4.

A: What is the Day of Pentecost?

4 points:

Jesus performed this miracle on a servant in the Garden of Gethsemane after one of his disciples got a bit overzealous with his sword. LOOKUP: Luke 22:49-51

A: What is restoring an ear?

6 points:

Jesus casts out a spirit out the disciples had been unable to cast out. Jesus said they lacked this. LOOKUP Matthew 17:19-20.

A: What is faith?

8 points:

In the Book of Acts, an angel of the Lord is said to have opened the doors of the prison to let the disciples out, and he told them to go preach the gospel in this very public place. LOOK UP Acts 5:19-20

A: What are the Temple courts?



GAME CONTINUED

ROUND ONE:

10 points:

In Matthew 24, the disciples asked Jesus about the end of time, and the first thing he said was to "see to it that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying I am" this particular thing. LOOK UP Matthew 24:4

A: What is the Messiah?

ROUND TWO:

2 points:

The second thing Jesus answered, when his disciples asked about the end times, was that we would hear about these and rumors of these. What are "these?" LOOK UP Matthew 24:6

A: What are wars?

4 Points:

Pentecost, as told in the Book of Acts, involves the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit during a convention in this city. LOOK UP Acts 2:1-5

A: What is Jerusalem?

6 points:

There had been centuries of strife between the Jews and a certain people inhabiting the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which is the why the disciples were stunned when Jesus spoke to a woman at a well who hailed from this place. LOOK UP John 4:4-7

A: What is Samaria?

8 Points:

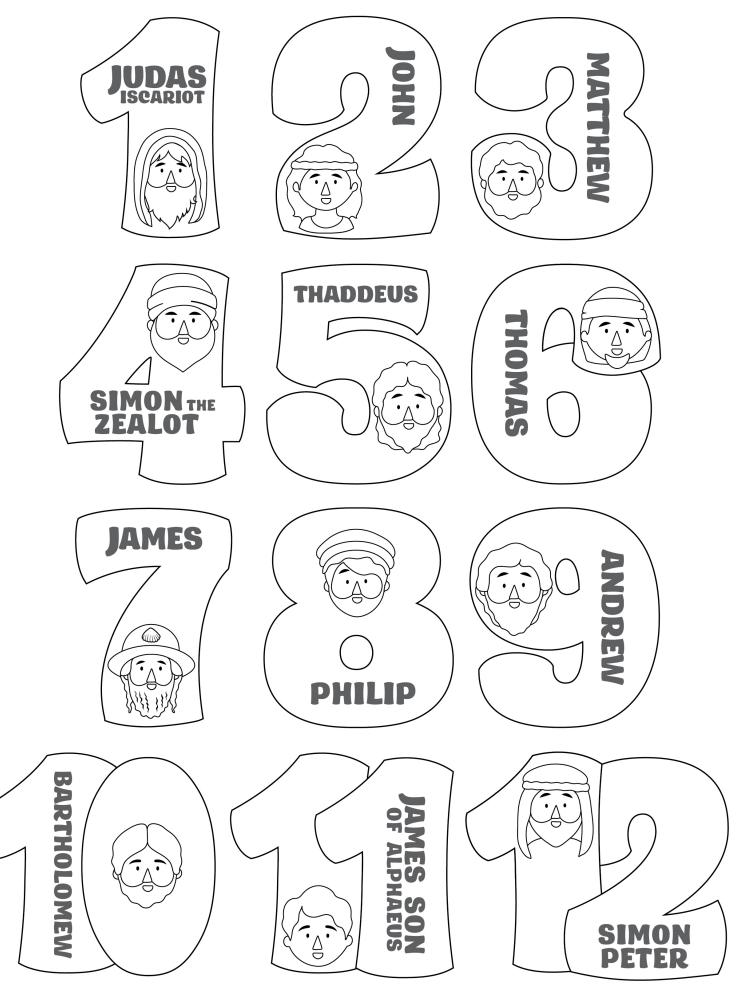
When Jesus was arrested, he had to perform healing on a servant. He healed this man's ear, who was part of the arresting team. LOOK UP John 18:10.

A: Who was Malchus?

10 Points:

When Jesus saw this woman at the foot of the cross, he told the disciple John to take care of her after he died. LOOK UP John 19:26

A: Who is his mother Mary?





WORD SEARCH

Find all 12 disciples in the word search.

