

Twelve Things to Remember about the Apostles



New Testament 3
Part 1: The Apostles

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-42; Mark 3:16-20; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:13

MEMORY WORK:

The names of the original 12 apostles (Matthew 10:2-4)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Follow Me”](#)
- [“The Apostles”](#)
- [“Jesus Called Four Fishermen”](#)
- [“The Four Fishermen”](#)
- [“Jesus Chose His Twelve Apostles”](#)
- [“Jesus Called Them One by One”](#)
- [“Jesus Calls Us, Too”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Ministry of Jesus flannel graph
- Boyhood and Early Ministry of Jesus picture set from A Beka (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note on card CB 3.5, angels were male humans without wings when they appeared to humans in the Bible)
- [Print and cut out large letters that spell APOSTLES](#) and put the provided information that goes with each letter on the back of each letter (provided in activity sheets; print front and back or manually copy front and back).
- Print and cut out large numbers (1-12; provided in activity sheets), and put the provided information that goes with each number on the back of the letter (“[12 Things to Remember about the Apostles](#)” provided in activity sheets; print front and back or manually copy front and back)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to tell others about Jesus, just as He wanted the apostles to do.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Over the last few weeks we have been studying about how the Israelites conquered the Promised Land under the leadership of the great man of faith, Joshua. Now we are going to study the New Testament for awhile. Today, we are going to learn about how Jesus picked 12 special helpers. We can be followers of Jesus when we do the things that Jesus would want us to do. We always want to try very hard to be more like Jesus, because He is our perfect example!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson and explain that we will now be spending a few weeks in the New Testament before returning to the Old Testament.

While Jesus was on Earth, He chose 12 men to be His "special helpers." Jesus spent extra time with these men, not just because He wanted their help, but because He was preparing them to teach others once He was gone.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus began teaching, preaching, and doing miracles when He was about 30 years old. His work on Earth (His ministry) lasted about three years. Jesus knew that His time on Earth would not be long: that He only had a short time before His death and return to Heaven. So He chose 12 men to teach, train, and prepare to carry on His work. These men were sometimes called "disciples," like others who followed Him. These chosen few, however, were also specifically called "**apostles**."

Apostle: chosen messenger; one sent (to preach and teach a special message). Apostles were to be witnesses of the many important things that happened during Jesus' ministry, as well as witnesses of His death and resurrection (Acts 1:21-22). [The term "apostle" is also applied to men like Barnabas who were chosen for special tasks in the early Church (Acts 13:3).]

The original 12 apostles are listed four times in the New Testament: Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16; and Acts 1:13. In each list, Simon Peter's name is given first, and Judas Iscariot's name is last—except in Acts 1:13 where his name isn't listed at all since he was dead at that time.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[The Calling of the Apostles](#)" by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the question, did Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to the same calling of Peter, Andrew, James, and John?

2. Acts 1:23-26 tells us that Matthias was chosen as an apostle to take Judas' place. Then several years later, Saul of Tarsus was chosen by God to share the Gospel with (be an apostle to) the Gentiles; his name was eventually changed to Paul (Romans 1:1; Acts 9,22,26; 13:9; 1 Corinthians 9:1).
3. Jesus chose 12 ordinary men from very different backgrounds, with different personalities, to be His special helpers. Most of them had little or no education. One was a tax collector for the Roman government and would have been at terrible odds (under other circumstances) with Simon the Zealot, who was probably a political activist/terrorist fighting against the Romans. Four apostles were simple fishermen. Jesus knew their hearts and knew what they had the **potential** to do. They became close friends with each other and with Jesus, spending all day, everyday with the Son of God. They often struggled with their faith and made mistakes. And they didn't fully understand what they were expected to do for the Lord—until Pentecost.
4. **OLDER CHILDREN:** Jesus knows what each of us has the potential to do. He expects us to use opportunities and our God-given talents to teach others about Him, just as the apostles did. We can't be with Jesus in person everyday like the apostles could. But we can prepare/train ourselves by (a) studying His life and His words in the Bible, and (b) following the examples of the apostles as they spread the Gospel. The apostles knew they couldn't say, "I just don't know enough," or "I'm afraid to say anything about Jesus," or "What if others make fun of me?" [The kids should be reminded that the apostles, as well as other Christians, weren't afraid of being teased; they had every reason to be afraid of being killed.] The Lord was counting on them, and He's counting on us, too.
5. **OLDER CHILDREN:** In addition to teaching and preaching, Jesus gave the apostles power to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons (evil spirits) in His name (by His authority). There are no apostles today because there are no eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry, death, or resurrection. Their unique ability to perform miracles could be passed on to others on whom they laid their hands. (The ones to whom the apostles gave these gifts did not have the ability to pass those gifts on to others—Acts 8:17-19.) But when the apostles and those to whom they had passed on these gifts were all dead, miracles ceased. **No one** has the ability to perform miracles, raise the dead, or cast out evil spirits today.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE APOSTLES

(Teachers of younger children may want to choose basic information about the apostles to share with their students. For instance, for Peter, tell the students he was a fisherman.)

