

Jesus Calls Disciples: Matthew 4:12-22 Sunday School Lesson

 ministry-to-children.com/servanthood-lesson-4

Written by Leah Pittsinger Last updated March 26, 2019 Leave a Comment Filed Under: Lesson Plans , Servanthood for Kids

September 9, 2015

In Matthew 4:12-22 Jesus begins his preaching ministry and calls his disciples.

As Jesus called his disciples, he was also committing himself to become their servant leader. This lesson shows Jesus' humility and dedication to his disciples helped them learn how to serve. Use this lesson in Sunday School or Children's Church.

TARGET AGES: 9 – 13 Older Elementary. You may need to simplify this lesson when working with younger children.

CURRICULUM UNIT: This lesson is part of the Servanthood for Kids: The Life of Jesus. You can use it as a stand-alone Sunday School lesson or you can teach the whole curriculum in any order.

OBJECTIVE: To identify Jesus' twelve disciples and learn that humility is one of the biggest qualities of a servant of Jesus Christ.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus was a true servant for his disciples because he equipped and taught them how to become leaders of the church.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 4:12-22, Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, John 1:43 & 49-50, Matthew 10:2-4*

MATERIAL(S): Notebook paper, writing utensils, activity sheet ([click to download](#))

Introduction (15 minutes)

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, today we accept your call of service on our lives. Teach us how to serve by studying Jesus' selection of his disciples and their willingness to follow him. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Play a "True or False" game with the class to review what they have learned about Jesus' life as a servant. Pass out blank pieces of paper and writing utensils. Consider presenting the winner with a small prize. Suggested questions include:

1. Jesus was born in Jerusalem. (False, he was born in Bethlehem)
2. Jesus had brothers and sisters. (True)
3. Jesus was baptized. (True)
4. Satan tempted Jesus for 20 days in the desert. (False, it was 40 days)

5. Jesus' parents were John and Mary. (False, they were Joseph and Mary)
6. The word "baptize" means to sprinkle someone with water. (False, the meaning is "full immersion")
7. Jesus was 12-years-old when his parents forgot him at the temple. (True)
8. Satan tempted Jesus with water in the desert. (False, he was tempted with bread)

At the end of the game say, "This game teaches us that it can be easy for people to get minor details about Jesus wrong. But, if we keep reading the bible so we know the truth about our Savior. It's very important to read our bibles!"

Matthew 4:12-22 New International Reader's Version (NIRV) Children's Translation

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹²John had been put in prison. When Jesus heard about this, he returned to Galilee. ¹³Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in the city of Capernaum. It was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴In that way, what the prophet Isaiah had said came true. He had said,

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Galilee, where Gentiles live!

Land along the Mediterranean Sea! Territory east of the Jordan River!

¹⁶The people who are now living in darkness
have seen a great light.

They are now living in a very dark land.

But a light has shined on them." (Isaiah 9:1,2)

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach. "Turn away from your sins!" he said. "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Chooses His First Disciples

¹⁸One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw two brothers, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come and follow me," Jesus said. "I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them. ²²Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. **New International Reader's Version (NIRV)**

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Sunday School Lesson (15 minutes)

1. Explain to the students that after Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan he began choosing specific people to mentor and teach.
 - Ask, "Who can tell me how many disciples, or followers, Jesus picked? Can you name any of them?" Turn to *Matthew 4:18-22*. Read the passage and list the first four disciples on the board (Peter, Andrew, James, and John).
 - Ask, "What do we know about these men from the scripture passage (fishermen, brothers, left immediately, etc)?" Point out that these first four disciples were all fishermen, a very humble job in Jesus day.
 - Look up the rest of the disciples' names by turning to *Matthew 9:9* (Matthew), *Mark 2:14* (Levi, another name for Matthew), *John 1:43,49-50* (Philip and Nathanael, another name for Bartholomew), and *Matthew 10:2-4* (Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot).
2. Say, "Let's brainstorm for a moment: Why was it necessary for Jesus to personally teach disciples during his life on earth (because he was going to heaven and the disciples would have to lead the church as his appointed leaders)?"