В	Υ	G	J	Р	Н	I	L	I	Р	Т	Q
A	J	R	Α	N	Т	N	Z	J	G	Q	S
R	U	М	M	Α	Н	Н	٧	Υ	0	Α	F
Т	G	Α	Е	N	Α	Α	С	W	М	U	J
н	J	Т	S	D	D	Q	М	0	М	М	U
0	0	Т	L	R	D	D	Н	U	Р	S	N
L	Н	Н	В	E	Α	Т	Т	K	Α	0	Z
0	N	E	S	W	Е	F	Α	D	М	Р	Р
М	Т	W	0	Υ	U	M	U	1	W	Н	Р
E	Z	J	U	I	S	J	S	S	Υ	Q	Q
w	N	Р	Р	E	Т	Е	R	R	S	Α	N
J	Α	М	E	S	Т	Н	E	L	E	S	S

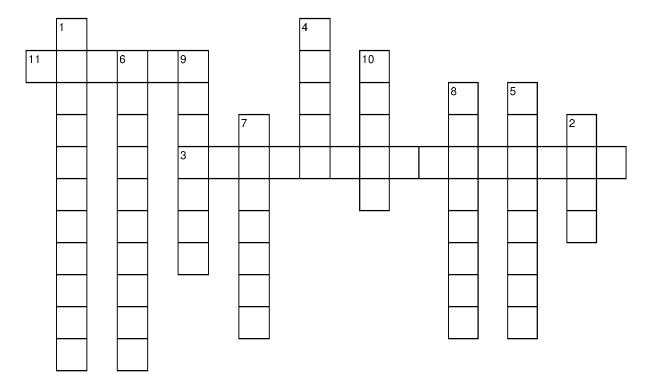
Words to Find:

PETER JAMES JOHN ANDREW PHILIP BARTHOLOMEW MATTHEW THOMAS JAMESTHELESS THADDAEUS SIMON JUDAS.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your At-A-Glance Sheet about the disciples to finish the crossword and learn more about them.



Across

- 3. James, John, and Peter saw this miracle
- 11. Man whose daughter was raised from death

Down

- 1. Disciple whose name starts with B
- 2. First disciple
- 4. Betrayed our Lord
- 5. Replaced Judas
- 6. Last Bible book written by the Apostle John
- 7. Wrote only one Bible book, a gospel
- 8. All disciples except one died this way
- 9. Andrew evangelized here
- 10. Matthias evangelized here



PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Mark 3:16-19



This Week We Learned About ...

Jesus' 12 beloved disciples were a lot like us! Who were these men? Why did Jesus pick them? What would it have been like to be one, to be beside Jesus, almost every day? The lesson on the 12 Disciples will helped to put children there, alongside these men who were so thrilled to be with Jesus but were also as human as the rest of us.



✓ Questions for Kids:

- 1. Who were the "sons of thunder"? **A. James and John**
- 2. What was Peter's original name? A. Simon
- 3. Which disciple betrayed Jesus? A. Judas

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

The disciples weren't just there to help Jesus with his ministry. They were also his friends. Which friends help you live the godliest life and why?

When Jesus ascended, the disciples carried out his ministry, and they all did so in different ways that suited their character. What is one job you would love to have for the Lord and why would you enjoy that job?

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do so that we may work the works of God?"

John 6:28



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for his friends.

John 15:13



Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 10:1



THE 12 DISCIPLES AT-A-GLANCE

NAMES OF THE ORIGINAL TWELVE:

Simon Peter, Andrew (Simon Peter's brother), James, John (brother of James), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus (aka James the Less), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot.

First disciples: (John 1) John and Andrew (though John is implied and not named), followed by Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel.

The Lord's favorite disciples: Peter, James, and John were invited to see miracles in which others were not included, including the Transfiguration, where they met Moses and Elijah, and the raising from the dead of Jairus' daughter.

Disciple who betrayed Jesus: Judas Iscariot, who then committed suicide

Man to replace Judas as the 12th disciple: Matthias

Disciples who wrote Bible books:

- John wrote one gospel, three epistles, and the Book of Revelation.
- Peter wrote two epistles.
- Matthew wrote one gospel.

First disciple to be martyred: James, around 44 AD

Disciples who were martyred: All except John, who died naturally in his 90s.

Where Disciples traveled to fulfill the Great Commission:

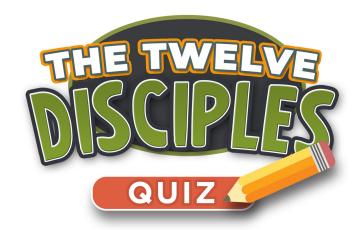
- 1. Simon Peter: Assyria and Media
- 2. Andrew: Scythia
- 3. Simon the Zealot: Cyrene, Africa, and eventually Britain
- 4. James Alphaeus: Spain
- 5. Thomas: Parthia, or what we know today as Iran (or Persia) and Afghanistan
- 6. Nathaniel: Parthia (with Thomas), then Armenia and Upper Phrygia in Asia Minor
- 7. Jude: Assyria and Mesopotamia, which controlled the famed city Babylon
- 8. Phillip: Scythia, the land area located around the Black and the Caspian Seas
- 9. Matthew: Parthia, then Asiatic Aethiopia, lying near India
- 10. Matthias: Dacia, which is modern day Romania and Macedonia
- John: Based on a French legend that Mary resided in Gaul after the crucifixion, it has often been assumed that John also went there, and later, they both went on to Britain. (On the Cross, Jesus had told John to look after his mother.)