Simon or Peter: "Cephas" is the Aramaic nickname given to him by Jesus. "Peter" and "Cephas" both mean "rock." He was also called "Simon Bar-Jonah" which means "Simon, son of Jonah" [or John]. Peter and his brother, Andrew, were originally from Bethsaida, but moved to Capernaum and were fishermen, in partnership with James and John. He preached the first Gospel sermon to the Jews (Acts 2) and to the Gentiles (Acts 10). He was a central figure in the book of Acts through chapter 12. He was an elder in the first-century Church and wrote two New Testament books. According to tradition, he was crucified upside down.

Andrew: He was a disciple of John the Baptizer. He brought his brother to Jesus. Andrew also brought a young boy with five loaves and two fish to Jesus. According to tradition, he carried the Gospel into what is now Greece and was strapped to an X-shaped cross for two days before he died.

James: He was the only apostle whose death is recorded in Scripture (Acts 12:1-3). He was a leader in the first-century Church. James and John were called "sons of thunder" (*boanerges*). (He is not the James that wrote the book of James.)

John: He was known as "the apostle (or "the disciple") whom Jesus loved." John was chosen to

prepare the last Passover meal for the Lord. He was the only apostle that is said to have actually seen Jesus' crucifixion—and possibly His trial. John was asked by Jesus to take care of His mother, Mary, after His death. He visited the empty tomb with Peter and was the first to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead before seeing Him (John 20). He traveled with Peter through Acts 12 and may have been an elder of the Church (2 John 1; 3 John 1). He was exiled to Patmos (an island off the west coast of modern-day Turkey). Traditionally, John is thought to be the only apostle that died of natural causes. He wrote five N.T. books.

Philip: His name is Greek, although he probably had a Jewish name, too. He may have been half-Jew, like Timothy. (He is not the same Philip of Acts 6.) Philip was from Bethsaida, like Peter and Andrew. He brought Nathanael to Jesus, and was a disciple of John the Baptizer before following Jesus. According to tradition, he was stoned to death in Asia Minor eight years after James was beheaded.

Matthew: He is also called Levi, the son of Alphaeus. He was a tax collector (publican). He had a great feast for Jesus after leaving his job. His first thought was to introduce his friends and family to Jesus. As a tax collector, he would have been forbidden from worshipping in synagogue. According to tradition, he was martyred.

James, son of Alphaeus: It is unclear if he and Matthew were related, even though both were said to be sons of Alphaeus. He was also called James the Less, which may refer to his stature, his young age, or his influence among other apostles. His mother was another Mary (Mark 15:40; 16:1). (He was not the James that wrote the book of James.)

Simon the Zealot: He was also called Simon the Canaanite (not a reference to Canaan or Cana). From the Hebrew word *qanna* = to be zealous. The Zealots were a political group—militant terrorists, considered “outlaws” by many. Zealots were passionate about their cause, loyal to one another, and courageous. According to tradition, Simon preached in the British Isles.

Nathanael: He was also called Bartholomew (i.e., son of Tolmai). He was from Cana, a nearby rival of Nazareth, and was called “an Israelite in whom is no guile (deceit)” by Jesus (John 1:47). According to tradition, he took the Gospel to Persia, India, and beyond, and was eventually martyred.

Thomas: He was also called Didymus (i.e., the twin). He is known most for his expression of doubt after Jesus' death. According to tradition, he carried the Gospel to India where he was martyred.

Judas, son of James: He was also called “Judas, not Iscariot” (John 14:22), and Lebbaeus or Thaddeus (Matthew 10:3). His words are recorded only once (John 14:22). According to tradition, he went into modern Turkey to preach and was clubbed to death.

Judas Iscariot: He was initially trusted by the other apostles and was allowed to carry the money they had as a group. He chose to follow Jesus, even when times were hard, but he **became** a greedy hypocrite. “Iscariot” refers to his hometown (“is” from “ish” = Hebrew for “man”; “cariot” for “Kerioth”). He hanged himself after betraying Jesus.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Are There Modern-Day Apostles?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the contention that apostles still exist today.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus Teaches His Apostles Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bible Bowling with clues about the apostles
- Let kids help make a mural or bulletin board by coloring black and white illustrations of the apostles (enlarged to at least 8 x 14 inches) from a Bible story coloring book or CD of Bible art.
- Play “Go Fish” using the apostles’ names.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Apostles Arithmetic Worksheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Facts about the Apostles Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Egg Carton Game: Write clues about each apostle on small slips of paper (without the name of the apostles) and attach them on the inside, bottom of each empty egg slot. Put a marble in the carton, close it, and shake the carton. From whichever slot the marble lands, have a student read the slip of paper and answer which apostle belongs with the clue (repeat).
- Let kids help make a mural or bulletin board by coloring black and white illustrations of the apostles (enlarged to at least 8 x 14 inches) from a Bible story coloring book or CD of Bible art.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Write the names of apostles on game cards. Let the kids take turns drawing cards, telling something he/she remembers about the apostle named on the card drawn.
- “[Apostles Arithmetic Worksheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Facts about the Apostles Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Students can make a bulletin board with the names of the apostles and information about each one.
- Read the following:
 - *Twelve Who Followed Jesus* Arch Book
 - *The Story of Jesus and His Disciples*, Alice in Bibleland Storybook, Davidson (DISCLAIMER: some believe that one should only pray to the Father)

FINGERPLAY:

“FOLLOW ME”

Once when Jesus was walking, (make walking movement with feet)
By the shining sea, (make wave motions with hands)
He called out to four fishermen saying, (cup hands around mouth)
“Come and follow Me.”
So they left their fishing nets, (make a dropping motion)
And followed, one by one. (count the four on your fingers)
They followed Jesus everywhere, (make walking movement again)
Because He is God’s Son.

