

Twelve chosen for Jesus' peaceful plan

**Verse:**

Jesus sends out his apostles
Matthew 10:1-4,6-14

**Aim:**

To know that disciples have a purpose



In today's session we meet the 12 disciples called by Jesus to follow him.

After spending time watching and learning from Jesus, they were called to step out in faith. Their purpose was to think and act like Jesus and show others how to follow him. As disciples today we are called to do exactly the same in the world we live in.

Each child will need:

- *Who would you choose?* handout
- Origami paper / paper cut into a square, pens/pencils
- Memory verse wristband
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- A flip chart or a large sheet of paper and pen
- To watch *How to Make a Paper Home, House* (kids paper arts and crafts) by GpnArts (4:44)



Start it

Ask the children to think of eight book or film characters and write the names on a flip chart. Then give them each a *Who would you choose?* handout. The children need to answer the questions on the sheet, using only the film and book characters listed on the flip chart. Unfortunately they can only use each character once. When each child has completed their sheet, discuss their answers and reasons for choosing that character.

Handout questions:

1. Who would you choose to help you save the world?
2. Who would you choose to help you with your schoolwork?
3. Who would you choose to look after your pet?
4. Who would you choose to be the Prime Minister?
5. Who would you choose to play you in a film about your life?
6. Who would you choose to be your schoolteacher?
7. Who would you choose to look after you if you were sick?
8. Who would you choose to come to your birthday party?



Sing it

Ask:

How many of Jesus' disciples can you name?

According to Matthew's Gospel they were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Simon, a second James, Thaddaeus, Bartholomew, and Judas Iscariot. There are some discrepancies: John's Gospel mentions a Nathanael; Luke's Gospel mentions a second Judas; Mark and Luke both mention a Matthew/Levi.

Say:

Today we will be learning more about the 12 disciples called by Jesus. This song introduces us to them all.

The song lists: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew.

Song

'**Twelve Disciples**' (song & dance) by Unida Christian Church Caridad (1:33)

Tell it

Say:

In our Start It activity today we tried to choose the perfect film/book character for the perfect job. Some of the characters matched the task perfectly and others not so much! Jesus had an important job that he needed his followers to do. Surely the Son of God would only choose perfect people to show others what it means to follow him? Let's find out who he called in Matthew 10:1-4.

Read:

‘Jesus called his 12 followers together. He gave them power to drive out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. These are the names of the 12 apostles: Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who turned against Jesus.’

(Matthew 10:1-4 *ICB*)

Say:

The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus, watching him carefully and learning from him.

Ask:

In what different ways do we learn about Jesus?



Say:

After spending lots of time with Jesus, watching how he cared for people and healed the sick, it was time for the disciples to do the same. They still had a lot to learn, but Jesus wanted them to start living out what he had taught them.

Read:

‘But go to the people of Israel. They are like sheep that are lost. When you go, preach this: “The kingdom of heaven is coming soon”. Heal the sick. Give dead people life again. Heal those who have harmful skin diseases. Force demons to leave people. I give you these powers freely. So help other people freely. Don’t carry any money with you – gold or silver or copper. Don’t carry a bag. Take for your trip only the clothes and sandals you are wearing. Don’t take a walking stick. A worker should be given the things he needs.

‘When you enter a city or town, find some worthy person there and stay in his home until you leave. When you enter that home, say, “Peace be with you.” If the people there welcome you, let your peace stay there. But if they don’t welcome you, take back the peace you wished for them. And if a home or town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place. Shake its dust off your feet.’

(Matthew 10:6-14 *ICB*)

Ask:

Jesus gave the disciples very specific instructions about what they should do as they travelled from town to town. Which ones surprised you? Explain why.

Say:

The disciples were instructed to share who Jesus was with those who wanted to listen and to walk away if someone didn’t want to hear what they had to say.

Discuss:

- How do you respond when somebody disagrees with your views about Jesus?
- In what ways can we stand firm in what we believe about Jesus, while respecting the views of other people?
- What special prayer did the disciples say as they entered every house they visited?
- How do you think our everyday lives would be different if we tried to bring peace into every situation?
- How would it impact your day at school if you brought the peace of Jesus into your classroom? Share what that would look like.

Action it

Show the children how to make an origami house and decorate it with the words 'Peace be with you'. They can take this home as a reminder of the greeting the disciples gave to the people in every house they visited.

As group leader you can either learn the steps to make the origami house, or you can use the clip with the children and follow the instructions together.

Video

How to Make a Paper Home, House (kids paper arts and crafts) by GpnArts (4:44)

Pray it

Ask:

What event do we remember on 5 November?

Video

Horrible Histories - Fawkes' 13 (Slimy Stuarts) by Horrible Histories(2:34)

Ask:

Why did Guy Fawkes and his friends want to blow up Parliament?

Say:

The Protestants treated the Catholics in a terrible way and a group of Catholics then decided to get revenge by plotting to blow up Parliament. Both groups said that they followed the teachings of Jesus. Think back to the story we read earlier in the book of Matthew.

Ask:

- What kind of things did Jesus call the disciples to do?
- Do you think Jesus would be OK with people being violent and hurting others? Explain your answer.

Say:

Even today there are people who say that they follow Jesus and yet treat others badly. Although we would never think of doing anything like Guy Fawkes did, we still need to be careful that we always treat others in the way that Jesus would.

Say:

Bringing peace to challenging situations often goes against how we might feel inside, but it's another way that we can be true disciples of Jesus.

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us to think and act like Christ.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and share the verse together. Bring the session to a close in prayer, asking God to help each one of the children to think and act like Christ.

Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 *ICB*)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Aim:

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Discover

In today's session, we started to discover more about the disciples of Jesus. Watch the clip to find out more. (Can you spot what Bartholomew's name has been changed to?)

God's Story: Jesus Calls Disciples by Crossroads Kids' Club



Memorise

Ask someone at home to help you memorise the names of the 12 disciples.

'Jesus called his 12 followers together. He gave them power to drive out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. These are the names of the 12 apostles: Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who turned against Jesus.'

(Matthew 10:1-4 ICB)



Song for the week

'Twelve Disciples' (song & dance) by Unida Christian Church Caridad



Memory verse

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(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.