Make the distinction that Jesus didn't pick the disciples because they were perfect – for example, Peter denied him and Judas betrayed him – but because they had hearts that were ready and willing to serve. Say, "God doesn't care about our status, popularity, or physical characteristics. He cares about our desire to serve him! Do you have the desire to serve God?"

Activity Sheet (10 minutes) *See attachment* Pass out the "Twelve Disciples" crossword sheet to review the lesson. Consider allowing students to work in pairs or small groups.

Optional Activities: If you need to extend this lesson, we recommend the following free activities from our website:

Conclusion (5 minutes)

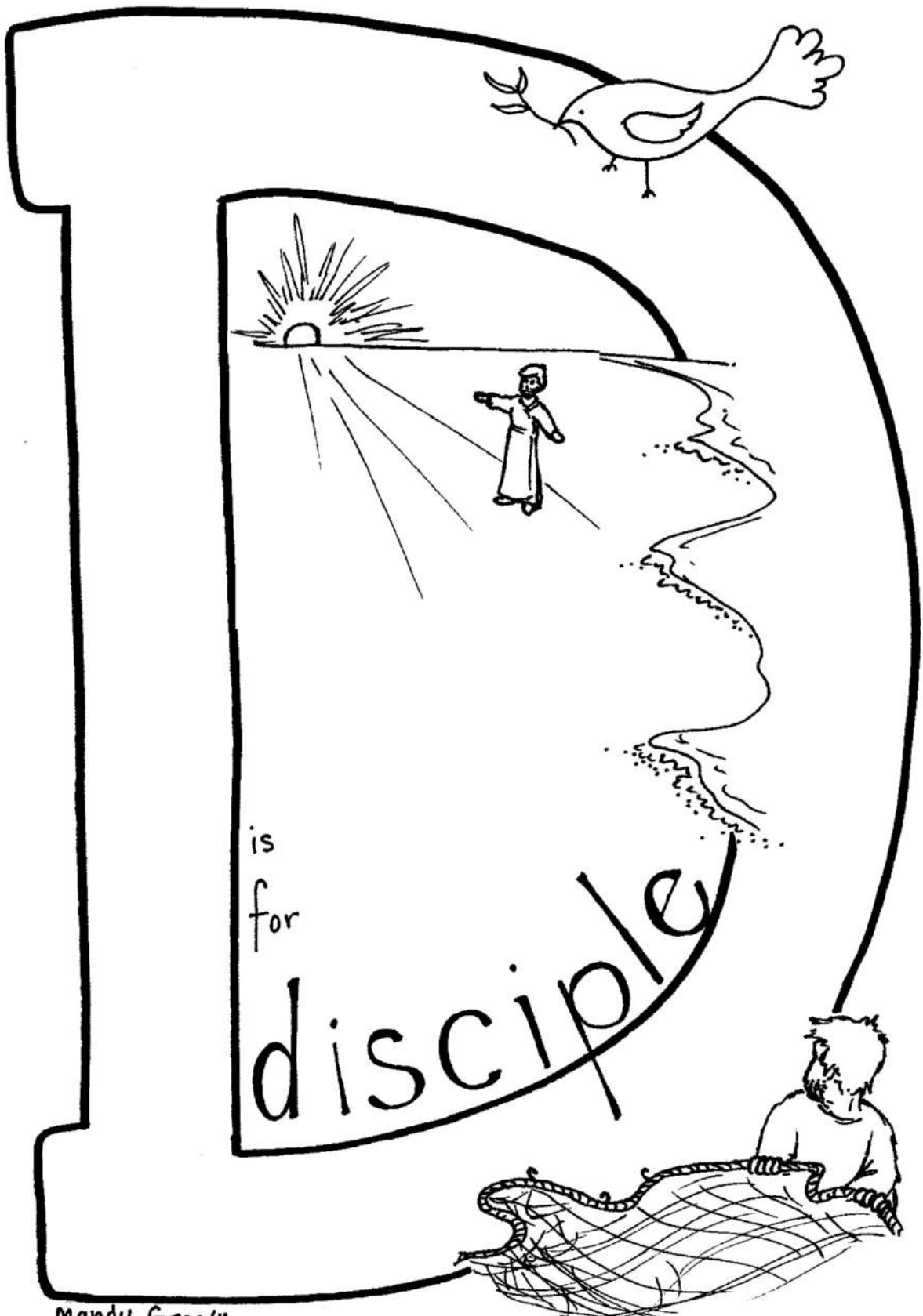
RECAP: Jesus chose his disciples not because they were more intelligent, gifted or prosperous than others but because they had willing hearts to follow him and serve. Service is not about what we can do from our own strength but what God can do when we are humble and submit to his will.

