

Jesus' Disciples

HM Bible class

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Who Are They

- The twelve disciples, often referred to as the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ were twelve of the followers of Jesus Christ in Christianity. The twelve disciples were, according to Christianity ordinary men who followed the teachings of Jesus Christ and after witnessing His crucifixion and His resurrection and His ascension these men were sent out to spread the word of Christianity and be witness to the work of God.
- The twelve disciples were men of ordinary means, working as a fisherman, a tax collector and a revolutionary among other occupations and they experienced much hardship, failings and doubts during their following of Jesus; however, these men played an important part in spreading the word of Jesus Christ and Christianity. The twelve disciples are generally referred to as disciples during the time when Jesus walked the Earth and they are referred to as apostles after Jesus ascension.

Who Are They

- Simon (known as Peter)
- Andrew (Peter's brother)
- James (son of Zebedee)
- John (James' brother)
- Phillip
- Bartholomew
- Thomas
- Matthew (the tax collector)
- James (son of Alphaeus)
- Thaddeus (also known as Judas, son of James and Lebbaeus)
- Simon (the zealot also known as Simon the Canaanite)
- Judas Iscariot

The Twelve Disciples As Saints

- All of the disciples with the exception of Judas Iscariot were each made saints in the Catholic religion. This not only recognizes that these are Holy people, but it also means that Catholics can invoke these saints through prayer to intercede on their behalf. Below you will find the most popular prayers for each of the twelve disciples.

Simon: The First Disciple (aka St. Peter)

- Simon (known as Peter): Peter (also referred to as Saint Peter by the Catholic church) made his home in Bethsaida, a small town on the eastern shore of the sea of Galilee. Peter is generally the first of Jesus' disciples to be listed when naming off the twelve disciples and he is the most well known disciple referenced in The Bible.
- As a former fisherman, he is the **patron saint** of netmakers, shipbuilders, and fishermen, and, because he holds the "keys of heaven," he is also the **patron saint** of locksmiths. Possibly because he is said to have walked on water with Jesus, he is the **patron saint** of cobblers and of those with foot problems.
- Symbol: crossed keys, silver and gold keys signify Saint Peter's divinely-given power of binding and loosing.
- Was crucified upside down in Rome

Andrew: The First Apostle Called By Jesus (Peter's Brother)

- Andrew (also referred to as Saint Andrew by the Catholic church) is the brother of Peter and as such was also born in Bethsaida. Andrew served as a disciple of John the Baptist and lived as a fisherman.
- Andrew left his life as a fisherman to serve as one of the two disciples of John the Baptist. While John the Baptist was a great prophet he sent Andrew to Jesus referring to him as the "Lamb of God".
- Andrew is most noted for being the first Apostle called by Christ and spent his life spreading the word of Jesus Christ.
- The death of Andrew is not referred to in The Bible but it is believed by many that Andrew was hung on an "X" shaped cross for two days before succumbing to death, this is why the "X" shaped cross is referred to as the St. Andrew's cross.
- **St Andrew** is the patron saint of Scotland, Greece, Russia, Italy's Amalfi and Barbados. As well as other countries
- He's the patron Saint of singers, spinsters, maidens, fishmongers, fishermen, women wanting to be mothers, gout and sore throats.

James Of Galilee (Son Of Zebedee)

- James (son of Zebedee, older brother of John): James (also referred to as Saint James by the Catholic church) is known for being the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, he hailed from Galilee.
- James was a fisherman with Peter and John and is always referred to in The Bible as the son of Zebedee in order to prevent confusion among other James' in The Bible (there are many!) Jesus nicknamed both James and John "Sons of Thunder," this nickname is thought to come from the fact that they both were such stormy personalities; they were easily angered and quick to judge enemies of the Lord.
- James was one of the three disciples closest to Jesus and as a result he witnessed many magnificent events which the other nine disciples were not allowed to see.
- The death of James is clearly spoken of in The Bible, as the first of Jesus' disciples to give up his life in martyrdom James was slain by a sword.
- St. James is the patron Saint of pilgrims and Spain