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THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

Lookup: Mark 14:66-72. Write down verse 71.
Lookup: Matthew 26:14-15. Write down verse 14.
Both of these disciples betrayed the Lord. One went on to be the foundation of the church. The other committed suicide. What were the differences between them in your opinion?
Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to help you believe for your own forgiveness when you mess up, and also for a promising future in him. Say it in your words:



Find out more about these disciples by completing lookups and answering the four fill-ins, followed by the three multiple-choice questions.

These TWO DISCIPLES of Jesus found in Matthew 4:18-19 were actually brothers.
This furious WEATHER CONDITION struck the disciples in Matthew 8:23-24
Mark 3:17 shows Jesus calling these two beloved BROTHERS "sons of thunder."
&
The disciples were not clear that Jesus was the Messiah at first. The first name Nathaniel called Jesus in John 1:49 was this:

At what event did Simon Peter say in Matthew 17:4, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

- 1. Transfiguration
- 2. Ascension
- 3. Resurrection

Who spoke these words in Acts 1:6-11, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

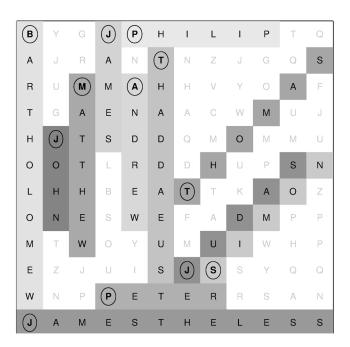
- 1. Two men/angels to Peter
- 2. Two men/angels to James
- 3. Two men/angels to all 12

Who said in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- 1. James
- 2. Peter
- 3. Jesus



ANSWER KEY



Answers to the Quiz:

Peter & Andrew

Storm

James & John

Rabbi

Ascension

Two men/angels to all 12

Peter

	¹ B								4 _J										
11 _J	А	ı	⁶ R	U	⁹ S				U		1 _B								
	R		Е		С				D		А			⁸ M		⁵ M			
	Т		V		Υ		⁷ M		А		С			Α		А		² J	
	I		Е		³ _T	R	А	N	S	F	ı	G	U	R	А	Т	ı	0	N
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NAME: DATE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION **(**



Did you know many of the disciples had different names? This can make their Bible stories confusing! Here is a list, for your wall, that will help you identify which person each historic writer is referencing.

THOMAS	SIMON THE ZEALOT	PHILIP	SIMON PETER	MATTHEW	THADDAEUS	JUDAS ISCARIOT	NHOL	JAMES SON OF ALPHAEUS	JAMES	BARTHOLOMEW	ANDREW	COMMON NAMES
Thomas	Simon the Zealot	Philip	Simon (who is called Peter)	Matthew the Tax Collector	Thaddaeus	Judas Iscariot	John, brother of James	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Zebedee	Bartholomew	Andrew, Simon Peter's brother	BOOK OF MATTHEW (10:2-4)
Thomas	Simon the Zealot	Philip	Simon (gjven the name Peter)	Matthew	Thaddaeus	Judas Iscariot	John, James' brother	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Zebedee	Bartholomew	Andrew	BOOK OF MARK (3:13-19
Thomas	Simon who was called the Zealot	Philip	Simon (whom he named Peter)	Matthew	Judas son of James	Judas Iscariot	John, James' brother	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Zebedee	Bartholomew	Andrew, Simon Peter's brother	BOOK OF LUKE (6:12-19S
Thomas	Simon the Zealot	Philip	Peter	Matthew	Judas son of James	Replaced by MATTHIAS	John	James son of Alphaeus	James	Bartholomew	Andrew	BOOK OF ACTS (1:13)
				Levi		Judas the Betrayer		James the Less	James the Greater	Nathaniel		OTHER PLACES IN BIBLE/HISTORY



EXTRA CREDIT FACT SHEET:



WHY IT'S SO HARD TO GET A SIMPLE LIST OF THE DISCIPLES!

