



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community
Group
study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

For the week of
15th of March 2020



Getting on board with something means we need to be happy with a decision that we have made or someone has made for us before we embark on the voyage wholeheartedly. If your hearts are still left behind on destination we are leaving behind then we will never fully embrace where we are going.

How do we get to a place where we can make decisions and are fully on board even when we didn't choose the destination, and often we don't even know where we are going?

In this week's text Jesus makes decisions about the men He is getting on board for Him to pay extra special attention to and pour His life into so they can continue His Gospel ministry after He returns to heaven.



12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Luke 6:12–16 (ESV)

Commentary

Back in Luke chapter five we had Jesus inviting Himself out on Peter's boat to go fishing during the middle of the day when Peter had fished all night during the optimum time and caught nothing. But Peter acting under Jesus' instruction caught more than a boat load of fish, and he recognised Jesus as someone he was not worthy to have in his boat. Jesus tells Peter he will be now on fishing for men, and James and John, apparently partners of Peter also go with Peter leaving everything following Jesus. In Luke's Gospel there is no mention of Andrew, Peter's brother, who we learn in John is the one who first brings Peter to Jesus. The only other disciple we know Jesus called in Luke's Gospel is Levi who was sitting at his tax booth by the road. If we read down to Luke 6:17 it says:

17 And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon,
Luke 6:17 (ESV)

Jesus had a lot of disciples although we are not told the full number. A disciple is someone who "engages through instruction from another, an apprentice or pupil."

William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 609.

A disciple is someone who sticks to a teacher, to learn from them and replicate their teaching in their life. Jesus' disciples were made up of men and women,

8 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, pro

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



claiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Luke 8:1–3 (ESV)

Jesus counter culturally to His time encouraged this, as when Mary the sister of Martha sits at His feet learning like a disciple and Martha asks Jesus to send her back to work, but Jesus tells her Mary has “chosen the good portion.”

Jesus' women disciples were with him to the end, even at the cross when their male counterparts had deserted. It was of course women disciples who were the first witnesses to the empty tomb and His resurrection.

We also see it was a struggle for many of Jesus' disciples to accept everything He said, they followed Him up to a point, when in John He talked about being the bread of life, and that unless they were to eat His flesh and drink His blood they would have no life in them. John tells us that after this conversation “many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him.”

From these disciples Jesus chooses twelve to be His Apostles. Why twelve? Because it is symbolic of the new Israel Jesus is ushering in with the Gospel representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

The number was important in significance even after Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven as the Apostles were concerned to replace Judas Iscariot so that the number could be

continued.

The definition of the Greek word means to send, or an envoy, messenger, and delegate.

These were the men Jesus was going to build His church on, just as He told Peter in Matthew after his confession Jesus is the Christ:

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:18–19 (ESV)

How was Jesus going to build His church on them? By sending them out just as Jesus Himself had been sent. Jesus gave them authority, by naming them as specifically His Apostles; Jesus' sent ones.

The term Apostle is used in a several contexts in the New Testament, but specifically here in Luke it is used as the twelve Jesus selected, and when Matthias was selected later as Judas' replacement it was one of the disciples who had followed Jesus from the beginning. Later the term Apostle included anyone who has seen the risen Lord; James the brother of Jesus is called an apostle, and (Paul includes himself), and then also those who are sent out on the mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

What decisions have you made lately?

What influences you decision making process?

If you had to choose a group of people to go out into the world to get your message heard, who would you choose and why?

Discuss how Jesus began to make the decision on who to call as His Apostles? Who did He turn to? Whose idea do you think it was to make Apostles?

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

Who brought you to the place of understanding about Jesus?

