

# The Connection

▶ July 12, 2020

**Weekly Bible Verse:** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)

## Called to Follow!

**Scripture: Luke 6:12-16**

In the New Testament times a follower was called a disciple. John the Baptist was a leader and he had disciples who followed him. His disciples wanted to be just like John the Baptist and do and say things just like him. Andrew and Simon Peter were brothers and fishermen. They were also disciples of John the Baptist. But there was one man John the Baptist admired more than anyone. That man was Jesus. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was sent by God to save the world. When Jesus began his ministry he asked people to follow him and become his disciples. One day when Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw Andrew and Simon Peter casting nets to catch fish. Jesus called out to them and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." What do you think Jesus meant by fishers of people? Fishermen usually cast out nets and bring fish in. Fishers of men go fishing for men. They teach people and then bring them to God. Peter and Andrew wanted to become fishers of people. They left their fishing immediately and followed Jesus.

Going on, they saw two other brothers, James and John, mending nets with their father, Zebedee. Jesus called them and said, "Follow me". James and

John left their boat and their father and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus' group of followers was growing. Now Jesus had four disciples – Peter, Andrew, James and John. On His way to Galilee, Jesus found Philip and invited



him to come along too. Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.

Philip went to find his friend Nathanael. "Nathanael, we've found the one that Moses wrote about in the Scripture! He is Jesus from Nazareth." When Nathanael met Jesus he was very surprised. He had never met Jesus before but Jesus knew all about him. Because of this Nathanael knew that Jesus was someone very special sent from God. He started following Jesus too. You might know Nathanael by his other name. His other name was Bartholomew. Jesus called others to follow him. Matthew was a tax collector in the town of Caperna-

um. Some people thought that Matthew could never be like Jesus. Tax collectors were often cheaters. But Jesus knew that Matthew had a good heart. When Jesus said, "Matthew, come follow me" Matthew got up from the table and

began following Jesus. Jesus invited others to follow him. Soon James (called "James the Less" because he was younger than the other James) and Thomas followed Jesus. Another Simon, Thaddeus and Judas Iscariot. More and more people became disciples (followers) of Jesus. Even though many followed Jesus twelve men were with him almost all of the time.

One day soon afterward Jesus went upon a mountain to pray and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak, he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names:

Peter, Andrew, James and John. Philip, Thomas, Matthew and Bartholomew (Nathanael). James (the less), Simon, Thaddeus and Judas.

This group of twelve men became known as the "twelve apostles". Jesus gave these men special jobs to do and special powers to make sick people well and to cast demons away.



## Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

## Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - 12 Disciples (2 pages)

Word Activities - 12 Disciples (2 pages)

## Resources:

Jesus Chooses His Disciples - Care Bears Bible Stories for Kids

Jesus Chooses His Disciples - Jesus Film Project



## "I Wonder" questions for Today's Lesson

I wonder what Zebedee was feeling?

I wonder if the disciples found it easy to follow Jesus?

I wonder how the Apostles felt about being sent out to teach and to heal.



The Twelve Disciples Song  
Tune: "Jesus Loves Me"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfi3JRR1Nfc>

Jesus called them one by one,  
Peter, Andrew, James and John,  
Next, came Philip, Thomas too,  
Matthew and Bartholomew.

- Chorus -  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
He called them one by one.

James the one they called the less,  
Simon, also Thaddeus,  
The twelfth disciple Judas made,  
Jesus was by him betrayed.

## God Is Only A Prayer Away

Before choosing his disciples, Jesus went to a mountain to pray and prayed all night to God. Here are some unique ways to use prayer in your family.

### #1-PRAYERS IN THE SAND

This is a great way to spell out forgiveness, if there's something someone wants to confess and repent of, they just write it in the sand, and once they've repented of whatever it is, then they rub out what they wrote and it's gone. It's a clear way of showing how God wipes the slate clean when we ask for his forgiveness.

**#2-NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST-**  
Pray for issues going on in the four

corners of the world. North, South, East and West. Pray for the issues by facing the direction of the prayer request.

### #3-REFLECTION

Hand each person a mirror. While outside, stand over the mirror and look down into it. What do you see? The sky? The tops of trees? Move your position until you see yourself reflected in the mirror and meditate on what you see. What do you think God sees? Offer a prayer of thanks for who you are or take time to pray for a need you see in your own reflection.

### #4. Hand Stack

Have one person place their hand in the middle of the table, then have everyone else in the family place one hand on top to create a "stack" of hands. The person whose hand is at the base of the stack goes first, praying a single sentence prayer as they pull out their hand out and place it on top of the "hand stack." Then, the next person, whose hand is now on the bottom, prays as they pull their hand out and place it on top of the stack. When you sense it is time to stop, the adult (whose hand is on the bottom) raises up the pile of hands. That's the signal for everyone to say "Amen!" and high five the person next to them.

