

# 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

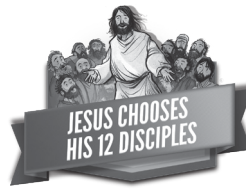
- ▶ **Jesus:** The man the 12 disciples followed
- The Disciples:** Ordinary people with a variety of backgrounds who all pledged to follow Jesus
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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **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).



## SUGGESTIONS

▶ **The word disciple means follower. But it wasn't as simple as following Jesus around for His disciples. They weren't just Jesus' helpers or servants, they followed Him to observe and learn everything they could from Him.**

**1. What He did:** The disciples saw how Jesus cared for people. They saw how He loved people and God. They saw how He responded to people who loved Him and those who hated Him.

**2. What He knew:** Jesus taught the disciples about Scripture, how to pray, how to have a relationship with God, and the importance of having a steadfast faith.

**3. Who He was:** On multiple occasions, Jesus told His disciples that He was the Son of God. The magnitude of that revelation didn't sink in right away; rather, they had to see Him perform miracles and signs in order for them to understand the power their friend and teacher possessed.

All of the things the disciples observed and learned during their time with Jesus helped them to spread the Gospel.

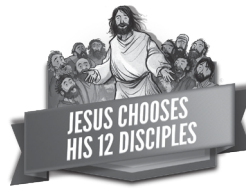
## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

### ▶ **Mirror Image**

Divide the class into teams of two or three. Assign one person to be the leader and the other(s) the follower(s). Ask the leader to do a number of physical gestures or facial expressions that the follower(s) are to try to match exactly. After the desired amount of time, have the roles switch so a follower becomes the leader. Continue until everyone has had a chance to be both a follower and a leader.

## 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.



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▷ **Scrambled Beans | Supplies:** A wide assortment of beans, including black, red, kidney, navy, and lentils.

Divide the class into teams. Mix the beans together and divide them into piles for each team. Have teams sort out the beans into their respective categories, and see which team can complete the task first.

God uses all kinds of people to be His disciples.

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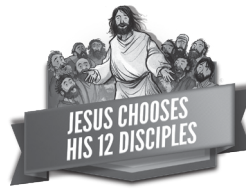
## TAKE HOME

▷ All disciples are Christians, but not all Christians are disciples. Being a disciple is a big commitment that requires us to give our undivided attention to God. The goals of discipleship are to mature in our faith, become more like Jesus, and create new disciples of Christ.

**1. How He acted:** While we may not be able to heal someone just by thinking about them like Jesus, we can pray that ill or injured people experience healing. We can care for the sick and the needy. Another way we can act like Jesus is to love everyone, no matter whether they like us or we like them.

**2. What He knew:** By reading and studying Scripture, we can learn about the wisdom Jesus imparted to His disciples. The disciples recorded this information in the Bible not for their own benefit, but for future readers, like us. Everything Jesus taught to the disciples is important for us to understand and apply to our lives.

**3. Who He was:** Recognizing who Jesus is and how His sacrifice changed the lives of every person is an exciting bit of information we should want to share with everyone. In doing this, we help people to choose Christ. Telling others about Jesus and helping fellow Christians to maintain their walk with Jesus helps to encourage others to be disciples.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



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

**A1:** The Sea of Galilee

**Q1b:** Have you ever been fishing?

**TN:** Anyone who has been fishing recreationally understands the excitement of pulling in a catch. Simon and Andrew were fishermen, meaning that's what they did for a job. So when they pulled in their nets and found that they had caught fish, it wasn't really surprising for them.

### SLIDE 2

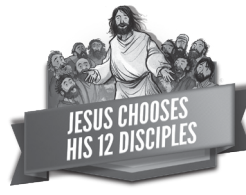


**Q2a:** What did Jesus say he would make Andrew and Simon?

**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.

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### SLIDE 4



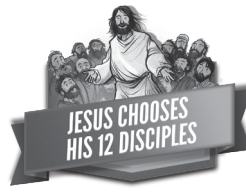
**Q4a:** What did James and John do when Jesus called them?