CLOSING PRAYER: "God, humble our hearts as we serve you this week, and give us the opportunity to tell others about Jesus as we serve. Amen."

Simon * Andrew * James * John * Phil

* James * John * Philip * Bartholomew * Matthew *

* Bartholomew * Matthew * Thomas * James * Simon *

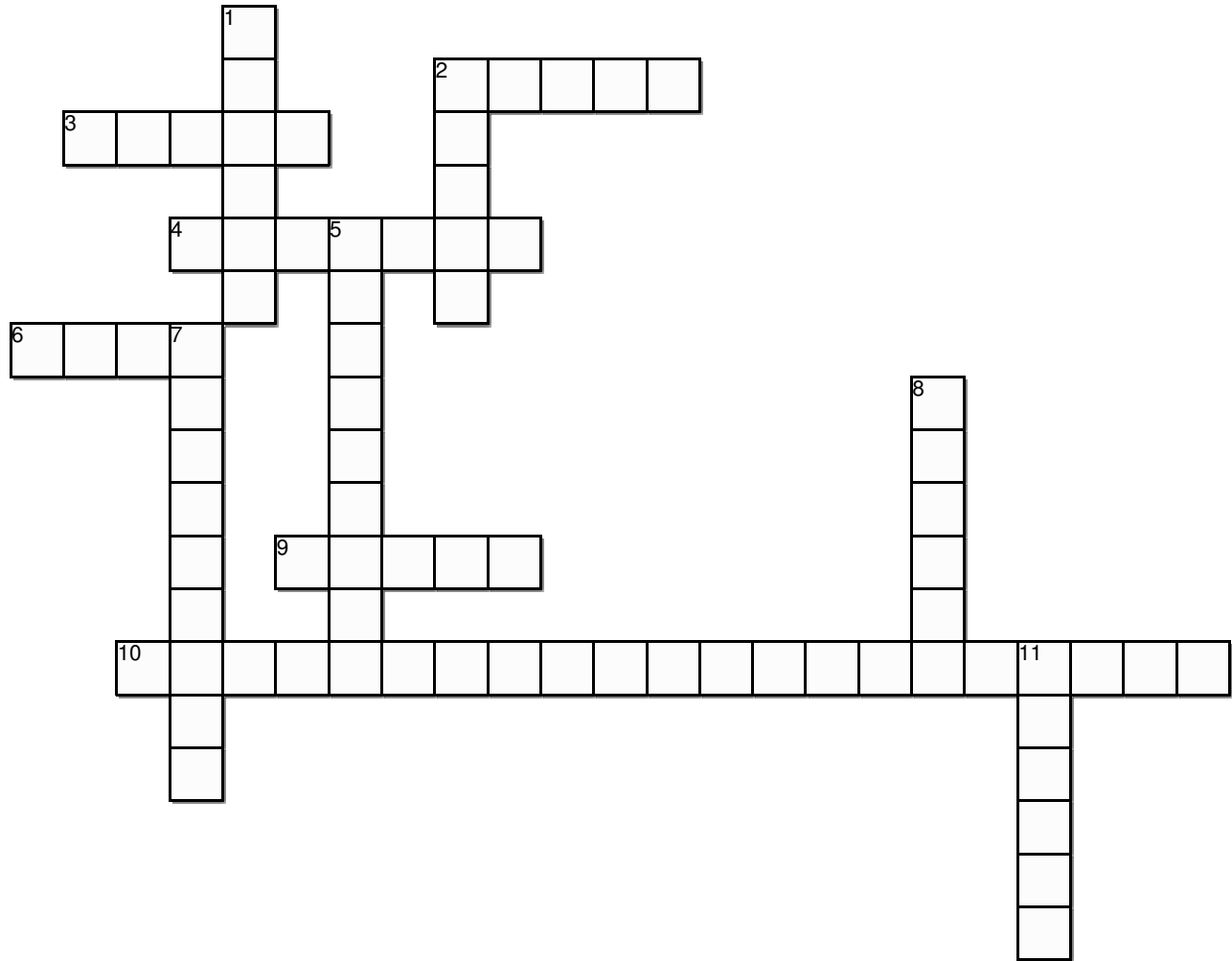


Mandy Grace '11

Thaddaeus * Judas * Simon * Andrew

Name: _____

The Twelve Disciples



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

2. The disciple who betrayed Jesus, first name only (Matthew 10:4)
3. Also goes by 'the Zealot' (Matthew 10:4)
4. The tax collector, also known as Levi (Matthew 9:9)
6. The other son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21)
9. Also goes by 'Simon' (Matthew 4:18)
10. Shares his name with another disciple (Matthew 10:3)

Down

1. Known for doubting Jesus (John 20:27)
2. One of the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21)
5. The tenth listed disciple (Mark 3:16-19)
7. Philip led this person to Jesus, also known as 'Bartholomew' (John 1:45)
8. Jesus found him on the way to Galilee (John 1:43)
11. Peter's brother (Matthew 4:18)

Learning the Names of the Disciples

 ministry-to-children.com/twelve-disciples

Written by Reader Submitted Last updated May 31, 2011 Leave a Comment Filed Under: Uncategorized May 30, 2011

This ministry idea shared by one of our readers, Linda M Howard from First Baptist Church Tyrone, GA.

