



Lesson 15: *Jesus and the Disciples* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- 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.

"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.

I wonder what Jesus is saying to 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. 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!

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)
- 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)