John The Apostle: Wrote Five Bible Books (James' Brother)

- John (also referred to as Saint John by the Catholic church) the apostle is sometimes confused with John the Baptist when these men were two very different figures in Biblical history.
- John the Apostle was the younger brother of James and also a fisherman. John is known for writing five books of The Bible.
- John, like Andrew served as the second disciple to John the Baptist. John served as the third disciple to be included in the circle of three disciples closest to Christ and as such he was witness to many miracles of Christ that the other nine disciples were not allowed to see.
- John was particularly devoted to Jesus and is claimed to be the closest of all twelve disciples to Jesus, never straying far from him.
- John is often found in accompaniment of Peter in The Bible and it was Peter and John who discovered the empty tomb of Jesus after his resurrection. John was the last of the twelve disciples to die and the only disciple who did not die in martyrdom; he is believed to have died from old age after being exiled to Patmos.
- He's the patron Saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors

Phillip The Apostle

- Phillip (also referred to as Saint Phillip by the Catholic church) was born in Bethsaida like Peter and Andrew and is often referred to as Phillip the Apostle in order to distinguish him from the Phillip that occurs in Acts.
- Phillip was slow to recognize Jesus; however, once he found Jesus he was quick to share His greatness with his friend Nathanael Bartholomew.
- Both Phillip and Bartholomew are frequently named together as they frequently appear together and speak together in The Bible.
- Phillip is not mentioned a great deal throughout The Bible and not too much is known about him in depth. While Phillips death is not detailed in The Bible it is believed that he died the death of a Christian martyr.
- He's a patron of hatters

Bartholomew (Friend Of Phillip)

- Bartholomew (Nathanael Bartholomew): Bartholomew (also referred to as Saint Bartholomew by the Catholic church) was friend of Phillip and brought to see the greatness of Christ by Phillip.
- Both Bartholomew and Phillip are often seen together and as a result they are generally lumped together when spoken of in any detail.
- Bartholomew is known for being an honest man who was convinced by Jesus' greatness upon his meeting with Him and learning that Jesus saw him even before he came to Him.
- Much as with Phillip, Bartholomew is not referred to in detail in The Bible and so not too much is known about him.
- While his death is not talked of in The Bible it is believed that Bartholomew too received the death of a martyr as a result of his firm belief in Christianity and his intent on spreading the word of Christ.
- He's patron saint of tanners, plasterers, tailors, leatherworkers, bookbinders, farmers, housepainters, butchers, and glove makers.

Thomas: “Doubting Thomas”

- Thomas (also referred to as Saint Thomas by the Catholic church) is thought to have been a twin although there is no mention of his twin in The Bible.
- The phrase “doubting Thomas” comes from Thomas the disciple in that he was particularly slow to believe in Christ. Thomas is also characterized by being somewhat gloomy and easily discouraged.
- While he was much of a pessimist Thomas was a full believer in Christ and followed Him loyally throughout His life. Thomas is known for being unable to see the forest for the trees and Jesus often had to help him to see the whole forest.
- Thomas is the one disciple who was not present on the first Easter Sunday. Thomas was the disciple who refused to believe in resurrection but he went on to spread the word of Christ until his death.
 - Tradition (not in the Bible, he met Mother Mary in spirit being assumed to heaven)
- It is believed that Thomas died the death of a martyr but this cannot be verified.
- He’s the patron saint of masons, construction workers, architects, builders, stone masons, stone cutters, and surveyors.
- Tradition associates him with having taken the Gospel to India.
 - Mar Addai & Mar Mari

