



JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES

God's New People Are Called

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture	Matthew 10; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 5:1-11; John 1: 35-51; John 8:31
Objectives	<p>To explain that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible. • Just like Jacob's 12 sons were the beginning of God's people, the Israelites, so Jesus was beginning to call out a new people for God through the 12 disciples. It is very symbolic that the number 12 is used in both cases to bring about the connection between the two events. • The names of the 12 disciples are: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot • Jesus calls each of us to be his disciples. Being a disciple means that we love Jesus, we follow and obey him, and we learn to be like him.
Memory Verse	Jesus said... "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples." (John 8:31 - GNT)
ACNA Catechism Connection	<p>The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:</p> <p>Q 30 How are the Old Testament and the New Testament related? ...the Old is in the New...(this lesson points to Christ's intention by referencing the 12 disciples as being connected to the 12 sons of Jacob, the tribes of Israel.)</p> <p>Q 53 What do you mean when you call Jesus "Lord"? ...I surrender my life to him and seek to live every part of my life in a way that pleases him.</p> <p>Q 96 Why is the church called "apostolic"? ...because we, like them, are sent by Christ to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples throughout the whole world.</p> <p>Q 18 How does God transform you? ...parents to guide, the church to teach, baptism, the Holy Spirit, prayer, the Bible, the Eucharist, sharing our faith...</p>

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Song: 12 Disciples
- Sticky Name Tags of the 12 disciples: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot

Costumes: Jesus (with blue sash)

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

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

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.

I wonder what Jesus is saying to them.

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



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Matthew, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

Today's story tells about a time when Jesus called 12 men to be his disciples and his close friends. In the Old Testament God had chosen the 12 sons of Jacob to be the beginning of God's people, the Israelites. In the same way, Jesus now chose 12 disciples to call out a new people for God. This was the beginning of the church. Disciples are people who follow and obey and learn to be like their teacher. Jesus chose these twelve men to follow him: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), 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 can be the disciples of Jesus too!

STORY:

TEACHER: Remember in our last lesson, John the Baptist was preaching about the Kingdom of God and telling people to "follow Jesus."

Jesus was also telling people to follow him.

It was during this time, that Jesus started to choose special followers. They were called disciples, which means follower.

Here comes Jesus now. Let's see who Jesus will select.

ACTION: *Jesus walks in and starts slowly naming the 12 disciples. As Jesus points to a child, the child will get up, and Jesus will stick a name tag onto the child and say the name of the disciple they will represent.*

TEACHER: Now Jesus has selected his 12 disciples.

These 12 men decided to give up everything to follow and obey Jesus and give Jesus first place in their lives, even if it meant that they would suffer and some would be killed for following Jesus.

This story reminds us of when God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants. God kept his promise and Abraham had a son named Isaac. After many years, Isaac had a son named Jacob, and then Jacob had 12 sons.

When we think of Jacob's 12 sons, we realize that they were the beginning of God's people, the Israelites.

Just like Jacob's 12 sons were the beginning of God's people, the Israelites, so Jesus was beginning to call out a new people for God through the 12 disciples. This was the beginning of the church.

To help us remember some of the disciples' names, we are going to learn the song, "The 12 Disciples".

CD – There were 12 disciples

There were 12 disciples,

Jesus called to help him,

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John

Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus

Thaddeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew.

He has called us too. He has called us, too

We are his disciples, I am one and you.

He has called us too. He has called us too

We are his disciples, I am one and you.

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?** (a follower, someone who follows and obeys their teacher)
- **Why did Jesus choose disciples?** (to witness his life, death and resurrection, to teach about the Kingdom of God, to be his friends)
- **Why did he choose 12 disciples?** (Just like Jacob's 12 sons were the beginning of God's people, the Israelites, so Jesus was beginning to call out a new people for God through the 12 disciples.)
- **Are we disciples?** (Yes, if we love Jesus, want to follow and obey him and learn to be like him)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Jesus calls each of us to be his disciples. Being a disciple means that we love Jesus, we follow and obey him and learn to be like him.

- What has God given us to help us to follow Jesus and become like him?
(He gives us parents to guide us in godly ways, we can obey parents cheerfully, the church to teach and guide us, baptism, the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, prayer, the Bible to read, the church to pray and worship with, the Eucharist, opportunities to share about Jesus, etc.) Write these answers on **brown** paper footsteps for the children to walk on.

Jesus told us to love each other as he has loved us. What are some ways that we can love others and tell them about Jesus?

(Talk to them about God and His love. At Easter or Christmas tell others the true story we celebrate. Treat people with kindness, love and respect. Forgive our friends or family or others who do something wrong. Help those who need help. Invite people to Sunday school. Pray for people.) Write these answers on **green** paper footsteps for the children to walk on.

Play a Follow the Footsteps game using the brown and green footsteps. Roll the dice and read whatever the footsteps have written on them. If the child lands on the brown footsteps, the teacher prompts the child with, "What has God given us to help us follow Jesus?" If the child lands on the green footstep, the prompt is, "What are some ways that we can love others and tell them about Jesus?" Then the child reads the footstep to answer the question.

At dismissal time, allow each child to choose one of the footsteps to take home to show and share.

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Have the children draw a picture of themselves and stick in onto the lesson poster with blue tack.
- Play "Follow the Footsteps"

Jesus said... "If you
obey my teaching,
you are really my
disciples."

(John 8:31)