

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

Luke 6:12-16

### Opening

Gathering: In what ways are we sent forth by God today?

Today's Focus: Jesus called Twelve of His disciples to carry His gospel forth as apostles.

Key Verses: *He called His disciples and chose twelve of them, whom He designated apostles.* Luke 6:13

*He called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority... These twelve Jesus sent out.* Matthew 10:1, 5

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Disciples (*Matthew 4:23-5:2*)

How was Jesus able to reach out to so many people early in His ministry?

Matthew 4:23-24

Did all of these people go home after seeing Him?

Matthew 4:25

What was the difference between Jesus' many disciples and others who came to Him?

Matthew 5:1-2

*Matheetuo*

Sticky Disciples (*John 6:60-71*)

Did all of these disciples stay with Him throughout His ministry?

John 6:60-66

Why did some stick around?

John 6:67-69

Did all of the Twelve stick around?

John 6:70-71

Did anyone stick around other than the Twelve?

Acts 1:15-17, 21-22

Apostles (*Luke 6:13*)

Who was Jesus referring to when He said the Twelve?

Luke 6:13

Why did He call them apostles?

Galatians 1:1

*Apostolos*

Why did Jesus need to call people as apostles to go forth?

Acts 1:8-9

Did Jesus ever send out these apostles before He sent His Spirit on Pentecost?

Luke 9:1-2, 6

How were they able to do this before receiving the Spirit's power on Pentecost?

Matthew 10:1 (28:18)

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

Page 2

### Other Christian Apostles

Why did Paul believe that he was an apostle even though he wasn't one of the Twelve?

Acts 26:15-18

What difference did Paul recognize between his calling as an apostle and that of the Twelve?

Galatians 2:7-8

Who else, besides the Twelve and Paul, was called to be an apostle?

Acts 1:21, 23-26

What others were called apostles, but we don't have stories of their callings?

Galatians 1:18-19

Acts 14:14 (1-4)

1 Corinthians 4:1, 6, 9 (3:1-9; Acts 18:24-28)

Romans 16:7

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6

Where do we see the word apostle used in a broader context?

Philippians 2:25

2 Corinthians 8:18; 22-23

Who was the first Christian apostle?

Hebrews 3:1-2

### True Apostles

What percentage of Christians have been called by God?

Ephesians 4:1

Does this mean that all of us are apostles?

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Is an apostle the same thing as a prophet?

1 Corinthians 14:1-3, 22

So how does this differ from an apostle?

1 Timothy 2:7 (Acts 9:15)

Should we consider all people who preach to unbelievers to be apostles?

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15 (Revelation 2:2)

What is one way to recognize a true apostle?

2 Corinthians 12:12

### Jesus Calls His Apostles (*Mark 3:13-15*)

How did each of the original Twelve get to be called as an apostle?

Mark 3:13-15

How did Jesus decide which of all His disciples He wanted as apostles?

Luke 6:12-13

Did He then throw lots to find God's choice? Or, did He ask for insights from others?

John 2:25

Did He try to select the smartest, best educated, cream-of-the-crop?

Acts 4:13

Why did He chose ordinary men instead of strong, impressive leaders?

2 Corinthians 12:9

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

Page 3

### The Twelve

Who did Jesus choose to be His apostles?

Matthew 10:2-4

Mark 3:16-19

Luke 6:14-16

Acts 1:13

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>Acts</u>
Simon (Peter) Andrew (his brother) James (son of Zebedee) John (his brother)	Simon (Peter) James (son of Zebedee) John (his brother) Andrew	Simon (Peter) Andrew (his brother) James John	Peter John James Andrew
Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew (tax collector)	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Philip Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
James (son of Alphaeus) Thaddaeus Simon (Zealot) Judas Iscariot (betrayed Jesus)	James (son of Alphaeus) Thaddaeus Simon (Zealot) Judas Iscariot (betrayed Jesus)	James (son of Alphaeus) Simon (Zealot) Judas (son of James) Judas Iscariot (traitor)	James (son of Alphaeus) Simon (Zealot) Judas (son of James)

### The First Group - Sons of John

Why is Peter listed at the top of each list?

Matthew 16:15-18

How does this story show that Jesus knew what was in a man?

John 1:41-42

Why did Andrew bring Simon to Jesus?

John 1:40

Why is Andrew listed fourth in the lists from Mark and Acts?

Mark 14:32-34

### The First Group - Sons of Zebedee

Why is James listed before John in the gospel groupings?

Matthew 17:1

When do these sons of thunder (Boanerges) likely first come into contact with Jesus?

John 1:35-37, 40

What else is unique about the first four apostles?

Mark 1:16-20 (Luke 5:10)

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

Page 4

### The Second Group

What is one possible reason that Philip is listed first in the second grouping?

John 1:43-44

Who would we then expect to see next on the list?

John 1:45 (45-49)

Who do we see instead?

Matthew 10:3a

Who follows Nathanael in most lists?

Matthew 9:9

Matthew points out that he was a tax collector

Besides his honest expression of doubt in John 20, what else do we learn about Thomas?

John 11:14-16

### The Third Group

Why does James the son of Alphaeus top the third group?

Luke 6:15 (Mark 2:14)

Although the Bible shares no stories about James, what else do we possibly learn about him?

Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1

Possibly James the Less - James Bar-Zebedee was greater/taller(?)

What does his label tell us about Simon?

Mark 15:7

Besides Judas, what other name does the KJV (King James Version) give us for Thaddaeus?

Matthew 10:3 (KJV)

Why might Matthew and Mark avoided Thaddaeus' real names of Judas?

John 13:21, 26-27

Why isn't Judas Iscariot (of Kerioth) included in the list in Acts?

Acts 1:18 (Matthew 27:1-10)

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I follow Jesus to learn and follow His teachings or to get something from Him?  
(*Matthew 5:1-2; 6:2,5,16; 12:38-40; 19:16-24, 27-30; John 6:25-29; Acts 8:9-24; Galatians 6:12-15*)
2. What about Jesus has been difficult to handle and has tempted me not to follow Him?  
(*John 6:60-66; 7:28-30, 45-52; 10:22-39; Mark 9:21-24; Luke 4:14-16, 28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25*)
3. Why do I continue to follow Jesus through thick and thin?  
(*John 6:67-69; 14:1-14; Romans 5:1-8; Philippians 1:19-26; Hebrews 10:32-39; Revelation 7:13-17; 21:1-4*)
4. Could I be accused of acting as an apostle of Christ, sent by Him to do His work?  
(*Mark 3:13-15; 6:7, 12-13; Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:41, 45; Acts 1:8; 4:18-20; 8:4; Ephesians 1:1*)
5. What has Jesus especially called me to do for Him?  
(*1 Corinthians 7:7; 12:12-31; Romans 12:3-8; Galatians 2:7-9; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16; 1 Timothy 4:14; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10*)