

# Jesus, part 9

## Jesus' Apostles

### *Checklist:*

- Optional: Ahead of time, update and send this week's info and family devos to the parents.
- Any needed prep for the "Facts about the Apostles" section of the lesson.
- Optional: Copies of the Twelve Disciples pages from Rose Publishing to give each student (See page info below.)

### Dream Team

#### **Ask:**

- If you were able to put together a superhero dream team, who are members you would choose?  
*(Have several volunteers from the class help come up with the team together. Maybe get up to 5-7 team members with each volunteer giving one.)\**
- Why would this team be so great?

*\*Idea possibly copied from one of the references*

**Say:** Let's look at the "team" of 12 Jesus chose to be His disciples and to tell the world about Him...

### Jesus' 12 Apostles

**Read Mark 3:13-19** (while youth follow along in Bibles)

#### **Say:**

- Jesus also had large crowds of followers, including several women who believed in Him.
- But He specifically chose these 12 guys to be with Him, learn from Him, and be His apostles.

**Ask:** Who knows what "apostle" means?

*(It has to do with being sent. It seems related to the fact that these were specially chosen men sent with authority to do the mission Jesus sent them to do.)*

**Say:**

- We can see at least one more important detail involved in the time Jesus chose the 12 disciples by looking at Luke...
- Keep your finger in Mark 3 so you can flip back...

**Have someone read Luke 6:12-16** (while students follow along in Bibles)

**Ask:** What important detail(s) do you see that is mentioned here that isn't in Mark 3:13-19?  
*(It talks about how Jesus prayed all night before He called the 12 as apostles. It seems possible that the apostles may have been at least one focus of His prayer.)*

## Apostles' Names

**Say:** Let's talk about these disciples Jesus chose as His core group, His key guys...

**Ask:** So, what were the 12 Apostles' names?

**To answer this question...**

- Have youth flip back to Mark 3:13-19 again and have kids take turns listing the disciples as you **write** their names on the whiteboard.
- If time, have them also compare the list to the list in Luke 6:12-16 and see the other names certain Apostles were known by and briefly discuss this.

## Facts about Apostles

### Option 1 - Game (less time needed):

Divide class into **two teams**. For each question, one representative will be sent up to try to answer. First one to raise their hand (ring bell, or etc.) gets a chance to answer. If they get it wrong, the other person gets a chance. If they both get it wrong, have them race to see who can look up the Scripture passage for the person. Have that person read the passage and give that team the point.

Even if someone gets it right without looking it up, still read the passage before going on to the next question.

**1. He was married, a fisherman, and Jesus called him a rock. He also denied Jesus three times.** *(Matthew 16:17-18) (Simon Peter)*

**2. He had a brother named James and was called a son of thunder. One time, he asked Jesus if he should call down fire on a city. He wrote a Gospel, three letters, and the book of Revelation in the Bible.** *(Luke 9:54) (John)*

**3. He was a tax collector before following Jesus. He wrote one of the Gospels. (Matthew 9:9)**  
(Matthew)

**4. He was known as “the twin.” And he initially doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead.**  
(John 20:27) (Thomas)

**5. He was a fisherman and had been a disciple of John the Baptist. He took his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. (John 1:40-42) (Andrew)**

## **Option 2 - Small Groups Match-up (requires more time):**

**Ahead of time**, using copies of pages 140-143 of Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines\*:

(1) Cut out the pictures with the names of the twelve disciples

(2) Cut out the columns of information about each disciple with the three sections of “General Information,” “Personality and Character,” and “Encounters with Jesus.” (For each disciple’s information you cut out, keep all that disciple’s information for those three sections together as one piece.) And, be sure to blackout any reference to that disciple’s name on the column of information about him.

(3) Put a set of pictures and information slips in an envelope for each small group, having enough sets for one set per 4 teens.

\*This information is definitely in the 10th Anniversary Expanded Edition. Available via [rose-publishing.com](http://rose-publishing.com). Be sure to honor their copy rules and limits.

**During class**, divide the class into groups of up to four. And give each group an envelope set. Tell the teens, using Bibles to help them, they are to read the information about the disciples and match up the right name with the right disciple. Give them maybe 10-15 minutes.

Then have teens correct any mistakes as you mention the name and a couple of the first facts listed on the column for each disciple. (You can also mention that we don’t know what the disciples really looked like.)