I do have something I would like to share with you so you can share it with others. I wanted my class to learn the disciples but couldn't find any 'help' when searching the internet. So I decided to put them in alphabetical order and I was amazed at how easy it was then. This is the results:

A ~ Andrew

B ~ Bartholomew

J ~ James, James, Judas, Judas, John

M ~ Matthew

P ~ Peter, Philip

S ~ Simon

T ~ Thomas

They loved learning this and wanted to say them every time we met. One asked if they could learn the Books of the Bible in Alphabetical order! If you want to use Thaddaeus, you can add him in the "T" list and take out one Judas.

Hope this will be as much fun for others as it was for us.

Reader Interactions

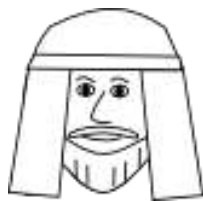
Twelve Disciples Coloring Activity

Jesus' disciples were twelve men he picked to travel with him and learn from him.

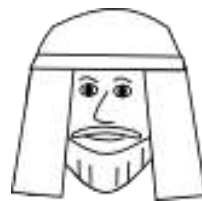
1. Color the twelve disciples and read their names.
2. Peter and Andrew were brothers. Draw a circle around both of them together.
3. James and John were brothers. Draw a circle around both of them together.
4. Peter, John, and Matthew all wrote books of the Bible. Put a check mark next to each of them.
5. Judas turned against Jesus and betrayed him. Draw a big X to cross out Judas.



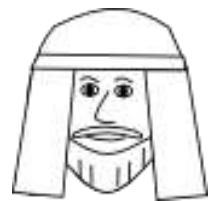
Peter



Andrew



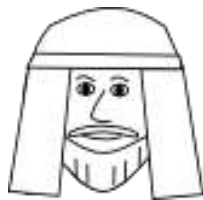
James
(brother of John)



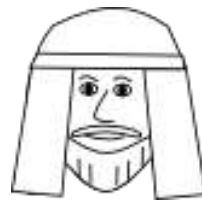
John



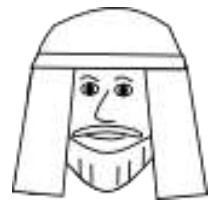
Philip



Bartholomew



Thomas



Matthew



James
(son of Alphaeus)



Thaddeus



Simon



Judas

A disciple is someone who learns from Jesus. How can you learn from Jesus?

