



**GHWC's Virtual
Vacation Bible School 2020
Unit 6 | Jesus Calls the First Disciples
New International Version (NIV) |
Mark 1:16—20, 2:13—17, 3:13—19**

Introduction

Jesus could have called anyone to serve along side Him in His life saving mission. He could have called synagogue leaders. He could have

called Pharisees, Sadducees or Scribes. He could have called political leaders. But, when the time came for Jesus to begin His public ministry, He called upon fishermen, a tax collector, common working men of Galilee to respond to the call: "Come and Follow Men." Called from boat, booths, and from various endeavors, the first disciples witnessed Jesus' miraculous healings and mind-opening teaching; and when it was time for Jesus' ministry to expand and to move towards Jerusalem, He chose twelve apostles to accompany Him. These men would watch and learn of Him and in time they show others how to perform even greater works in Jesus's name! (John 14:12—14) As you enter into this lesson listen to Jesus's call to Peter, Andrew, James and John and ask yourself how you would respond to the invitation. As you read about Jesus's appointment of the twelve apostles, imagine the amazing responsibility that they must have felt—called to go with Jesus, sent out by Jesus, and authorized by Jesus to cast out demons. What has Jesus called, sent and authorized us to do in the world today? Will you answer the call: "Come and Follow Me?"

Scripture - Mark 1:16—20

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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Mark 2:13—17— Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 3:13—19—Jesus Appoints the Twelve

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Questions for Meditation:

1) What were the first disciples called to do? (Mark 1:16—20, Matthew 4:18—22)
What does it mean to be a fisher of men and women?

2) What did the Pharisees call some of Jesus's disciples? And why? What was Jesus's response? And what does Jesus's response mean to you? (See Mark 2:13—15, Luke 16:5, Luke 18:9, Romans 3:23)

3) Why did Jesus select 12 Apostles from the group of disciples? Why is the number 12 so important?











4) **Extra Credit:** Why were James and John called "Sons of Thunder"?

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Fishers of Men

Jesus' Disciples

Draw a line from the disciple's name to the statement about him.

Peter	 a tax collector
Andrew	 son of Zebedee and brother of James
James	 also called Didymus
John	 brother of John
Philip	 his name means "rock"
Matthew	 betrayed Jesus
Thomas	 son of Alphaeus (also called "the Less")
James	 Peter's brother
Simon	 he brought Nathanael to Jesus
Judas	 a Canaanite, also called Zelotes

Here are some Bible passages to help you.

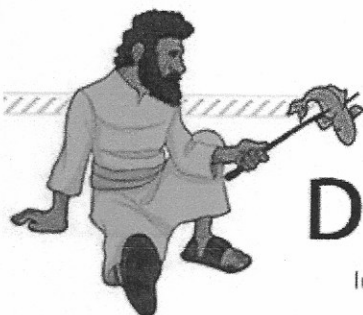
Matthew 4:18-21; 10:2-4 (niv); 16:17-18

Mark 3:14-19

John 1:43-51; 11:16

Acts 1:13

Which two names are missing from the list? _____



Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE WORKSHEET

Disciple Facts

Instructions: Match the disciple on the left with the facts on the right.

- ___ Andrew
- ___ Bartholomew
- ___ James, the Elder
- ___ James, the Younger
- ___ John
- ___ Judas
- ___ Jude (or Thaddeus)
- ___ Matthew
- ___ Peter
- ___ Philip
- ___ Simon
- ___ Thomas

