

Session 1

Jesus' special team

Introductory session about the disciples

Scripture:

Luke 19:10: "I, the Son of man, came to save all those who are lost, to seek and to save."

Mark 1:15: "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives and trust this good news!"

Supplies:

- ♦ Print out of the disciple cards in colour (If you have a big group session, use the PowerPoint presentation so that the pictures are bigger and more visible.)
- ♦ Print out of the scriptures
- ♦ Toilet rolls (13) to keep the cards upright
- ♦ Extra sets of the disciple cards (just the fronts) to play "Snap" with. (+/- 4 sets)
- ♦ A wrapped box with the following words written on top: "The Good News". Inside the box is our two scriptures written on a piece of paper.
- ♦ Fishing board game (like "Snakes and ladders" with all accessories)



WELCOME

- ❖ **Send the message on:** Let the children stand in a line and look out in front of them. Tap the child at the back's shoulder, wait for him/her to turn around and pull a face. It can be a wink, raising your eyebrows or any combination of movements. The child must then tap the child in front of him/her and show him/her the same expression or movement.
- ❖ **Send the package on:** Challenge the group to send a package in the fastest way from point A to point B in the room. Start with 2 people that are standing still next to each other. They aren't allowed to move when the package is in their hands and the package can never be thrown. Person 1 must give the package to Person 2, walk around Person 2, and then Person 2 must give the package back to Person 1. Time them to see how long it takes. Lengthen the line with 2 more people. Every time you give the package away, you must run to the front of the line to make the line longer again. Lengthen the line with 6 and later 12 people. More people make the travelling easier.
- ❖ For outside or for younger children: Take chalk and draw big footprints outside on the cement or bricks. Play "**Follow the leader**" by jumping from one footprint to the next.



WORSHIP

Theme song: 12 disciples song

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfi3JRR1Nfc&feature=youtu.be&list=PLccnoha6VdKukutZ-kx4vDMzgESbiD0jr>)

Other songs: "I have decided to follow Jesus"

"Fishing for Jesus"

Settle-down ritual:

Let us place ourselves in the presence of our loving God. Sit your back resting against your chair. Put your feet on the floor and let them feel the floor. Rest your hands gently in your lap. You may like to rest them on your knees. Close your eyes. Listen to the sounds outside the room. (15 s) Listen to the sounds inside the room. (15 s) Listen to your breathing. "Thank you, Lord, for breath. Amen."



WORD

Jesus came to the world to tell people about the Good News. (Hold the package used in the "Welcome" game up high.) What would the Good News be? Let someone open the package. Inside are the two scriptures: Luke 19:10 and Mark 1:15.

God loves us so much that He sent his only Son to the world to show us how to live and to save us from our sins so that we can live with God in heaven. But to do this Jesus needed people on earth whom he could teach to live like God intended and to whom He could tell why God sent Him. He needed a team that could follow Him and could continue his work even after He had gone. We call this dedicated team the "disciples".

Jesus chose 12 disciples to follow Him. He found them in different places and put the team together. They weren't all the same age and didn't have the same job. Let's have a look at Jesus' team.

Use the cards to introduce the disciples. Give the extra information that's on the back of the disciples to give them a better idea. Use this information as clues and let the children guess who the disciple is. Once you're done with a disciple, you can put his card away and stand him on a toilet roll. (Older children can draw the cards, read the detail at the back and then put him away.)

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:


1. I wonder how it would feel to be part of such a special group of people.
2. I wonder which disciple you like most.
3. I wonder how you can be one of Jesus' disciples today.
4. I wonder which picture you would put onto your clothes.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ✍ Younger children: Copy a set of disciples in black and white for each child to colour in so that they look like the disciples on the poster.
- ✍ Give the extra sets of the disciples (without the description on the back) to the children and let

them play “Snap”. You can only take the pile if you remember the disciple’s name and a fact about him. (Alternatively for older children – give every group of 2 children a set of cards with pictures and a set of cards with the descriptions. They need to pair them together correctly.

 Fishing board game (like “Snakes and ladders”)

Close with the **benediction**:

“Jesus loves you so much

He has invited you.

You are very welcome at His table.

He forgives you. He heals your heart.

His Spirit lives in you.”

Amen

Andrew

Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist.

He was a fisherman.

Simon Peter was his brother.

It was he who brought the boy with the 5 bread loaves and 2 fish to Jesus.

He was one of the four disciples closest to Jesus.

(Judas) Thaddeus

His name Thaddeus means "brave heart".

Some call him Judas, son of James.

Simon the Zealot

He was from Galilee and was also called Simon the Canaanite.

He is known as Simon the Zealot, as he was a political champion against the Romans.

He was the most aggressive disciple.

Simon Peter

He was Andrew's brother; they were the first 2 called as Jesus' disciples.

His name means "rock". Jesus also called him Cephas.

He was one of the four disciples closest to Jesus.

His father's name was John.

He walked on water.

He disowned Jesus three times.

He severed Malchus' ear in Gethsemane.

John

He is James' brother.

They are known as the "Sons of Thunder".

His father is Zebedee.

His brother and he were fishermen alongside their father before Jesus called them.

He wanted to sit at Jesus' right side.

He was one of the four disciples closest to Jesus.

He was Jesus' most-loved disciple.

He lived to be very old and wrote many letters to the early church.

James

John is his brother.

They are known as the "Sons of Thunder".

His father is Zebedee.

His brother and he were

fishermen alongside their father before Jesus called them.

He wanted to sit at Jesus' right side.

He was one of the four disciples closest to Jesus.

Philip

When Jesus said

"Follow Me", he followed Jesus and fetched Bartholomew.

He was from Bethsaida.

His name means "he is fond of horses".

He thought it is impossible expensive to feed 5000 people.

During the Last Supper, he asked Jesus to show them the Father.

Bartholomew / Nathanael

He was called Nathanael or Bartholomew.

Jesus was impressed by his faith and honesty.

He was under a fig tree when Philip called him.

He came from Cana in Galilee.

Bartholomew means "son of a sower or farmer".

Judas Iscariot

He carried the disciples' coin purse.

He did not like it when

Mary poured expensive oil onto Jesus' feet.

He betrayed Jesus for 30 silver pieces and hanged himself afterwards.

Thomas / Didymus

He said that he would not believe that Jesus was resurrected until

he could place his fingers on the wounds left by the nails.

(He doubted that Jesus was

resurrected, and wanted to see the

marks on his hands and feet for himself.)

Matthew / Levi

He was a tax collector.

His father's name was Alphaeus.

Jesus shared a meal with him at his house.

He was the author of the Book of Matthew.

James the Younger

Sometimes referred to as James the Less.

Perhaps he was young, shy or small of stature.

Mark 15:40

There was another disciple named James.

Jesus

Teacher of the Law / Religious leader

