

# 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 = Word spread about His teaching and power, people flocked to Him

Did all of these people go home after seeing Him?

Matthew 4:25 = No, large crowds followed Him - disciples

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

Matthew 5:1-2 = Disciples wanted to learn from Him, other wanted a handout (no commitment)

*Matheetuo* = Greek for disciple, learner, pupil

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

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

John 6:60-66 = No, some left Him when the teachings got tough

Why did some stick around?

John 6:67-69 = They believed in Jesus and His teaching

Did all of the Twelve stick around?

John 6:70-71 = No, one didn't believe and would betray Him

Did anyone stick around other than the Twelve?

Acts 1:15-17, 21-22 = Yes, others also followed Jesus throughout His ministry

Apostles (*Luke 6:13*)

Who was Jesus referring to when He said the Twelve?

Luke 6:13 = Jesus selected Twelve of His disciples and called them apostles

Why did He call them apostles?

Galatians 1:1 = He chose them to send them out

*Apostolos* = Greek for one who is sent forth, dispatched representative, ambassador

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

Acts 1:8-9 = They were to be His witnesses to take His gospel (good news) out to others

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

Luke 9:1-2, 6 = Yes, He sent them out to preach and heal with His power

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

Matthew 10:1 (28:18) = Jesus gave them His authority – all authority of heaven and earth

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### 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 = Jesus personally called and appointed him to go forth with the gospel

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

Galatians 2:7-8 = He was an apostle to the Gentiles (non-Jews)

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

Acts 1:21, 23-26 = Matthias was chosen to join the apostolic ministry

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

Galatians 1:18-19 = James, Jesus' brother, was leader of the Jerusalem church

Acts 14:14 (1-4) = Barnabas - Missionary with Paul

1 Corinthians 4:1, 6, 9 (3:1-9; Acts 18:24-28) = Apollos - Watered where Paul planted

Romans 16:7 = Andronicus and Junias - Could also mean "in the opinion of the apostles"

1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6 = Silas and Timothy – Ministered in Thessalonica with Paul

Where do we see the word apostle used in a broader context? = Greek is *apostolos*

Philippians 2:25 = Epaphroditis - Your apostle (NIV – messenger), sent by Philippian church

2 Corinthians 8:18; 22-23 = Two brothers – apostles of the churches (NIV – representatives)

Who was the first Christian apostle?

Hebrews 3:1-2 = Jesus – He was sent forth by God

### True Apostles

What percentage of Christians have been called by God?

Ephesians 4:1 = 100% - Each of us have been given a calling

Does this mean that all of us are apostles?

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (Ephesians 4:11-13) = No, we each have our own distinct calling

Is an apostle the same thing as a prophet?

1 Corinthians 14:1-3, 22 = No, a prophet speaks to and teaches believers

So how does this differ from an apostle?

1 Timothy 2:7 (Acts 9:15) = An apostle is sent out to unbelievers

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

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15 (Revelation 2:2) = No, there are false apostles

What is one way to recognize a true apostle?

2 Corinthians 12:12 = God's power is evident in them

### 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 = Jesus picked them as the ones that He wanted

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

Luke 6:12-13 = He spent the night before asking His Father in prayer

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

John 2:25 = No, *He knew what was in a man*

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

Acts 4:13 = No, He chose ordinary men

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

2 Corinthians 12:9 = His power would be evident through their weakness

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### The Twelve

Who did Jesus choose to be His apostles? = Write in order on board

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 = Jesus would build His church (Body) on the rock of Peter's confession

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

John 1:41-42 = Jesus knew who Simon would become & called him Peter when they first met

Why did Andrew bring Simon to Jesus?

John 1:40 = He was Simon's brother – Pointed out in Matthew's and Luke's lists

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

Mark 14:32-34 = Andrew wasn't part of Jesus' inner circle (Peter, James and John)

### The First Group - Sons of Zebedee

Why is James listed before John in the gospel groupings?

Matthew 17:1 = James was the older brother

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

John 1:35-37, 40 = John was likely the other disciple with Andrew, may have brought James(?)

What else is unique about the first four apostles?

Mark 1:16-20 (Luke 5:10) = They were the first full-time disciples & fishing business partners

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### The Second Group

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

John 1:43-44 = He is the next person we see following Jesus

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

John 1:45 (45-49) = Nathanael – Philip brought him to Jesus

Who do we see instead?

Matthew 10:3a = Bartholomew – Hebrew for Son of Tolmai, Likely was Nathanael

Who follows Nathanael in most lists? = Called Levi, son of Alphaeus, in Mark and Luke versions

Matthew 9:9 = Matthew – the only other disciple we see Jesus calling

Matthew points out that he was a tax collector = humbly felt undeserving of his calling

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

John 11:14-16 = He had courageous devotion; called Twin (H – Thomas, G – Didymus)

### The Third Group

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

Luke 6:15 (Mark 2:14) = Possibly Matthew's brother, Maybe Matthew disowned as tax coll?

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

Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1 = His mother, Mary, was a believer; Had another brother Joses (Joseph)

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

What does his label tell us about Simon?

Mark 15:7 = He was a revolutionary; Zealots tried to get rid of the Romans by force

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

Matthew 10:3 (KJV) = *Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus* - not in older manuscripts

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

John 13:21, 26-27 = The name Judas was associated with Satan's worker, Judas Iscariot

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

Acts 1:18 (Matthew 27:1-10) = He had killed himself after betraying Jesus

### 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*)