

One Who Follows

Old English *discipul* (fem. *discipula*), "one who follows another for the purpose of learning,"

Koine Greek word *mathētēs*, which generally means "one who engages in learning through instruction from another, *pupil, apprentice*"

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. He then spent 40 days in the desert being tempted by Satan. Jesus Christ won the battle against the evil one. He then began his 3 ½ year ministry. While standing by the Lake of Gennesaret or as most know it, the Sea of Galilee, Jesus called His First disciples. The first men according to Luke were Simon whom Jesus called Peter, James and John the son of Zebedee.

Jesus then prayed to God, as he often did, and following that prayer he selected twelve men to become apostles. In the Christian faith, apostles were those entrusted by Jesus to help organize the church and spread the message of His teachings. The word apostle comes from the Greek word, apostelló, meaning a messenger or one sent on a mission.

Question Time:

1. Can you name the 12 apostles? Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James and Judas Iscariot (the traitor).
2. How many disciples did he have when he selected the 12 apostles? Well, we know he had at least 72, because he sent out 72 on a missionary journey.
3. Was Jesus a teacher, preacher, Son of God or a prophet? All of them.

Scripture:

Luke 6:12 – 16 The Twelve Apostles

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Next Steps: Try to figure out how many total apostles there were.

Answer: Remember that Judas hanged himself. The apostles selected Mathias to replace him during Pentacost and Paul became an apostle of Christ.