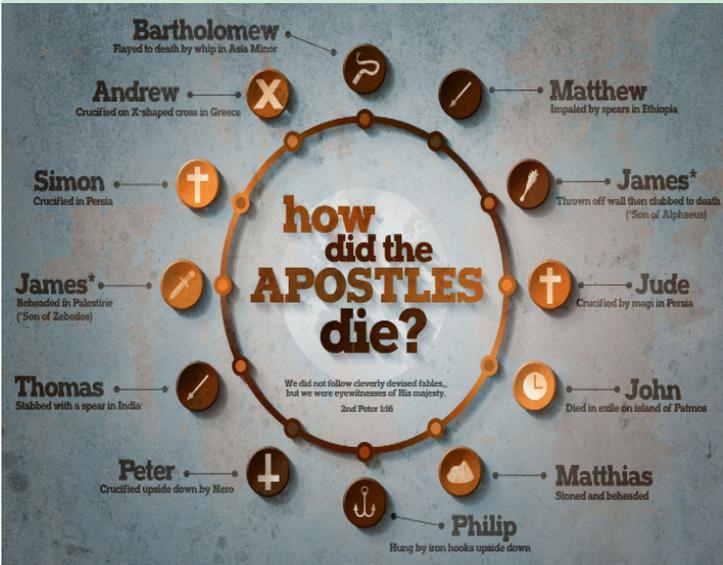
Why do you think that the Holy Spirit would not be able to bring you to place of understanding about any decision you might have to make?

Where do you like to go to talk to God?

How long would you like to speak to God uninterrupted for this week?

How could you make that happen?

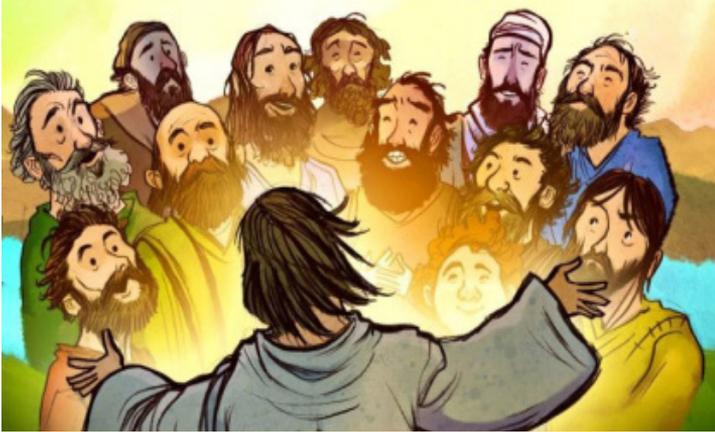
Look at the graphic below, as the disciples accepted Jesus' calling and naming them discuss what their expectations might have been at the time in comparison to how in tradition their lives are said to have ended.



Where do you think Jesus might send you?

Will you be willing to go?

KIDS CORNER



Decision Time.

1. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Being prepared is an important part of life. Just imagine how terribly things would work out if you were never prepared! What if you didn't have clean clothes to wear to school tomorrow? What if your family's car had no gas in it when you needed to go somewhere? It's especially important to be ready for big things that can impact our lives. When Jesus needed to choose twelve people to be His apostles, He spent an entire night praying! That's about eight hours straight of talking with God! It was a really important decision, and He made sure that He prepared very well.

In your life, you also have a really important decision, and it can prepare you for wherever your life goes. You get to decide if you want to be a child of God. You can invite Him to make you into the person you're supposed to be, and let Him shape you into the very best version of yourself. If you want to be prepared for the big, important, life-changing things that will come, then choosing to follow God is exactly what to do! It's the most important decision you can make, and you get to start choosing right now!

2. What would you like to give Jesus so you can rest?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Twelve Disciples

G Y T L V O P K O N D H F E S F N
 E O U R L S X F D Y V I D X J T E
 P W C Q F R U I U G V J H O L X O
 F S A C F F Z T H O M A S Y R C K
 Y B Q V G K U J A M E S H G Y M I
 G I X N J U D A S X P M U N J A S
 Q D M D L P E T E R L S T L N T Y
 C B P W A N D R E W R Z V V N T A
 R K J A M E S B S O I G R W E H A
 N P Z C U M I S I M O N I E O E J
 X N D O R K N B P N J O H N V W N
 E C T H A D D A E U S O B R M H L
 P Z N K S O U O M E V N R P G K I
 C W Z N K A B A R T H O L O M E W
 T T B N E T L S F N L N Y V V L S
 Q J O O N R O S H P H I L I P O N
 O W H X Q D C N E D Y Q O P J G I

JAMES	Andrew	Bartholomew	James
John	Judas	Matthew	Peter
Philip	Simon	Thaddaeus	Thomas