**Ask:** Anything stand out to you about these disciples?

## **More about the Apostles...**

**Say:**

- A lot of people have felt that the apostles are like a “rag-tag” bunch of guys.
- There were some good characteristics and major interest in God that you could see in some of them - like Nathanael who Jesus said was without deceit and like Andrew who had been following John the Baptist.
- They included a tax collector and fishermen, with some of the apostles maybe better educated but others likely not.

- None of them seemed like an especially important leader of the time.
- Then you think about how they acted...
- Jesus seemed to have to explain things to them or correct them a lot.
- Peter denied Jesus when worse came to worst.
- Thomas doubted at first that Jesus had risen.
- The apostles abandoned Him when He was arrested.
- And Judas even betrayed Him.

**Ask:**

- Is this the type of group you'd have chosen as the best group for spreading the good news about Jesus and starting the church?
- So, out of all the people on earth, why do you think Jesus chose these guys?  
*(Judas would betray Him. But for the others, perhaps it is related to what the Old Testament says about man looking at outward appearances, and God looking at the heart. And, while some may have had certain skills, perhaps Jesus was more concerned about who was available and eager to follow and obey Him. And, perhaps it was in order for God to get more glory by using "ordinary" or unlikely people.)*
- What might that mean for ordinary people like us?  
*(If Jesus could use ordinary guys who made mistakes, He can use us to do what He wants too!)*

**Reread Mark 3:14-15.**

**Say:**

- It says Jesus called the 12 disciples so they would be with Him and so He could send them out to preach and cast out demons.
- From looking at Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we can see that Jesus spent maybe 3 years with the apostles, teaching them about Himself and how to live for God, etc. And as they spent time with Him, the 12 disciples were able to see who Jesus was and learn from His example (like from His caring for people).
- At the end of the book of Matthew, we see that Jesus told the apostles to go make disciples of all nations.

## Closing

**Say:**

- The fact that God chose those guys help show that He can also use ordinary people like us!
- We are not apostles in the same way these guys were. But just like it was the Holy Spirit at work through these disciples, if we are His followers, God can work through us to do the things He wants to help people know and grow in Him today!

- If you're not a Christian, you need to start by trusting and following Jesus as your Savior and Master.
- Trust His death to pay for your sin.
- And then learn and help other people know and learn about Him too.
- If anyone trusted Jesus to save you today, or has questions, talk to me or your parents today!

## Optional: 12 Disciples Handout

Give each person a copy of the 12 Disciples pages from pages 140-143 of Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines for them to take home. (This information is definitely in the 10th Anniversary Expanded Edition, available via [rose-publishing.com](http://rose-publishing.com). Be sure to honor their copy rules and limits.)

## Close in Prayer

### *References:*

Jim Burns, "The Gathering of His Disciples," *Life of Christ Series Leader's Guide* (Eugene: Harvest House, 1989), pages 19-20.

Barry St. Clair, "The Big Investment," *Jesus: No Equal* (Cincinnati: Standard Pub, 1999), pages 82-84.

Don Cousins and Judson Poling, "Jesus Selects His Team," *The Incomparable Jesus, Walking with God Series* (Zondervan/Willow Creek Resources, 1992), pages 47-50.

E F Harrison, "Apostle, Apostleship," *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Gen Ed Walter A Elwell (Baker Books, 1997 printing).

William L Lane, Comment on Mark 3:13-19a, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Mark*, Gen Ed Gordon D Fee (William B Eerdmans, 1974).

*All Scriptures are quoted from the English Standard Version (unless noted otherwise).*

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# Sunday SCHOOL THIS WEEK!

The 7th-8th grade Sunday school class has been looking at Jesus' life. This Sunday, they are looking at Jesus' Apostles.

## Follow-up Family Devotion Time

(Sometime after this Sunday morning, you can follow up with your teen or family by doing this family devotion together.)

1. Read Mark 3:13-19 together.
2. What do you know about any of the apostles mentioned?
3. So, out of all the people on earth, why do you think Jesus chose these guys to be His apostles? And how can that relate to ordinary people like us?\*
4. While we aren't apostles particularly like the twelve disciples were, how do we can we follow Jesus as disciples now-a-days and are you following Jesus as His disciple?
5. These guys were specially called to do His mission as apostles. What do you believe God has called you to do and are you doing it?

*\*Judas would betray Him. For the others, perhaps it is related to what the Old Testament says about man looking at outward appearances, and God looking at the heart? And, while some may have had certain skills, perhaps Jesus was more concerned about who was available and eager to follow and obey Him. And, perhaps it was in order for God to get more glory by using "ordinary" or unlikely people.)*