

Apostles

Andrew, Peter, James & John

Note from Kathy

Today we will look at four of the twelve apostles that walked and talked with Jesus during his brief three-year ministry. These four men were just ordinary men doing ordinary things, until they met Jesus. Jesus can turn any life into an extraordinary life, if he is the focus. The great missionary and hero of the faith William Carey's life motto was, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."



Observation

Use your Bible or the verses provided at the end of this chapter to answer the questions below.

1. Just for fun, try to name the 12 apostles of Christ without looking them up. This may prove harder than you think. The reason this is a bit difficult is because we so seldom study them all at the same time. After you have written your answer (in pencil) read Luke 6:13-16 to see how many you got correct.

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| 1. | 4. | 7. | 10. |
| 2. | 5. | 8. | 11. |
| 3. | 6. | 9. | 12. |

2. Read Matthew 10:1-4. What facts can you glean concerning these 12 men?

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3. Read Mark 3:13-19. What facts do you glean concerning these 12 men?

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4. Read Acts 1:13 and Matthew 27:1-5. What has changed concerning the list of the apostles?
5. According to Matthew 4:18, what was Andrew's profession prior to being called by Jesus to follow him?
6. Read John 1:35-41 to answer the next questions about Andrew.

Andrew was a disciple of what great preacher and teacher, prior to following Jesus?

What did Andrew hear that made him want to follow Jesus?

What was the first thing Andrew did after he met Jesus?

7. In John 6, we read that Jesus had been teaching a very great crowd of men, women and children all day. Jesus asked, "Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?" One of the disciples told Jesus it would take more than a year's wages to buy enough bread to feed this crowd, even a small helping each. Read John 6:8-9. What did Andrew offer?

What were these men focused on, the problem or the problem solver?

8. Now let's look at Andrew's brother. According to John 1:41-42, what name did Andrew use when addressing his brother?
9. When Jesus met Andrew's brother, what name did he give him? _____
This name means rock in Aramaic. The importance of this name would come into sharper focus after Jesus' ascension.
10. According to Matthew 4:18-19, when Andrew and Peter met Jesus, what did Jesus say he wanted these men to do?

What was their new life's work?

11. Read Mark 1:30. What fact do we learn about Peter?
12. Peter often showed his faith and love for Jesus. One such event is recorded in Matthew 14:28-33. Jesus had been teaching a large crowd of people and it was almost evening. He instructed his 12 disciples to get into a boat and go over to Capernaum. When the boat was in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus came walking on the water. The seas were tumultuous because of the great wind that was blowing. The disciples were afraid; they thought that Jesus was a ghost. With a voice of calm assurance, Jesus spoke to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." What unusual request did Peter make?

What even more amazing thing did Peter do?

13. Read Matthew 16:13-18. What statement did Peter make that would be the foundation for the church of Jesus Christ?

How did Jesus say Peter knew this amazing truth?

14. While Jesus celebrated his last Passover meal with his disciples, he revealed that one of them would betray him. They all began to question which one it could be that would do such a horrific thing as this.

Read Matthew 26:17-35. What bold declaration did Peter make?

What events did Jesus forewarn Peter would happen before the sunrise the next morning?

Did Peter believe Jesus?

What did he promise Jesus?

What did the other disciples say to Jesus?

15. Read John 18:1-11. When the armed guards came to arrest Jesus, what did Peter do that was not pleasing to Jesus?

Read Luke 22:49-51. What Jesus did to correct this event?

16. The next two disciples we look at are James and John. Read Mark 1:19-20. What is their relationship to one another, and what was their occupation before meeting Jesus?

17. James and John are often mentioned together with Peter. Read Galatians 2:9 and Mark 3:17. How are they described, and what does this say to you about these men?

18. Read Luke 9:51-55. What do you think about James and John now?

19. Even though the author is not clearly stated, John is believed to have written the gospel of John. How does he describe himself in John 13:23?

20. Read Acts 12:1-2. What became of James?

21. What happened to John, according to Revelation 1:9?

Application

1. After looking at these first four apostles of Jesus, we see Jesus is always the one who initiates a relationship. Men and women may think they have searched for God, but the truth is Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. If you have experienced forgiveness and restoration and have a relationship with Jesus, why not spend a few minutes looking back at all the ways he pursued you. Jot down a couple that you would like to share in your small group discussion.

2. What were you busy doing before you met Jesus?

Has your personal relationship with Christ changed your activities? If so, in what way?

3. John the Baptist boldly declared, "Look, the lamb of God!" And because of him many came to know Jesus. Who shared this wonderful truth with you, so that you could know forgiveness and have a relationship with Christ?

4. Are you busy sharing Jesus as clearly as you can with those you know? Try to find at least one person this week and point them to Jesus and then share your experience with your small group.
5. Andrew brought what he could to Jesus in order to meet the need, even though he did not see how it would make any difference at all. What great need are you aware of?

What can you bring? What part can you play in meeting the need?

Read John 6:11-14. What did Jesus do with what was brought? What was the outcome? Is this what you do with your offering?

6. Jesus called Andrew, Peter, James and John to leave their previous lines of work and follow him into a life with eternal rewards. Did you know Jesus has a plan for each of us, his followers?

All of the events of our life, he will use, if we will simply give him control. Is Jesus really seated on the throne of your heart?

Does he truly make the decisions as to what you will say and do each day?

Would you honestly say he is the LORD of your life?

7. Peter showed great faith when he got out of the boat and walked on the water. Unfortunately, the wind and the waves got his attention off Jesus and he began to sink. Has something like this ever happened to you?

Jesus didn't calm the wind until he got into the boat. What lesson can we take away from this event that will be helpful in our walk of faith?

8. When Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray him and all would abandon him, they were so confused. They loved Jesus and could never imagine this happening. Have you ever thought you would die for Jesus, only to disappoint yourself by not speaking up for him when you had an opportunity?

Jesus knows our weakness and will forgive and restore us just as he did these men.

9. John referred to himself as the disciple Jesus loved. This may sound like bragging, but it was not. John was simply aware of the tremendous love Jesus had for him and was not shy about proclaiming it. Do you understand and live in the truth of Jesus' love for you?

Nothing you could ever do will make Jesus love you more, and nothing you could ever do will make him love you less. Jesus loves you!! Why not make it your habit to live your life in such a way that it reflects just how much you are loved by Him? What will you do today that will help others see this truth?

Bible Verses for Reference

Luke 6:13-16 - When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Matthew 10:1-4 - Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Mark 3:13-19 - Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Acts 1:13 - When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

Matthew 27:1-5 - Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ²So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. ³When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." ⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Matthew 4:18 - As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

John 1:35-41 - The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

John 6:8-9 - Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

John 1:41-42 - The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Matthew 4:18-19 - As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Mark 1:30 - Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her.

Matthew 14:28-33 - "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 16:13-18 - When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 26:17-35 - On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?" 23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." 25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so." 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." 33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." 35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

John 18:1-11 - When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" 5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." 10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Luke 22:49-51 - When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. 51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Mark 1:19-20 - When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Galatians 2:9 - James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

Mark 3:17 – James, so of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means ‘sons of thunder’)

Luke 9:51-54 – As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

John 13:23 - One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

Acts 12:1-2 - It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

Revelation 1:9 - I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.