#### Lesson 6:

#### Jesus Chooses 12 Apostles

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Matthew 10:1-15; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16

MEMORY WORK:

Bible Skills 1-6

John 3:16

The 12 Apostles

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus chose 12 men to be special helpers and teachers. I can be a special helper for Jesus too.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus spent His “growing up” years getting ready for what God wanted Him to do. After He was baptized and tempted by the devil, He was ready to begin His work. He chose 12 men who would be His helpers

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**
2. Great crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. Many wanted to be healed of diseases. Many wanted to see what miracles He would perform. Many wanted to hear what He had to say; some believed and some did not. Those who wanted to listen and learn were called disciples. Jesus knew that He would not be on Earth for much longer, so He needed men who would continue His work after He was gone.

**Disciple:** Someone who wants to be a follower of a certain teacher. A disciple is one who wants to learn all he or she can from that special teacher.

**Apostle:** A man who was chosen by Jesus to be a special preacher, sharing the good news (the Gospel) about the Savior with others; literally “one sent forth.” All the apostles were at one time disciples of Jesus, but not all His disciples were apostles. There were originally 12 apostles, but later Paul (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 15:8-9; Galatians 1:1) and Matthias (Acts 1:26) were also given that title of distinction. There are **no** apostles today since they already served the purpose Jesus intended for them.

1. One day, after spending many hours teaching and helping the multitudes who followed Him, He told His followers, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37). Then He went up on a nearby mountain and spent the entire night praying, most likely concerning those who would be the best apostles. Jesus knew that from many followers (disciples) He would need to choose a few good men who would be great preachers—and leaders of the church later.
2. Jesus called 12 of His followers up to the mountain where He had been praying and told them that they were the ones He had chosen to be special messengers. They would be able to heal the sick and do other miracles to prove that what they were preaching was from God.

**NOTE:** Jesus’ selection of the 12 apostles might have occurred at least a year after He began His public ministry. He had previously called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be disciples (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11), as well as Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-14; Luke 5:27-32), Philip, and Nathanael (John 1:43-51).

1. These 12 men spent more time than anyone else with Jesus. Each day they listened and learned from Him. They were able to do great things in His name. They were eyewitnesses to His ministry, His death, and His resurrection. But they were not perfect men. They still had times when their faith was weak, when they were afraid, and times when they struggled to make good choices. Yet Jesus knew they all had great potential; He knew what they could do and what they could become. They were ordinary men with different personalities and occupations and backgrounds and abilities who later did extraordinary things for the Lord.
2. Since God made each of us, He knows better than anyone else what our talents are. He knows that as we grow older, we will be able to do different things, and He expects us to use our talents and opportunities. There may be times when we think that we just can’t do something, but we must try. As a little boy or girl, we learned to tie our shoes, dress ourselves, etc. It was hard, but we learned. As we get older, there are other things that we can and must learn to do.
3. We must also remember that there are no “ordinary” people to God. We are all different, but He made each of us special—just like the apostles. Four of the apostles (Peter, Andrew, James, and John) were fishermen. One (Matthew) was a tax collector. One (Simon the Zealot) was probably part of what we would consider a terrorist group trying to overthrow the Roman government in Palestine. But they loved Jesus so much that they were willing to do things they never thought they could before.

**MORE ABOUT THE 12 APOSTLES:**

* Simon Peter (also called Cephas) and his brother Andrew were fishermen from Bethsaida. The first to confess Jesus (Matthew 16:18), Peter was also the first to deny Jesus. He was the first to preach the Gospel to both the Jews (Acts 2) and to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
* Andrew is mentioned only four times in the New Testament; three of those times, he is said to have brought someone to Christ (John 1:41, 6:4-9, 12:20-22). Andrew was and Peter might have been a disciple of John the Baptizer awaiting the coming Messiah.
* James and John, the sons of Zebedee were also fishermen. They were nicknamed

“Boanerges” (Sons of Thunder). James was the first of the apostles to be a martyr for his faith

(Acts 12:1-2).

* Philip was also from Bethsaida. He is not Philip the evangelist mentioned in Acts.
* Bartholomew (Nathanael): His name means “son of Tolmai.”
* Matthew (called Levi in Mark and Luke’s accounts) was a tax collector for the Roman government occupying Palestine. He wrote the Gospel account that bears his name. Luke’s account mentions that Matthew left everything to be a follower of Jesus—a fact that Matthew himself conspicuously omits.
* Thomas was also called Didymus, which means “twin.” He is most remembered for his

insistence on evidence.