Matthew: The Tax Collector

- Matthew (also referred to as Saint Matthew by the Catholic church) is known for being a publican (or tax collector) which is unusual in that most of the disciples were fishermen by trade.
- Due to his work as a tax collector Matthew was seen as filth among people, classified as the lowest of the low for working alongside the Romans in collecting taxes and at the time being under Roman rule was the most hated thing of all. In addition during this time many tax collectors were dishonest giving people even more reason to hate them.
- Matthew always refers to himself as Matthew the tax collector or Matthew the publican making note of the fact that he was once a sinner even though he followed the path of Christ. Matthew was particularly self absorbed at the time he was called by Jesus to serve as His disciple.
- Upon meeting Christ; however, Matthew forgot about being self centered and began to consider others. Matthew is recognized for being the first writer of the first Gospel which is now referred to as the Gospel of Matthew.
- He's the patron Saint of tax collectors and accountants

James (Son Of Alphaeus)

- James (son of Alphaeus) (also known as Saint James the Less by the Catholic church) is one of the disciples that very little is known about.
- James' father shared his name with the father of Matthew and it is possible that they were brothers; however, this cannot be known for certain because there was much reuse of names in this time.
- James the son of Alphaeus is thought to be the same man as referred to as "James the Less" as a way for the disciples to distinguish between the two James' however this is not known for certain and should not be assumed.
- He's the patron Saint of carpenters'

Thaddeus

- Thaddeus (also known as Judas (but not Judas the Betrayer), son of James and Lebbaeus): Thaddeus (also referred to as Saint Jude in the Catholic church) is believed to have been the nickname or surname of Judas.
- There is some confusion as to whether Thaddeus was the brother or son of James but it is known that they were related.
- Thaddeus is known as a disciple of three names being that he is referred to as Thaddeus, Judas and Lebbaeus.
- Thaddeus was not a leader of the twelve disciples and he is not mentioned often throughout The Bible.
- He's the patron Saint of desperate cases and lost causes.

Simon: The Canaanite

- Simon (the zealot also known as Simon the Canaanite): Simon (also known as Saint Simon in the Catholic church) is the least known of all of the twelve Apostles.
- The interesting thing about Simon is that he is never mentioned throughout The Bible, except to list his name as one of the twelve disciples.
- The word Canaanite as used to describe Simon is actually a term which relates to his position as a member of the zealots, a political party.
- He's the patron Saint of couriers, tanners and sawyers

Judas Iscariot: The Betrayer

- Judas Iscariot – Judas Iscariot is always the last disciple placed on the list of twelve. Judas Iscariot is often referred to as Judas the Betrayer and he is known, and will forever be known for the one act of betrayal of the Lord.
- Though Judas was chosen to serve as one of Jesus' disciples he eventually betrayed him while wearing the mask of a friend. Even when given the chance to reveal that he was plotting against Jesus, Judas Iscariot kissed Jesus and Jesus called him "friend".
- Judas was the disciple who did not truly believe in the love of Jesus and when the chief priests were looking for a way to arrest Jesus Judas provided them with that way by identifying Jesus with a kiss in return for thirty pieces of silver.
- Judas is frequently referred to as the only disciple who was separated from God in his death as he never had salvation as a result of his betrayal, thievery and lies.
- How did he die?
- What's the difference between him & Simon Peter who denied Jesus 3 times?

Matthias: The 12th Apostle

- Matthias (also known as Saint Matthias in the Catholic church) was chosen by the remaining eleven disciples to replace the betrayer, Judas Iscariot before Jesus' resurrection.
- The scriptural recommendation was for twelve disciples and so Peter declared that they must choose another to take the place of Judas Iscariot.
- Matthias was chosen as the twelfth Apostle since he was present with Jesus Christ during his time on Earth as well as through his crucifixion.
- While two men were chosen to take the twelfth place in the Apostles lots were drawn and Matthias was selected as the twelfth and final Apostle.
- He became one of the patron saints for alcoholics.
- He was martyred in Jerusalem, stoned to death.

The Commission of the Twelve

- Matthew 10:5