

# Lesson 23



## JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

MATTHEW 4:18-22; 10:1-4, MARK 3:16-19,  
LUKE 6:13-16, & ACTS 1:13

### GOAL

- ▶ To help children become familiar with the 12 disciples and understand that they were ordinary people. The lesson will help children acknowledge that God uses ordinary people just like them.
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### CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Jesus:** The man the 12 disciples followed
  - ▶ **The Disciples:** Ordinary people with a variety of backgrounds who all pledged to follow Jesus
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### MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Matthew 4:19:** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
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### OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Matthew 4:18-22 and 10:1-4:** Jesus called a special group of followers to accompany Him on His three-year mission. These were just ordinary people. Jesus didn't just call them to help Him; He called them to befriend them, teach them, and help them fulfill the great work of proclaiming the good news to the ends of the earth once He left (Acts 1:8).
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### MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **Matthew 4:19:** Before many of the disciples began following Jesus, they were fishermen. To catch fish, they used bait. Jesus asked these men, who would become His disciples, if they would like to learn to become fishers of men. The Gospel is the bait that would help these and all future disciples to catch the hearts and souls of people.
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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Jesus lived in a town near what lake?

**A1:** The Sea of Galilee

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did Jesus say he would make Andrew and Simon?

**A2:** Jesus said He would make them fishers of men.

**Q2b:** What do you think it means to be a fisher of men?

**TN:** Let students come up with answers. Explain that, like fishermen, disciples cast out their lines or nets by preaching the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit reels in all those who bite. Unlike the fate of the fish in this metaphor, the people who are reeled in by the truth are saved, not eaten.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What were the three men in the boat doing?

**A3:** They were fixing their fishing nets.

**Q3b:** Do you think Jesus chose people at random to be His disciples?

**TN:** Ask students to explain their answers. God never does anything without a purpose, so no, Jesus didn't randomly choose His disciples. However, He could have. There were two main reasons Jesus had disciples. First, to learn from Him, observe His power, and spread the Gospel after Jesus' death and resurrection. Second, to show that Jesus can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. We don't have to be perfect or especially pious for Jesus to do something wonderful through us; all we need to do is answer when He calls. So really, He could have walked down the lake shore that day and chose the first 12 people He came across, and His disciples would have been just as successful.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did James and John do when Jesus called them?

**A4:** They dropped their fishing nets and jumped out of the boat.

**Q4b:** If your parents offered to take you to your favorite amusement park, would you have to think about it first?

**TN:** No way! They'd probably say yes right away! They know, without having to think about it at all, that they want to go. They don't first think about the consequences or what they'll be missing while they are gone, they know they want to go, and there is no hesitation in their response. That's how the disciples responded to meeting the Messiah. In their minds, they didn't know who this man was, but their hearts and souls recognized His power and love. To that, there was only one rational response: Drop everything and follow Him.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What would these ordinary men become in a few years?

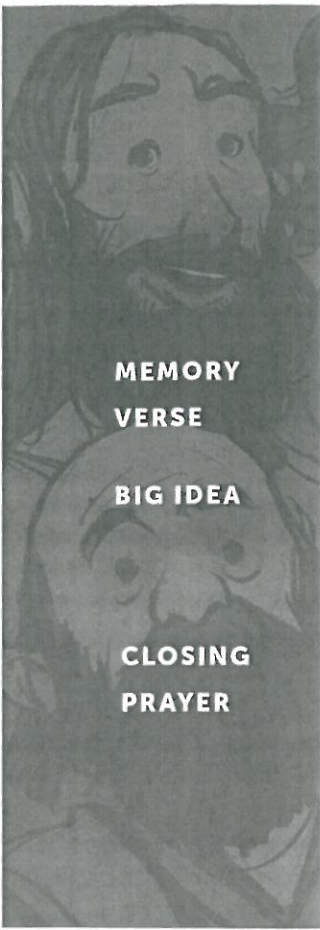
**A5:** The messengers who spread the Gospel to all the nations of the world

SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** How many disciples did Jesus choose?