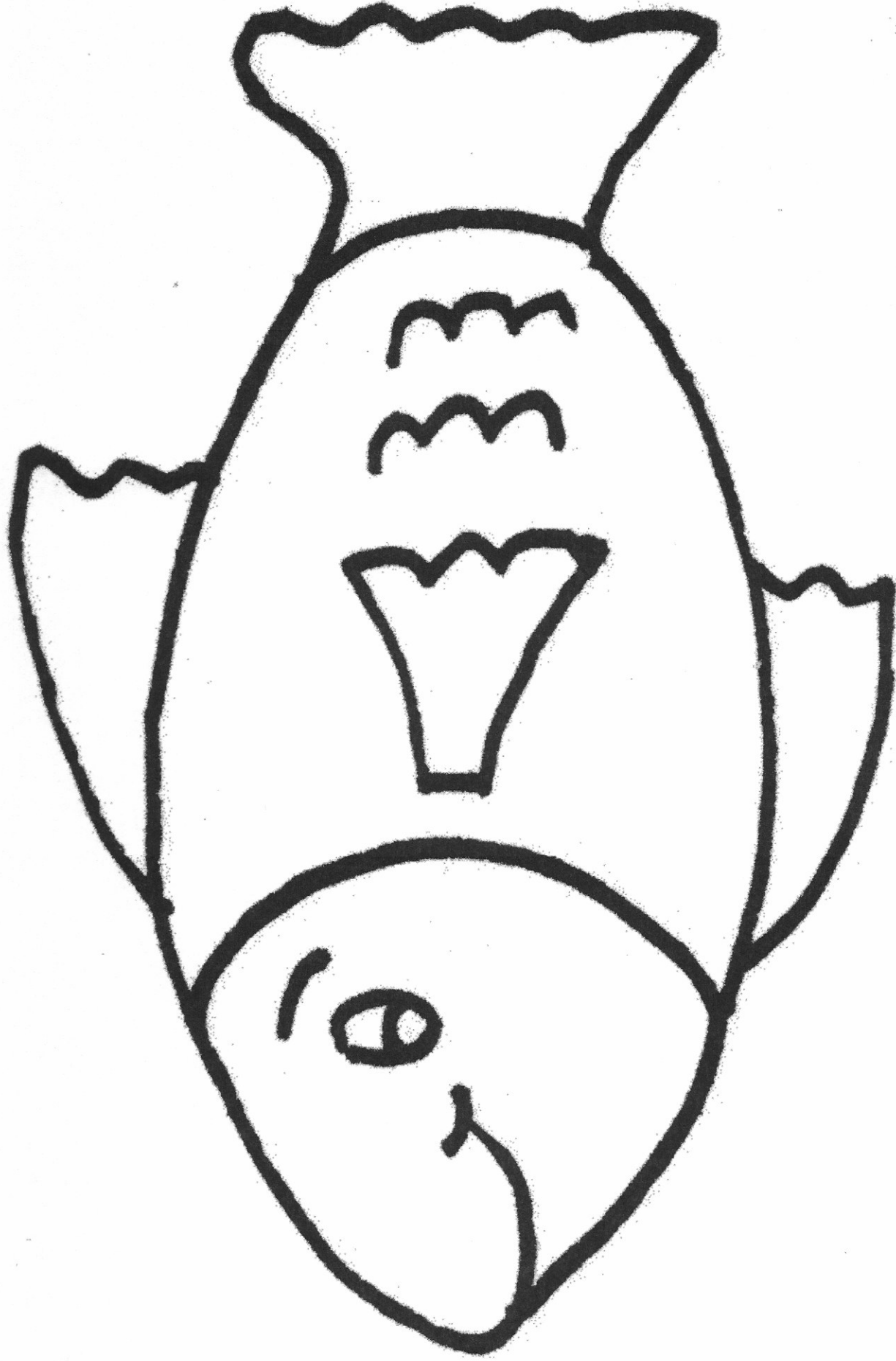
1. Brother of Jude, lived in Galilee.
2. Greek name was Didymus, doubted the resurrection of Yeshua.
3. Brother of James, second name was Boanerges, which means son of Thunder, wrote the Gospel of John & Revelation.
4. Came from Bethsaida, one of the first disciples.
5. Son of Zebedee, preached in Jerusalem & Judea, was beheaded by Herod in AD 44.
6. Brother of Peter, fisherman, originally a disciple of John the Baptist.
7. Tax-collector, also called Levi.
8. Brother of James the Younger, he asked Yeshua at the Last Supper, "Why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" (John 14:22)
9. His name means Son of Tolmai, lived in Cana.
10. Fisherman, married, denied knowing Yeshua three times.
11. A zealot.
12. A Judean, betrayed Yeshua for 30 pieces of silver, hung himself.

Answers: Andrew = 6, Bartholomew = 9, James the Elder = 5, James the Younger = 1, John = 3, Judas = 12, Jude = 8, Matthew = 7, Peter = 10, Philip = 4, Simon = 11, Thomas = 2.

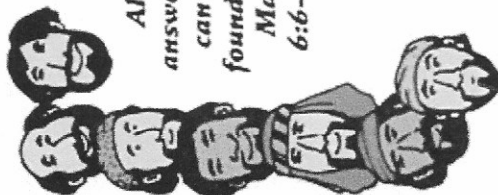
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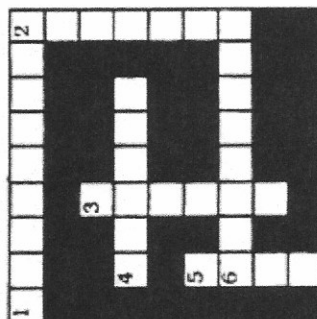
"I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19



THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS



*All 6
answers
can be
found in
Mark
6:6-13*



1. Another name for the followers of Jesus
2. The disciples wore these while travelling
3. Jesus taught them
4. The number of the disciples
5. Jesus had authority over this kind of spirit
6. Where the people lived