* James the son of Alphaeus was also called James the Less.
* Thaddeus was also called Judas, the son of James and “Judas, not Iscariot.” He may have used the name Thaddeus to avoid the stigma of the name Judas.
* Simon the Zealot was also called Simon the Cananite. “Cananite” probably indicates that he was from Cana. “Cananite” is not a translation of the original Greek, but a transliteration of the Aramaic word meaning “zealous.” Some scholars think “Zealot” may describe his character, while others believe it describes his involvement with a Jewish terrorist group trying to oust the Romans from Palestine.
* Judas was surnamed Iscariot. Iscariot may indicate that he was from Kerioth (or Carioth).

He is always listed last in the lists of the apostles and referred to as “the one who betrayed Jesus.” He committed suicide and was replaced by Matthias about whom nothing is known beyond his name and the fact that he was a disciple of Jesus’ from the beginning (Acts 1).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.
* See AP’s pinterest page for ideas. [www.pinterest.com/apcurriculum](http://www.pinterest.com/apcurriculum)
* Tales of Glory Apostle Figure Set
* Many Bible Story books are available for this lesson

##### Props for acting out story- Bible costumes,nets, fish

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THE SEA OF GALILEE”**

Author Unknown

**Note:** This song has lots of motions. Each verse adds a new part and motion. The instructions in italics are the new motion for that verse. For every underlined word there should be a hand motion. Sing slowly at first so students can learn.

There’s a sea of Galilee,(*make waves with hand*) There’s a sea of Galilee,

There’s a Sea, There’s a Sea, There’s a Sea of Galilee

And there’s a boat (*cup hands together to make boat shape*) on the Sea of Galilee, There’s a boat on the Sea of Galilee

There’s a boat, There’s a boat. There’s a boat on the Sea of Galilee

And there are men (*point two fingers down like legs on top of palm*) on the boat on the Sea of Galilee

And there are hands (*show hands, palms facing forward*) on the men in the boat on the Sea of Galilee

And there are nets (*bend fingers of hands downs as if holding a net*) in the hands of the men in the boat on the Sea of Galilee

And there are fish (*put hands together with fingers facing forward and wiggle back and forth*), in the nets, in the hands, of the men, in the boat, on the Sea of Galilee

And there are many many fish (*same motion as fish except faster* ) in the nets, in the hands, of the men, in the boat, on the Sea of Galilee

**“THE TWELVE** **APOSTLES”**

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.

James the one they called the Less, Simon, also Thaddeus.

The twelfth apostle Judas made. Jesus was by him betrayed.

**CHORUS**:

Yes, Jesus called them. Yes, Jesus called them.

Yes, Jesus called them. And they all followed Him.

Matthias then took Judas’ place To preach to men of every race.

Paul three preaching trips did make. He went to Rome for Jesus’ sake.

**CHORUS**:

Yes, Jesus called them. Yes, Jesus called them.

Yes, Jesus called them. And they all followed Him.

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Give each child a paper plate or paper towel, mini-marshmallows, raisins, and several graham cracker sticks. Ask them to arrange the snack items into a human shape. Talk about how different the figures look, how friends look differently, how friends may not always like the same things, etc. No matter what our differences, everyone needs a friend.
* Give each child a piece of paper and help him make his thumbprints. Then let all the children put their thumbprints on each other’s papers. Talk to the kids about how unique and different their thumbprints are from one another. Everyone is different, yet we can still be friends and we can still work for Jesus.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. The apostles had different occupations and different backgrounds. They did not all have the same talents. But they lived together, traveled together, and learned to work together, because they all loved Jesus and wanted to do what He asked of them. God planned for the church to be a group of people from different backgrounds, with different talents and jobs, working together to tell everyone about Jesus. If we do what we should and live as we should, others will see that we have “been with Jesus,” as they did the apostles (Acts 4:13).

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Dump a bunch of toys (like the bags of mega blocks) and ask one student to pick them up. Let him work alone for a while, then stop him and ask the whole class to help. Discuss how it is easier to do a job when everyone helps. Relate this to the apostles helping Jesus and how we can help Jesus today by teaching others.
* [Fishing Review Game](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/2-13-14-87Fish%20Game%20Cutouts.pdf): Laminate cardstock or die cut fish and put magnet on back. Make a fishing rod out of a dowel, yarn, and a magnet. Ask a student a review question. If the question is answered correctly, let the student catch a fish. The team with the most fish wins

### Review Questions

### 1. How many apostles did Jesus choose?

### a. 12

### 2. What is a disciple?

### a. A person who wants to be a follower of a certain teacher

### What is an apostle?

### A specially chosen preacher. Literally, “one sent forth”

### What did Jesus do the night before He started choosing His apostles?

### Prayed

### Were the apostles perfect men?

### No, they were regular humans

### Which apostles were fishermen?

### Peter, Andrew, James, and John

### Jesus told the fishermen to follow him and become fishers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

### men

### Which apostle is going to betray Jesus?

### Judas Iscariot

### What were the names of the apostles who were brothers?

### James and John

### Peter and Andrew

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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