Peter

Andrew

brother of John
James
brother of John

John

Philip

Bartholomew

Thomas

Matthew

James
son of Alphaeus

Thaddaens

Simon

Judas

Bartholomew	Andrew	Thaddaeus	John
Simon	Judas	Peter	Matthew
Thomas	James son of Alphaeus	James brother of John	Philip

Thomas	Matthew	James <small>brother of John</small>	Philip
Judas	Andrew	Thaddaeus	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>
John	Peter	Bartholomew	Simon

Philip	John	Peter	Simon
Andrew	Bartholomew	James brother of John	James son of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Matthew	Judas	Thomas

Judas	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Andrew	John
Peter	Simon	Thomas	Bartholomew
Thaddaeus	Matthew	Philip	James <small>brother of John</small>

<p><small>brother of John</small> James <small>brother of John</small></p>	<p>Bartholomew</p>	<p>Philip</p>	<p>Thaddaeus</p>
<p>Andrew</p>	<p>Matthew</p>	<p><small>son of Alphaeus</small> James <small>son of Alphaeus</small></p>	<p>Peter</p>
<p>Simon</p>	<p>Thomas</p>	<p>John</p>	<p>Judas</p>

Philip	James <small>brother of John</small>	Simon	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>
Thaddaens	Judas	Peter	Andrew
John	Thomas	Bartholomew	Matthew

Thomas	Matthew	Bartholomew	Judas
John	Simon	Philip	Thaddaens
<small>brother of John</small> James <small>brother of John</small>	Andrew	<small>son of Alphaeus</small> James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Peter

Philip	Thomas	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Matthew
Bartholomew	John	Peter	James <small>brother of John</small>
Judas	Thaddaens	Andrew	Simon

Andrew	Simon	Thaddaeus	James brother of John
Peter	Philip	Thomas	Judas
Bartholomew	Matthew	John	James son of Alphaeus

John	Matthew	Judas	Andrew
James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Bartholomew	Philip	Thomas
Simon	Peter	Thaddaens	James <small>brother of John</small>

Bartholomew	James <small>brother of John</small>	Philip	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>
Thaddaeus	Judas	Simon	Matthew
Thomas	John	Peter	Andrew

<p>brother of John James brother of John</p>	<p>Peter</p>	<p>Thaddaeus</p>	<p>Philip</p>
<p>Andrew</p>	<p>Simon</p>	<p>son of Alphaeus James son of Alphaeus</p>	<p>Bartholomew</p>
<p>Matthew</p>	<p>Judas</p>	<p>John</p>	<p>Thomas</p>

<p><small>brother of Alphaeus</small> James <small>son of Alphaeus</small></p>	<p>Thomas</p>	<p>Bartholomew</p>	<p>Simon</p>
<p>John</p>	<p>Matthew</p>	<p>Peter</p>	<p>Andrew</p>
<p>Judas</p>	<p>Philip</p>	<p><small>brother of John</small> James <small>brother of John</small></p>	<p>Thaddaeus</p>

Thomas	James <small>brother of John</small>	Philip	Judas
Thaddaens	Peter	Bartholomew	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>
Matthew	John	Simon	Andrew

<small>son of Alphaeus</small> James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Philip	Matthew	Peter
Simon	Andrew	Thaddaens	<small>brother of John</small> James <small>brother of John</small>
Bartholomew	Judas	Thomas	John

Simon	John	Peter	Bartholomew
Philip	Thaddaens	Judas	Matthew
<small>son of Alphaeus</small> James	<small>brother of John</small> James	Andrew	Thomas

Andrew	Thaddaens	Judas	John
James <small>brother of John</small>	Bartholomew	Simon	Thomas
Peter	Matthew	Philip	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>

Thaddaeus	Andrew	Philip	Thomas
Peter	Matthew	Bartholomew	James son of Alphaeus
John	Simon	Judas	James brother of John

John	Philip	Matthew	Peter
Simon	Thaddaens	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Bartholomew
Judas	Thomas	James <small>brother of John</small>	Andrew

Philip	Peter	Simon	Thaddaeus
James <small>brother of John</small>	Andrew	Matthew	John
Bartholomew	Judas	James <small>son of Alphaeus</small>	Thomas