



Objectives: To explain that:

- The calling out of the 12 disciples is linked to the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) and represents Jesus' forming a new people for God.
- The names of the disciples are: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas
- We are disciples of Jesus too. Being a disciple means that we love Jesus and want to follow him and learn to be like him.

"I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (Jesus, 12 people, etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who these 12 people are. I wonder why there are 12 of them.

Let's find out more in our story....

Lesson Summary:

Today's story tells about a time when Jesus called 12 men to be his disciples and his close friends.

Just like God had chosen the 12 sons from Jacob to be the beginning of God's people, the Israelites, Jesus chose 12 men to call out a new people for God through the 12 disciples.

Disciples are people who follow their teacher very carefully and learn to be like the teacher.

Jesus chose these twelve men to follow him: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew. He taught them about the Kingdom of God and he taught them the good news that God is always with his people. Jesus chose these 12 men to be his friends; to witness his life, his death and his resurrection. And Jesus chose these 12 disciples to go to all the nations in the world to make more disciples. Jesus chose YOU and He chose ME!

The wonderful news is that we are the disciples of Jesus too!

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He chose his disciples to be his friends and help him tell others about God)

- What is a disciple? (someone who follows a teacher very closely and tries to be like the teacher)
- Why did Jesus choose disciples? (to witness his life, death and resurrection, to hear him teach about the Kingdom of God, to be his close friends)
- Why did he choose 12 disciples? (just like Jacob's 12 sons were the beginning of the Israelites, so Jesus was calling out a new people for God through the 12 disciples) Are we disciples? (Yes! loving Jesus and learning to be like him.) What has God given us to help us follow Jesus? (the Bible, baptism, the Holy Spirit, parents, the Church, prayer, the Eucharist, opportunities to share about Jesus and God's love)

Bible Memory Verse:

Jesus said: "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples." (John 8:31 GNT)