**A6:** Twelve



**Matthew 4:19:** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

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With Jesus, the ordinary can be made extraordinary!

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Jesus, thank You for calling the disciples to You. Thank You for calling us to be disciples, too. Help us to learn and do what You say. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

## CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

### Across

- 3. Many times, the disciples did not (**Understand**) Jesus's lessons.
- 5. James and John dropped their (**Nets**) and went after Jesus.
- 7. Jesus told Andrew and Simon (Peter), "I will make you fishers of (**Men**)."
- 8. The big lake Jesus lived by was called the Sea of (**Galilee**).

### Down











- 1. In addition to Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John, there was also, Philip, (**Bartholomew**), Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas.
- 2. Over time, the 12 men became mighty (**Teachers**), proclaiming Jesus as Messiah.
- 6. Jesus said, "Come (**Follow**) me."
- 9. When the men became disciples of Jesus, they left their jobs, dreams, families, and old (**Lives**) behind.



# Fishers of Men

## Jesus' Disciples

Draw a line from the disciple's name to the statement about him.

<b>Peter</b>		a tax collector
<b>Andrew</b>		son of Zebedee and brother of James
<b>James</b>		also called Didymus
<b>John</b>		brother of John
<b>Philip</b>		his name means "rock"
<b>Matthew</b>		betrayed Jesus
<b>Thomas</b>		son of Alphaeus (also called "the Less")
<b>James</b>		Peter's brother
<b>Simon</b>		he brought Nathanael to Jesus
<b>Judas</b>		a Canaanite, also called Zelotes

Here are some Bible passages to help you.

Matthew 4:18-21; 10:2-4 (NIV); 16:17-18

Mark 3:14-19

John 1:43-51; 11:16

Acts 1:13

Which two names are missing from the list? Thaddeus Bartholomew

# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:19

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."



**Family Devotional**



UNLOCK  
CODE!

k6z5t9

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# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



