

Bible Story 31: JESUS CALLS HIS TWELVE APOSTLES

SCRIPTURE: Calls Twelve Apostles Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16
 Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:1-16,43-44
 Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-15,25-34; 7:7-8

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:16

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus went one evening on a mountainside and spent all night praying to God. The next morning, Jesus chose from His disciples twelve men to be His apostles. Jesus chose **Simon Peter** and his brother **Andrew**, **James** and his brother **John**, **Philip**, **Bartholomeu**, **Matthew**, **Thomas**, **James** the son of Alphaeus, **Thaddaeus**, **Simon** the Zealot and **Judas Iscariot**.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES (Disciples)				
NAME	FAMILY / OTHER NAME	PRIOR WORK	FACTS	WROTE
Simon Peter	- Andrew's brother	- Fisherman	- Jesus gave name of Cephas, meaning Peter, Rock	- 1 & 2 Peter
Andrew	- Simon Peter's brother	- Fisherman	- Took Peter to meet Jesus - Former disciple of John the Baptist	
James Son of Zebedee	- Son of Zebedee - John's brother	- Fisherman	- Jesus called him "Son of Thunder"	
John	- Son of Zebedee - James' brother	- Fisherman	- Jesus called him "Son of Thunder" - Became known as the beloved apostle	- Gospel of John - 1, 2 & 3 John - Revelation
Philip			- Took Nathanael (Bartholomeu) to see Jesus - Former disciple of John the Baptist	
Bartholomeu	- Known as Nathanael		- An Israelite	
Matthew	- Known as Levi	- Tax collector		- Gospel of Matthew
Thomas	- Known as Didymus, the Twin		- Later known as doubting Thomas	
James Son of Alphaeus	- Son of Alphaeus			
Thaddaeus	- Known as Judas, son of James			
Simon the Zealot	- The Zealot; a member of a resistance group against Roman government			
Judas Iscariot			- Treasurer of the disciples - Betrayed Jesus	

One day a crowd was around Jesus and He took His disciples to a mountainside to teach them. The crowd followed and listened as Jesus taught (*what is known today as the Sermon on the Mount*).

Jesus said that blessed are those who mourn, because God will comfort them; blessed are those who are thirsty to know more about God, because they will be filled; blessed are the merciful because God will show them mercy; blessed are those who are peacemakers because God will call them His sons.

Jesus said that they were to be like light in the world, shining for God.

Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law and not to destroy it.

Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Then Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer saying, ***"Our heavenly Father, hallowed is Your name. May Your kingdom come and will be done on earth, as Your will is done in heaven. May You give us each day our daily bread. May our debts be forgiven by You, just as we forgive our debtors. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us. The kingdom, glory and power are Yours, Father, forever. Amen."***

Jesus said to not worry, but first seek His kingdom and His righteousness. Ask, seek and knock.

The crowds were amazed at Jesus' teaching.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus prayed all night before choosing His apostles. Pray to God, especially when you have important decisions to make. God will give you guidance.
2. Jesus chose 12 men to be His apostles. Jesus would train them to go out to teach and preach the gospel. Jesus calls people today to teach and preach. Be willing to follow Jesus' will for your life.
3. Jesus said not to worry. Take your worries and concerns to Jesus in prayer, asking, seeking and knocking. Do your part to help resolve the problem and trust God to help you through the difficult situation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do the night before choosing His apostles? Why?
2. Name the 12 apostles that Jesus chose. Tell something about each apostle.
3. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle? (*Disciple means student; Jesus had many disciples. At this time, Jesus only chose these 12 men to be His apostles. An apostle means "sent out with a special message of the gospel." In the Bible, these 12 apostles were also referred to as His disciples.*)
4. Does God call people to serve Him today? Give some examples.
5. How can we follow and help the Lord today?
6. On the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Be the light of the world." What does this mean?
7. How can we be the "light of the world" today?
8. Jesus taught how to pray. What are some things that Jesus said in His prayer?
9. Who can pray to God? Is it important to pray? Why? Who listens to us when we pray?
10. What are some things you would like us to pray for today? Now take time to pray for these requests.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Option: Tell the Bible story in candle light. (*Be careful if young children are present; use flashlights instead of candles.*)
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- If it is possible, talk about the Life Lessons and/or ask questions for discussion.

CANDLES:

- Option 1: Visit a candle store and watch them make candles.
 - Option 2: Make your own candles. (Option: Invite someone who knows how to make candles to come and help you make candles.) Afterwards you can discuss the importance of light and how they can be light, shining for Jesus.
 - Option 3: Buy several candles and let each one choose which one they want to keep for a reminder of the story.
- Warning:** Do not allow young children to play with candles by themselves. Use small flashlights instead of candles.

SAYING THANK YOU:

- Write a thank you card and/or make special treats (cookies, candy, etc.) for your church leaders and staff. Afterwards go and thank the leaders and staff for their help, giving them their treats.

GAME: "MEMORY"

- Make two sets of cards with the disciples names on them.
- Game: Mix up the cards with the words face down. One person turns over two cards. If they are the same name (Andrew/Andrew), then he keeps the cards. If they do not match, turn the cards face down and the next person plays. The person with the most cards wins.

MISSION ACTIVITY: "SPECIAL THANKS"

- Option 1: Invite a church leader or staff member and their family to come to your home for a meal. This gives you the opportunity to get to know them more personally as well as to show your appreciation for what they do.
- Option 2: Give a gift card to eat at a restaurant to a leader(s) in the church that has blessed you. (If they have small children, watch their children as they go out to eat.)

MEMORIZE: "THE LORD'S PRAYER"

- Memorize the Lord's Prayer, using your version of the Bible (Matthew 6:9-13).

DAILY BIBLE READING - *Matthew 5:1-16,43-44; 6:9-15,25-34; 7:7-8; Mark 3.13-19; Luke 6.12-16*

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Mark 3:13-19	Luke 6:12-16	Matthew 5:1-16	Matthew 5:43-44	Matthew 6:9-15	Matthew 6:25-34	Matthew 7:7-8