This will help you learn the disciple's names by learning the mysteries behind them. The names of the disciples are not always easy to recognize! There are variations in the Gospels, Book of Acts, Church history, and therefore all over the Internet! Here's what's up with names of the Twelve and their variations:

77

- 1. **GUYS BACK THEN DIDN'T HAVE LAST NAMES.** Some disciples had the same first name. Two had the name **SIMON**, two had **JAMES**, and two had **JUDAS**. The disciple **JOHN** had the same name as **JOHN THE BAPTIST**, their close friend. (They are not the same guy!)
- 2. If you wanted to know more about a guy, you asked **WHO HIS FATHER WAS.** Some disciples identified that way include **JOHN AND JAMES, SONS OF ZEBEDEE**, followed by **JAMES, SON OF ALPHAEUS,** and **JUDAS, SON OF JAMES** (nothing to do with any of the Jameses just mentioned!).
- 3. If a guy could not be identified by his father, people could identify him **BY HIS OLDER BROTHERS.** There are two sets of brothers among the disciples! **ANDREW** was identified often as **SIMON PETER'S BROTHER. JOHN** was often identified as the BROTHER OF JAMES.
- 4. Folks often GAVE A NICKNAME if a guy couldn't be identified by his father or brothers. The name went along with his personality or something he did. SIMON THE ZEALOT got his name for participating in dangerous religious protests before meeting Jesus. MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR did just that until Jesus called him!
- 5. **SOME GUYS HAD TWO FIRST NAMES.** We don't know why. But some Gospels use one name while some opt for the other name. One disciple is listed as **THADDAEUS** in the Gospels of Matthew of Mark, while being listed as **JUDAS SON OF JAMES** in Luke and Acts.
- 6. The Gospels put the disciples' names in lists, but **IN OTHER PLACES IN THE BIBLE OR CHURCH DOCUMENTS**, they are identified by other names:
 - a. Many scholars think **BARTHOLOMEW** is the **NATHANIEL** of John 1, whom Jesus called and praised.
 - b. Jesus called **MATTHEW** by the name **LEVI** sometimes.
 - c. JUDAS, SON OF JAMES, is not only known as THADEOUS, but also JUDE.
 - d. JAMES, SON OF ALPHEUS, is also known as JAMES THE LESS.

7. Finally, when God or Jesus really liked a guy, they would **GIVE HIM A NEW NAME** (like Abram and Sarai being renamed Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament). At least two disciples were renamed by Jesus:

- a. SIMON became PETER and therefore often is known as SIMON PETER.
- b. Jesus changed **SAUL** to **PAUL** from up in heaven as recorded in Acts.
- c. Jesus gave JAMES AND JOHN, SONS OF ZEBEDEE the nickname BOANERGES or "Sons of Thunder."
- 8. Jesus taught the disciples to be humble. Some **DIDN'T LIKE REFERRING TO THEMSELVES** in their writing. **JOHN** in his Gospel never used his own name! He referred to himself as "THE DISCIPLE JESUS LOVED."



EXTRA CREDIT FACT SHEET:

SO WHAT ARE THE ACTUAL NAMES FOR THE DISCIPLES? Here is a fairly popular list. It is in Alphabetical Order. Following each name are other names that disciple is sometimes called:

- 1. Andrew
- 2. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)
- 3. James (James the Greater, James Son of Zebedee, James Brother of John)
- 4. James Son of Alphaeus (James the Less)
- 5. John (John Son of Zebedee, John Brother of James, Disciple Whom Jesus Loved)
- 6. Judas Iscariot (Judas who betrayed the Lord)
- 7. Matthew (Levi)
- 8. Philip
- 9. Simon Peter (Peter, Simon)
- 10. Simon the Zealot
- 11. Thaddeus (Judas son of James, Jude)
- 12. Thomas



If you can get these answers right, you are truly BIBLE SMART! Use your Extra Credit Fact Sheet to get the answers all correct.

1 Tour on Falley The different control of a control bade.
1. True or False: Thaddeaus was also named Judas.
2. What two disciples did Jesus rename?
3. Matthew was sometimes called this because of his occupation:
4. Disciples who were known by their big brothers include
5. How many disciples were named Simon?
6. Many believe that Bartholomew was also named this:
7. When John wrote his gospel he referred to himself as this:
8. BOANERGES means
9. EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: Take all the disciples who were sometimes or always called JOHN, JAMES, JUDAS, JUDE How many men are there?

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Answer Key:

- 1: True,
- 2: Peter & Paul,
- 3: Matthew the Tax Collector,
- 4: Andrew and John,
- 5: two,
- 6: Nathaniel,
- 7: The disciple Jesus loved, 8: Sons of Thunder

Extra Extra Credit: The answer is five (5):

Number of Johns: 1

Number of Jameses: 2 Number of Judases: 2

Number of Judes O (because Jude is a secondary nickname for one of

the Judases above, so that man has already been counted)

Total: 5