SONGS:

“THE APOSTLES”

Author: Jeff Miller
(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

Peter and Andrew his brother;
James and John of Zebedee;
Philip and Bartholomew,
and then Thomas and Matthew.

James the son of Alpheus,
And also, there was Thaddeus,
Simon, and Judas Iscariot,
Paul and Matthias

“JESUS CALLED FOUR FISHERMEN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: “We’re Marching to Zion”)

“Come ye and follow me!” James and John were told.
They left their father, Zebedee, for Jesus said, “Come follow Me.”
Their lives He then could mold, their lives He then could mold.

“Come ye and follow me!” two fishermen were told.
I’ll make you fishers of men, I’ll make of you fishers of men.”
Andrew and Peter were told, Andrew and Peter were told.

CHORUS:

They worked then for Jesus,
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
They left their nets and followed,
The wonderful Son of our God.

“THE FOUR FISHERMEN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author Unknown*
(Tune: “Mulberry Bush”)

This is the way we load our boats, load our boats, load our boats;
This is the way we load our boats, every day we go fishing.

This is the way we push from shore, push from shore, push from shore.
This is the way we push from shore, every day we go fishing.

This is the way we row our boats, etc.

This is the way we drop our nets, etc.

This is the way we pull our nets, etc.

This is the way we row back home, etc.

“JESUS CHOSE HIS TWELVE APOSTLES” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: Chorus of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

Jesus called the 12 to teach the Gospel everywhere,
Jesus called the 12 to teach the Gospel everywhere,
Jesus called the 12 to teach the Gospel everywhere,
And all but one obeyed.

CHORUS:

Jesus loved the 12 apostles.
Jesus loved the 12 apostles.
Jesus loved the 12 apostles.
They helped to spread God’s Word.

You and I can teach the Gospel to neighbors and friends.
You and I can teach the Gospel to neighbors and friends.
You and I can teach the Gospel to neighbors and friends,
And share with them God’s love.

2nd CHORUS:

God wants us to use our talents.
God wants us to use our talents.
God wants us to use our talents.
We can help to spread God’s Word.

“JESUS CALLED THEM ONE BY ONE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next came Philip, Thomas, too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

CHORUS:

Yes, Jesus called them, (3X)
And they all followed Him.

James the one they called the Less,
Simon, also Thaddeus;
Twelve apostles Judas made;
Jesus was by him betrayed.

(CHORUS)

Matthias then took Judas' place,
To preach to men of every race.
Paul three preaching trips did make,
And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

(CHORUS)

“I CAN BE A FOLLOWER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

I can be a follower, follower, follower.
I can be a follower of my Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Child's Name) can be a follower, follower, follower.
(Child's Name) can be a follower of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(REPEAT, using all the children's names.)

“JESUS CALLS US, TOO” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune of “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

There were Twelve Disciples Jesus called to help him.
Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,
Phillip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.

CHORUS:

Jesus calls us, too. Jesus calls us, too.
We are his disciples. Jesus calls us, too.
Jesus calls us, too. Jesus calls us, too.
We are his disciples. Jesus calls us, too.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Twelve Things to Remember about the Apostles



New Testament 3
Part 1: The Apostles

WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-42; Mark 3:16-20; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:13

MEMORY WORK:

The names of the original 12 apostles (Matthew 10:2-4)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- [Print and cut out large letters that spell APOSTLES](#) and put the provided information that goes with each letter on the back of each letter (provided in activity sheets; print front and back or manually copy front and back).
- Print and cut out large numbers (1-12; provided in activity sheets), and put the provided information that goes with each number on the back of the letter ("[12](#)



Things to Remember about the Apostles” provided in activity sheets; print front and back or manually copy front and back)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to tell others about Jesus, just as He wanted the apostles to do.

INTRODUCTION:

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Spend time helping students remember something about each apostle.
3. Talk with students about the fact that these apostles were just men. They made mistakes and had flaws, but Jesus saw what was good in them and knew they could do great work in spreading the Gospel. We each have flaws and make lots of mistakes, but God can/will still use us to spread the Gospel and teach others about Jesus.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday’s lesson
- YOUNGER CHILDREN: Let kids make toilet tissue roll dolls or stick puppets of the apostles. **Or** let them continue coloring the mural described in Sunday’s lesson. As time allows, continue these activities on Wednesday nights throughout this series on the apostles.

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