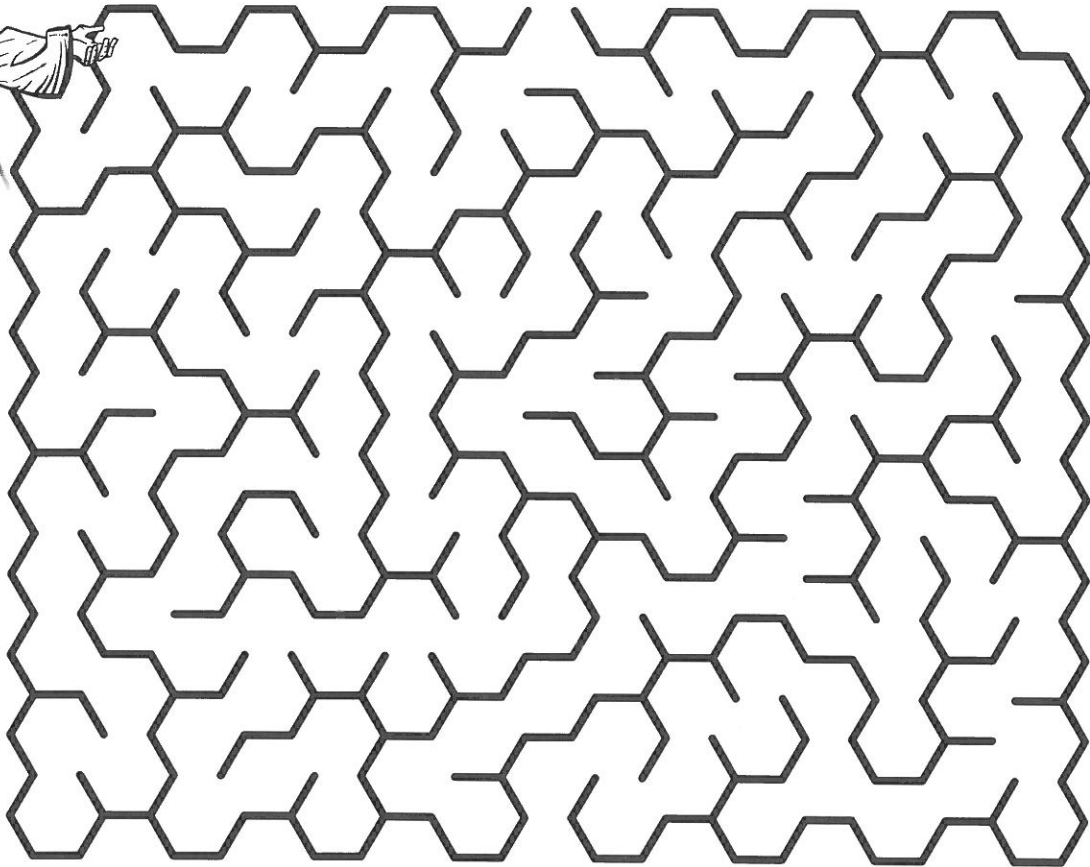


# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

Jesus is calling his disciples. Lead the men to him.



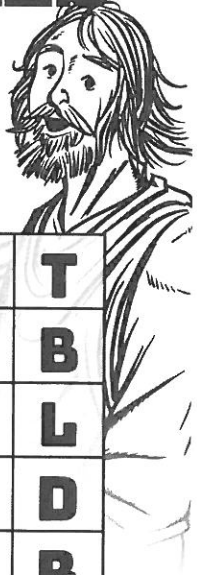
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START



# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES



Discover the hidden words.

E	E	L	I	L	A	G	N	V	R	S	B	B	H	T
D	B	T	J	R	T	E	V	E	J	T	A	S	J	B
N	W	J	F	V	Y	F	M	P	T	R	X	E	W	L
K	W	I	F	U	V	G	G	O	T	S	I	M	O	D
X	O	I	U	D	L	E	X	H	J	L	M	A	K	R
A	H	O	N	V	F	Z	O	B	Z	N	A	J	H	M
S	M	W	B	G	M	L	Q	D	I	M	Z	D	I	W
J	Y	Y	A	N	O	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
O	A	U	L	M	Q	S	C	W	S	X	X	V	T	X
H	X	C	E	P	U	H	T	F	E	A	M	O	C	D
N	C	W	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	H	D	G	V	Z
L	A	E	S	X	W	B	V	C	L	X	R	U	S	K
C	Y	F	O	L	L	O	W	J	E	S	U	S	J	M
P	G	S	T	L	F	I	S	H	Y	Z	X	B	D	V
N	C	Q	M	J	M	C	X	B	Q	X	Q	R	V	R