**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.

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## 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

**Q5b:** If Jesus' mission were to take place today, would He ask the U.S. president or a truck driver to be a disciple?

**TN:** Ask the students to explain their answers. There is no right answer to this question because we can't know the thoughts of Jesus. However, based on His choices during His actual ministry, it seems likely that He would choose a truck driver over the president. Knowing this should not discourage us from trying to do our best at becoming whatever we feel led to be. There is nothing wrong with aspiring to be the president or the boss of a huge company, just as there is nothing wrong with being a truck driver or a fisherman; God can use anyone, in any role, to do amazing things that glorify God.

### SLIDE 6

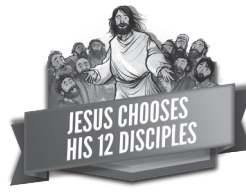


**Q6a:** How many disciples did Jesus choose?

**A6:** Twelve

**Q6b:** What do you want to be when you grow up?

**TN:** Let the students answer. Ask them if they are ready to do this job now. Most of the students will say that they need to learn more about the job and how to do it properly. The same is true for the disciples. Even though Jesus called them to this occupation, they had to learn the job. They weren't called to it and instantly qualified to do it on their own; they had to learn from Jesus and grow stronger in their faith and knowledge of God.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

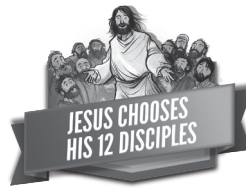
▷ **Matthew 4:19:** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

**BIG IDEA**

▷ With Jesus, the ordinary can be made extraordinary!

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ 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.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



Jesus lived in a town on the shores of a big lake called the Sea of Galilee. It was a fishing village, not a big, famous city—just an ordinary town with ordinary people. Jesus was preparing to take His ministry far beyond these small city borders, but this was where He started. From this village, He would select His first disciples. One day, as Jesus was walking down the shore of the lake, He saw two men in a boat. Like many of the villagers, they were fishermen. They were tossing their nets into the water for a catch of fish. Their names were Simon and Andrew.

### SLIDE 2



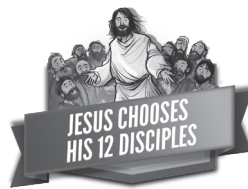
"Come follow me!" Jesus called out to the men. "I will make you fishers of men!" Would they come? Would they really leave their nets, their boat, and maybe the fish they just caught? Didn't they have jobs, goals, or dreams? Yet, without even hesitating, Simon and Andrew got up, left their nets and jobs behind, and followed Jesus.

### SLIDE 3



Then, Jesus, Andrew, and Simon (also called Peter) continued walking along the shoreline. There in the distance, they saw three men in a boat fixing their fishing nets. These men were James, his brother John, and their father, Zebedee.





## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



When Jesus called them, they responded. Immediately, John and James dropped their fishing nets, jumped out of the boat, and left their father Zebedee. Jesus' call was profound and, though they had never met Him, God's power enabled them to respond to His call. These ordinary fishermen were embarking on a journey that would change their lives forever.

### SLIDE 5



Jesus could have called any person of stature or leadership, but instead He called lowly fishermen. He knew that God's power would be greatly displayed in these ordinary men. In a few years, they would become the messengers who spread the Gospel to all the nations of the world, a great task indeed.

### SLIDE 6



In the end, Jesus chose 12 disciples. These men would be scholars, learning from Jesus for the next three years. He would teach them about God, obedience, and love. He would explain to them why His coming was so important. Many times they did not understand Jesus' lessons, and often they displayed weak faith, but as time progressed, these men would grow stronger in their knowledge of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they would become mighty teachers, performing great signs and wonders. Their sole aim would be to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, crucified and resurrected. The names of the 12 disciples were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas.