

*Get Ready!*

## He Chose Twelve

By: Julie Gallagher

### Text

Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-19, John 1:35-47

### Key Quest Verse

Jesus called those He wanted and they came to Him. Mark 3:13

### Bible Background

For some reason, God, in Jesus, chooses to tell others about Himself through us. After being baptized and tempted in the desert, Jesus began preaching. He then chose 12 special men to train so that they could carry on the work of the church. In Rev. 21, John sees a vision of the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. He describes the city in great detail, but one thing that stands out is the number 12. There are 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on them. There are also 12 foundation stones where the 12 disciples' names are written. These men will FOREVER be remembered. These men were ordinary people just like all of us, doing common things in that day, when Jesus said, "Follow me." I wonder, was it his tone of voice? Had they heard him speak before and expressed an interest in following him? Or did God say to Jesus, "Now, look to your right. Yes, right there. You could really use him." Just like God chose humble circumstances for Jesus to be born, Jesus chose everyday men to spread His word; fishermen, tax collectors, "Sons of Thunder" (modern day tattooed Harley riders?). I guess we can ask Jesus someday what the qualifications were in choosing these 12 men but you can bet he took his time, prayed diligently about and for each man and he spent lots of time with them, changing their hearts, above everything else, to love others.

The disciples names are listed a few times in scripture but I chose the place in Acts because it tells of the replacement for Judas. The names listed are, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot. Judas was replaced by Matthias. Other sites are Matt. 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19 and Luke 6:13-16.

*Get Ready!*

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**Lesson Quest**

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** Jesus chose 12 ordinary men to be with him and to carry on his work

**Feel:** Glad that Jesus can use me as his helper, too

**Do:** Act so that others around me will be attracted to Jesus

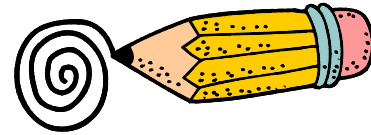
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**Leader's Devotion**

Have you ever really taken a good look at the disciples Jesus chose to carry on His work? It was quite a crew! He chose ordinary people who ranged from uneducated fisherman to a despised tax collector to a passionate Zealot. Mark 3:13 tells us that “he called to him those he wanted.” His choices show us that He can use us all to do His work. We are all called to follow Christ. He wants each and every one of us. We don’t have to be trained preachers or rich or intelligent, just hard workers willing to follow Him. Are you willing to drop everything, as the disciples did, and follow Him with your whole heart? Pray this week that the Lord would draw you unto Himself and help you to follow wholeheartedly.

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Get Set!



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**Option A**

**Materials:** “What’s Your Talent” worksheet, pencils

**What kinds of things are you good at? These things are called you talents. How well do you think you know each other? I’m going to give you a few minutes to find out about each others’ talents. Talk to each other and find someone to sign each of the boxes on your paper. Allow the children several minutes to complete the exercise. Did you learn something new about each other? How about yourself? We all have different talents, just like the men in our story today.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

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**Option B**

**Materials:** “WANTED” from Resource page attached to a bulletin board or wall, 3x5 cards, pencils or markers

**Procedure: Have you ever seen a Wanted poster? Usually Wanted posters are for criminals who are wanted for doing something wrong. Today we’re going to think of characteristics that Jesus might have wanted in a disciple or helper. What kinds of people do you think Jesus wanted? Help children write or draw their ideas on the index cards and attach to the bulletin board or wall. Any answers will do. Help the children brainstorm. The answers don’t necessarily have to be correct. Some they might think of - smart, popular, kind, brave . . . . What do you think about these traits? Which of these qualities are you like?**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



### Bible Story

**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**Materials:** None

Explain to the children that they will be participating in the story. Whenever you say “Jesus” they’ll say “Follow me,” and bring their open hand into chest. Whenever you say “fish” they’ll say, “Wiggle, wiggle, swish, swish,” while wiggling like a fish. Whenever you say “Peter”, they’ll say, “The Rock” and pound a fist into their open hand. Whenever you say “James and John,” they’ll say, “Sons of Thunder” using a deep voice like thunder. Practice these with the class before telling the story.

At the end of the lesson, have the class help come up with ideas of motions or phrases for each of the disciples. Use these for reviewing the story on the second week. Some suggestions: Matthew - “Your taxes please.” Thomas - “I don’t believe it”, Judas - “Show me the money”. We don’t know much about some of the disciples, but see what kinds of things you can come up with together to help remember them.

**After Jesus (Follow me) was baptized He started traveling around telling people about God. One day He walked by some fisherman (wiggle, wiggle, swish, swish) named Simon, Andrew - who were brothers - and James, and John (Sons of Thunder) -who were also brothers. “Follow me,” He said to them, “and I will make you fishers (wiggle, wiggle, swish, swish) of men. Right away they left their nets and their boats and followed Jesus (Follow me). These men were the first disciples that Jesus picked. In fact Jesus even gave Simon a new name - Peter (the Rock) which means “the Rock”. Peter (the Rock) became the leader of the disciples. Peter (the Rock) along with James and John (Sons of Thunder) were Jesus’ three best friends.**

**Another day Jesus (Follow me) was walking beside the lake and He saw Matthew who was a tax collector. Most people didn’t like tax collectors at all because they cheated them and stole money. Jesus (Follow me) was different. He walked right up to him and said, “Follow me” and Matthew did.**

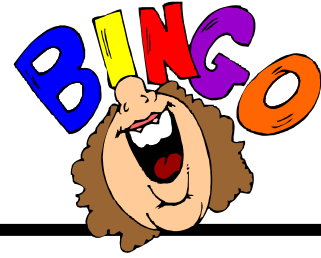
**Get Set!****Bible Story**

Jesus (Follow me) decided to travel some more. He saw Philip and said, “Follow me.” Philip went right away and told his friend, Bartholomew (or Nathaniel) about Jesus (Follow me). Bartholomew didn’t believe him, but he went with Bartholomew to see. As he was coming, Jesus (Follow me) says “Here is a true Israelite.” Bartholomew was surprised that Jesus (Follow me) knew about him and he followed him.

Jesus (Follow me) chose five more disciples. One was Thomas, whom we might know as “Doubting Thomas.” He had to see things to believe them. Another was known as Simon the Zealot. There was one named Thaddeus. There was a second James who was the son of Alphaeus. He was sometimes called James the less (maybe because he was shorter than the other James??). The last of the disciples was Judas. He was in charge of the money for Jesus (Follow me) and all of the disciples. He did a bad thing and betrayed Jesus for money.

Do you see anything that these men had in common? They were ordinary people who left what they were doing to follow Jesus. Did you notice that Jesus chose all kinds of different people? They could use their talents together and do great things. Jesus chose these disciples to spend time with Him and to learn from Him. He also chose them to do His work after He went to heaven. He gave them His power to continue teaching what He’s told them. He used regular people to do great things. Isn’t that great to know?

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**Go!**

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**Bingo****GAME**

**Materials:** Bingo resource page, pencils, list of disciples, names of disciples written on small pieces of paper (to call the names), Fruit Loops or Cheerios for markers

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**Quest Connection**

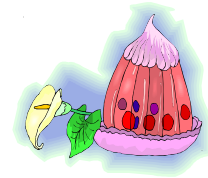
**Can anyone tell me how many disciples Jesus called? We're going to play a game to help us remember their names.**

**Procedure:** Let the children help list the names of the disciples in a visible place. Have the children write the name of a disciple in each square. The children place the markers as the teacher calls the names. You might let the winner be the next caller.

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**Close**

**That was a fun way to learn the names of the disciples. Does anyone think that they could name all of the twelve followers?**

**Go!****Fishers of Men****FOOD**

**Materials:** Blue Jell-o, gummy fish or dolphins

**Quest Connection**

Does anyone remember which of the disciples were fishermen? What did Jesus tell them that they would become? Fishers of men. Why do you think they left their nets to follow Jesus? What do you think you would do if Jesus asked you to follow Him? Since Jesus wants us to be fishers of men, we're going to have a fishy snack today.

**Procedure:** Before class prepare the blue Jell-o. Place it either in a glass dish or individual clear cups. Put gummy fish into the Jell-o before it hardens.

**Close**

I hope you enjoyed your snack. Let's think about ways that we can be fishers of men.

**Go!****He Has Called Us**

## MUSIC

**Materials:** Write the following lyrics on a board or make a copy for each student.

“Twelve Disciples”  
sung to the tune of “Bringing in the Sheaves”

There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help Him,  
Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,  
Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alpheus,  
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.

Chorus:

He has called us, too. He has called us, too.  
To be His disciples and His work to do.  
He has called us, too. He has called us, too.  
To be His disciples. I am one. Are You?

**Quest Connection**

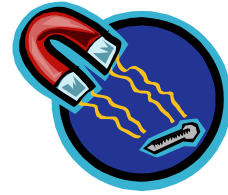
**Does anyone think they can name all of the disciples? It’s kind of a hard thing to do. Sometimes when we can sing the names we remember them better. This song also says something about us. Listen and see what it says about us.**

**Procedure:** Teach the song and practice it a few times. This would also be a good one to sing for or with the rest of the church.

**Close**

**What did the song say about us? He has called us to be His disciples and to do His work. Dear God, Help us to live like disciples and to do Your work. Amen**



**Go!****What A Draw!****SCIENCE**

**Materials:** Different size magnets, metal objects such as paper clips, safety pins, hair pins, keys, etc., paper plate,

**Quest Connection**

Start by experimenting with the magnets. **Did you see how much power the magnet had to attract metal to it? Some of those magnets were pretty powerful weren't they? Jesus had the same kind of attraction. People were drawn to Him to hear Him speak or to be healed. The twelve disciples were attracted to Him and left everything behind to follow Him. When we're attracted to Jesus we turn to Him and also away from other things. The paper clips went right to the magnet. There was nothing keeping them away. That's the way that Jesus wants us to be. He wants us to leave other things behind and follow Him. When we're drawn to Jesus we should have Jesus in us so that others will see us and be drawn to Him.**

**Procedure:** Show the children how different magnets have different pulls or attractions. Guess how many paper clips you can hang end-to-end from a magnet. See if the magnet still has pull even through a piece of paper or paper plate. Discuss the amount of attraction that the magnet has.

**Close**

**Dear God, Help me to leave everything behind and follow You. Help me to be the kind of person that will help attract others to You.**

**Go!****Jesus Wants****GAME**

**Materials:** chairs (one less chair than there are children)

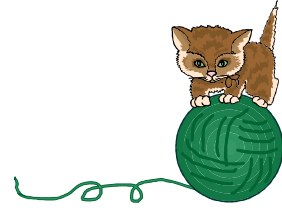
**Quest Connection**

**What kind of people do you think that Jesus is looking for to be His followers? What are some of the different kinds of people that Jesus chose as His disciples?** fishermen, tax collector, doubter. **Did you notice that He chose different kinds of people? They were all ordinary people. They weren't the smartest or the most popular, but they were willing to follow Him. Today Jesus is looking for people like each one of you.**

**Procedure:** This game is played like musical chairs without the music. Start the game with the children seated in the chairs and the extra person (you) in the middle. Let them know that the person in the middle will be saying something like Jesus wants someone wearing blue to be His disciple. Then everyone wearing blue must get up and find another chair while the person in the middle is also trying to get a chair. The person left without a chair becomes the next person in the middle and says Jesus wants someone \_\_\_\_\_ to be His disciple.

**Close**

**You see, Jesus wants us all to follow Him and help Him do His work. Let's try this week to follow Jesus.**

**Go!****String Art****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Metal coat hangers bent into shape of the Christian fish (see below), string or yarn, spray starch or hair spray

**Quest Connection**

When Jesus called his disciples he told them that they would be fishers of men. In fact early Christians had a secret symbol in the shape of a fish. We're going to make our own fish net to help us remember to be fishers of men for Jesus.

**Procedure:** Before class prepare the hangers in the following way: Using a pair of pliers untwist the top of the hanger and straighten it out. Pull the two ends together to find the center. Twist the ends together leaving 3-4 inches to form the tail. Tie one end of the string to the hanger. Let the children wrap the string around and across the hanger to make a net. Tie other end of string to hanger. After the net is formed, spray the string with spray starch.

**Close**

When you look at your net remember that Jesus wants us to be fishers of men.

## Find and circle the names of the twelve disciples

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

Andrew

Bartholomew

James

James the less

John

Judas

Matthew

Peter

Philip

Simon

Thaddeus

Thomas

# WHO AM I???

Guess the name of the disciple  
using the description given.