## Word Bank

DISCIPLES

JAMES

JOHN

JESUS

GALILEE

NETS

FISH

SEA

BARTHOLOMEW

FOLLOW

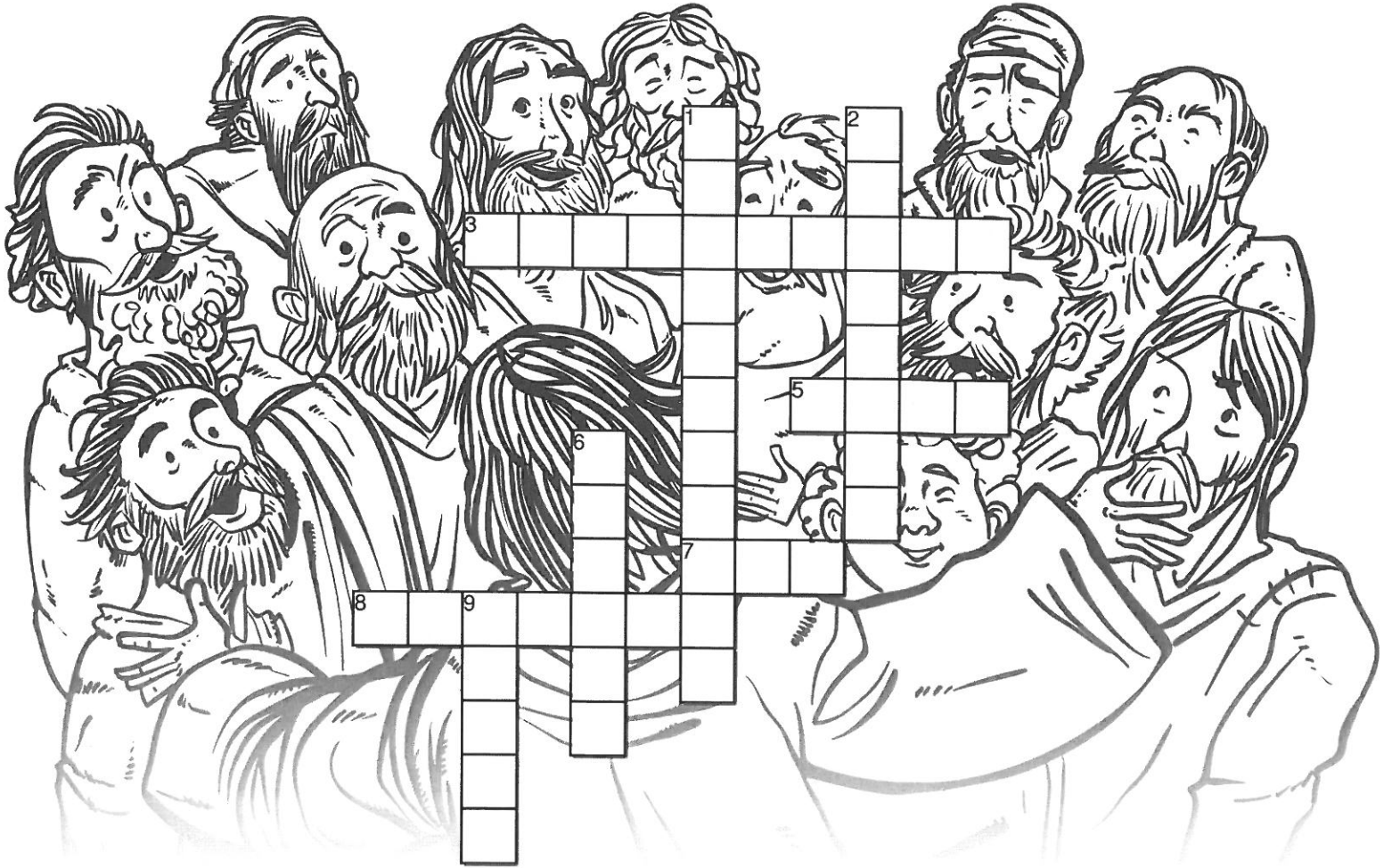
TEACHER

JUDAS



# JESUS CHOOSES HIS 12 DISCIPLES

**Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-4;  
Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16  
(Acts 1:13)**



## **Across**

3. Many times, the disciples did not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus's lessons.
5. James and John dropped their \_\_\_\_\_ and went after Jesus.
7. Jesus told Andrew and Simon (Peter), "I will make you fishers of \_\_\_\_\_."
8. The big lake Jesus lived by was called the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Down**











1. In addition to Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John, there was also, Philip, \_\_\_\_\_, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas.
2. Over time, the 12 men became mighty \_\_\_\_\_, proclaiming Jesus as Messiah.
6. Jesus said, "Come \_\_\_\_\_ me."
9. When the men became disciples of Jesus, they left their jobs, dreams, families, and old \_\_\_\_\_ behind.



# Fishers of Men

## Jesus' Disciples

Draw a line from the disciple's name to the statement about him.

