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12 Disciples

Lists of their names are found in several places: *Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16; and Acts 1:13.*

A "disciple" is a "learner" or "follower." An "apostle" is "one who is sent out." After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, He sent the disciples out (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*) to be His witnesses (apostles). The terms are used somewhat interchangeably.

Peter. Jesus changed his name from Simon to Peter, "The Rock." Was a fisherman central to Jesus' inner circle. Present at the transfiguration and Gethsamane. Denied Christ three times, but later became the first to preach the gospel, perform a miracle and raise the dead.

Andrew. The first to proclaim, "We have found the Messiah!" Of the 12, he was less visible than Peter, James and John. Known for bringing many into the presence of Jesus.

James. Part of the inner circle and present at the transfiguration and at Gethsamane. Is always seen with his brother John, and Jesus called them, "sons of thunder." A fisherman.

John. "The Apostle of Love." Wrote of love and is "the one Jesus loved." Cared for Jesus' mother, Mary, after the crucifixion. Present at the transfiguration and at Gethsamane.

Philip. From Bethsaida, an ancient place of healing. When asked to join Jesus, brought his friend Nathaniel (Bartholomew) to meet Him.



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Bartholomew. (Nathaniel) Was a close friend of Philip. Was somewhat of a skeptic. Jesus was struck by his humility and innocence.

Matthew. Well educated and wealthy, but a despised tax collector and social outcast. Wrote one of the gospels, and recorded more of Jesus' words than anyone.

Thomas. Known as "the doubter," for the famous time he questioned Jesus' resurrection. Also known as "Didymus," meaning "twin."

James the Younger. (James the Less). Know least about him. Was brother to Joseph (an early Christian) and the son of Mary (Salome).

Jude. Disciple with three names. Luke refers to him as Judas (not Iscariot). Mark calls him Thaddaeus. He and James the Less were the youngest of the disciples.

Simon the Zealot. The Zealots were a political party who rebelled against the Roman occupiers. He was as fiery as his name suggests.

Judas Iscariot. May have been the treasurer of the disciples. Betrayed Christ and committed suicide out of remorse.

Other Disciples. **Matthias** was selected to the 12 Disciples after Judas' death (Acts 1:15-26). Other later disciples are referred to in scripture, including **James**, Jesus' brother (Galatians 1:19).

The 12 disciples were ordinary men whom God used in an extraordinary manner.

To learn more about how you can become a better disciple, sign up for class 201 today!

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