I'm one of the "Sons of Thunder". My brother, James and I were fishermen before we followed Jesus. I'm also called "the one that Jesus loved."  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

I was a zealot. I was also in charge of the money. I did an awful thing and betrayed my master, Jesus, for money.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am the disciple known as the "Doubter". After Jesus rose from the dead I wanted to touch his wounds to believe it was him.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus gave me a new name that means "The Rock." I became the leader of the disciples. I also walked on water with Jesus.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

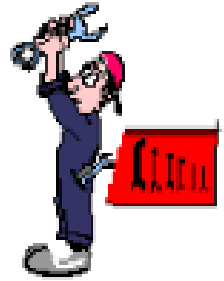
I was a tax collector. I was really surprised that Jesus would choose me to follow him. I wrote the first book of the New Testament.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am the other "Son of Thunder". My brother, John, and I left our nets when Jesus told us to follow him. There was another disciple with the same name as me.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_

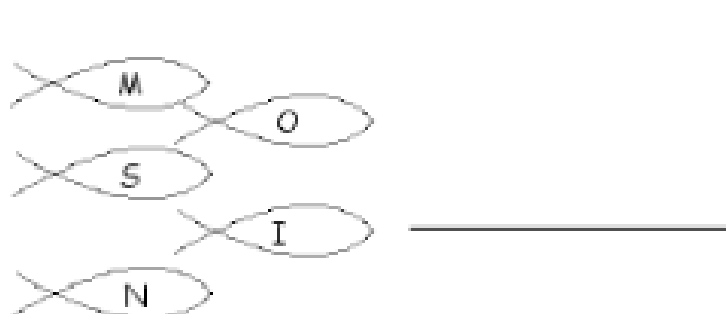
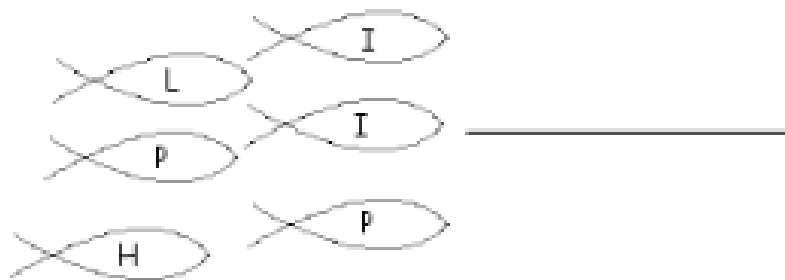
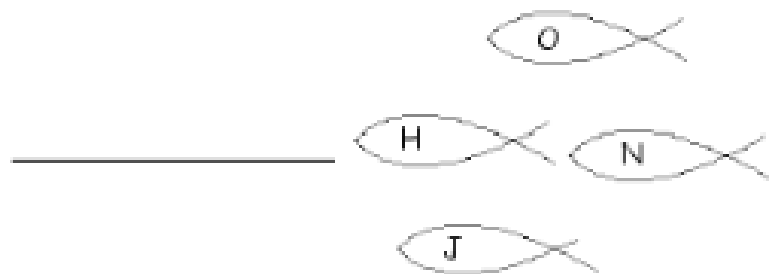
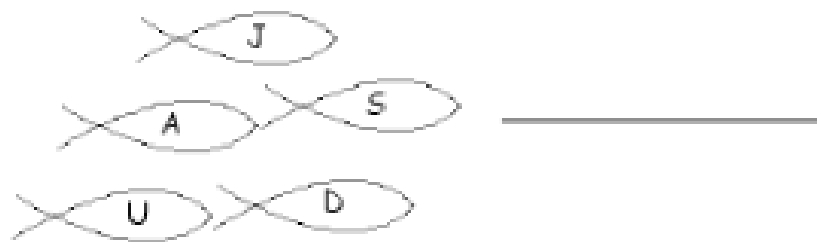
I took my brother, Peter, to see Jesus. I was a fisherman. I left my nets to follow Jesus and became a Fisher of Men.  
Who am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_



God has given you some special talents. Draw or write about how you will use your talents for God.



**Unscramble the letters in each group of fish to spell one of Jesus' disciple's names.**







# WHAT'S YOUR TALENT?

FIND SOMEONE IN THE CLASS TO SIGN NEXT TO HIS TALENT

GOOD AT COMPUTERS \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES TO BABYSIT \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT VIDEO GAMES \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES TO DRAW \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES TO COOK \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT SCIENCE \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT SOCCER \_\_\_\_\_

ENCOURAGES OTHERS \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT BASEBALL \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES TO SING \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT MATH \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD AT READING \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYS AN INSTRUMENT \_\_\_\_\_

# BINGO

RESOURCE PAGE