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Peter</b>   |    | a tax collector                          |
| <b>Andrew</b>  |    | son of Zebedee and brother of James      |
| <b>James</b>   |    | also called Didymus                      |
| <b>John</b>    |    | brother of John                          |
| <b>Philip</b>  |    | his name means "rock"                    |
| <b>Matthew</b> |  | betrayed Jesus                           |
| <b>Thomas</b>  |  | son of Alphaeus (also called "the Less") |
| <b>James</b>   |  | Peter's brother                          |
| <b>Simon</b>   |  | he brought Nathanael to Jesus            |
| <b>Judas</b>   |  | a Canaanite, also called Zelotes         |

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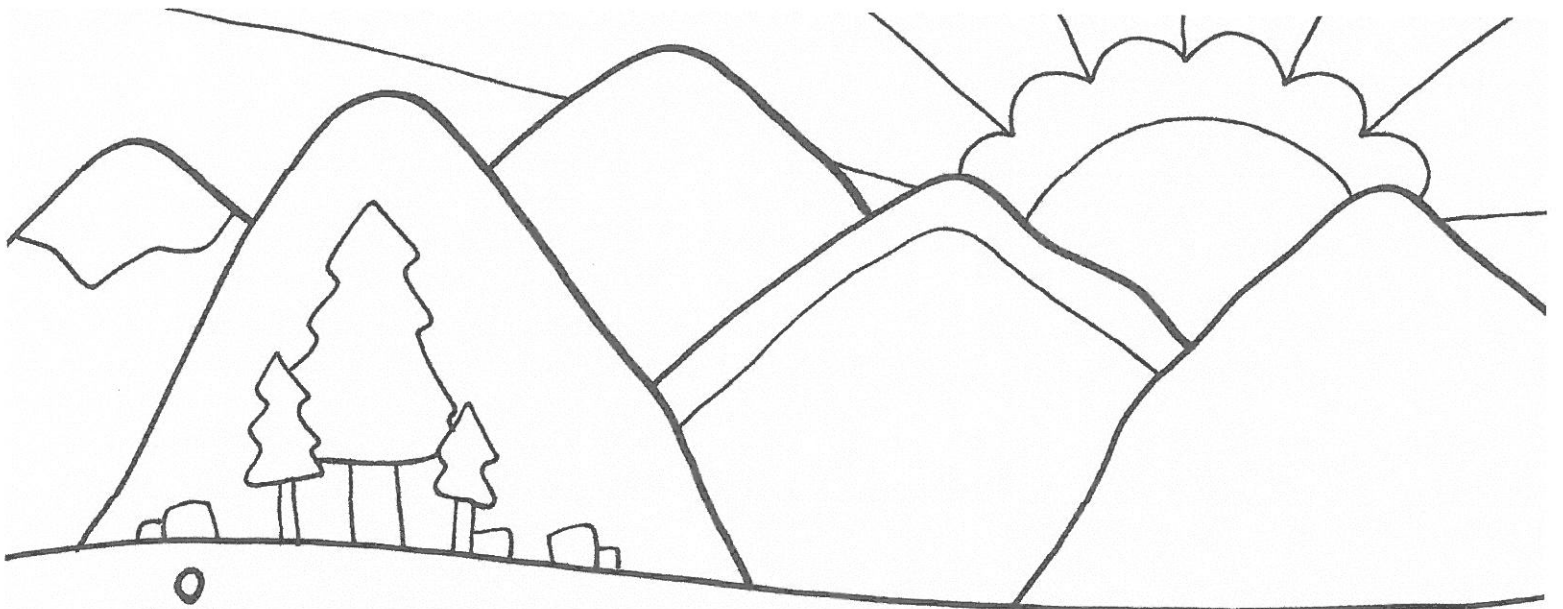
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John 1:43–51; 11:16

Acts 1:13

Which two names are missing from the list? \_\_\_\_\_



Bartholomew  
Simon  
Philip  
Thomas  
Andrew  
Iscariot  
Matthew  
John  
Judas  
Simeon  
James