The Disciples

Lesson 1: I Will Tell Your Name

**Lessons in this series:** **1**[2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/331/lesson/love-in-your-obedience.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/333/lesson/what-are-you-thinking.php) [4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/339/lesson/dealing-with-doubt.php) [5](http://www.teensundayschool.com/334/lesson/leaving-a-legacy.php)

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To introduce students to the 12 disciples, who we will study in depth in coming weeks  
2. To examine the life of Philip, a faithful evangelist  
3. To motivate students to follow Jesus—no matter where it takes them

Topics

Apostles, Availability, Disciple, Following Jesus

Scripture Memorization

Matthew 10:2-4

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (5 minutes)

**Can of Sardines (Game)**  
This is a silly game, and has nothing to do with the lesson (although some of the disciples were fishermen). Have a sardine eating contest. Pick two students to race against each other. The first person to eat a can of sardines wins a prize, ($1, a candy bar, maybe a bottle of water to wash it down!)

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

For the next few weeks, we will focus on lessons from the twelve disciples of Jesus.

**General Discussion:**• Without looking it up, can any of you name all 12 disciples?   
• Can we come up with all 12 as a group? *(A complete list can be found in Matt. 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-18, Luke 6:14, or Acts 1:13)*• What do you know about them? What’s interesting to you about these men?

 (There is a place in the lesson workbook to list the names of the twelve disciples.)

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| 1. Simon *(called Peter)* | 2. Andrew | 3. James *(son of Zebedee)* | 4. John |
| 5. Philip | 6. Bartholomew | 7. Thomas | 8. Matthew |
| 9. James *(son of Alphaeus)* | 10. Thaddaeus | 11. Simon*(called the Zealot)* | 12. Judas |

Isn’t it fascinating that these regular men changed the face of the world all because they encountered Jesus? Let’s get started learning more about who these guys were—we surely have a lot to learn from them!

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

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| **What do we really know about the Twelve?** (Some of this you may have already talked about, but this will bring you up to a baseline understanding of who the twelve were.)  • 4 were fishermen: (Peter, Andrew, James, and John-all likely uneducated and not wealthy)  • 1 from a fishing town:(Philip-from Bethsaida)   • 1 was a tax collector: (Matthew-likely educated and wealthy) • 1 was likely a political radical: (Simon-Zealots worked to violently overthrow Roman rule in Israel)   • 1 (at least) had different ideas about the Messiah: (Judas-who later betrayed Jesus) |

In a moment, we’re going to focus on Philip. Before we do, let’s take a look at an early encounter with Jesus.

**Read Mark 1:14-20**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What reason might Jesus have had to choose these particular men?   
2. Do you think Jesus knew them before He called them? *(He knew some of them.)*3. What were their responses to the call of Jesus? *(They followed Him.)*  
4. Jesus had 4-5 fishermen among the disciples. What about the fishermen was appealing for what Jesus wanted to accomplish?  
5. How is fishing like evangelism?  
  
Jesus called these men to participate in the transformation of people’s lives, including their own.  While Jesus’ call certainly gave them purpose for what they had been seeking, it also contained an element of fear.   
  
One of these men was named Philip. His experience stands out as indicative of what all the disciples faced when Jesus said, “Follow Me.”

**Read John 1:43-46  
  
Discussion Questions:**1. Do you think Jesus said more to Philip than just “Follow Me”?  
2. What was Philip’s response to Jesus? What did he do next? *(He went and told Bartholomew/Nathanael (the same person) that the Messiah had been found.)*3. What was Nathanael’s response? *(He doubted.)*4. How did Philip convince him to come?*(He said, “just come and see.”)*

That is really all we get on Philip in the gospels. Like the other disciples, he’s quoted here and there in the New Testament, but his impact is somewhat obscured by more major characters. One thing we know, however—once he experienced Jesus, he was ready to jump on board and tell others.

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

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| **"I Will Tell Your Name" (A Missionary's Story)**   Roland Allen tells about a veteran missionary who came up to him one day after he had delivered his sermon. The missionary introduced himself and said, "I was a medical missionary for many years in India. And I served in a region where there was progressive blindness. People were born with healthy vision, but there was something in that area that caused people to lose their sight as they matured.”  But this missionary had developed a process that arrested progressive blindness. So, people came to him, and he performed his operation. They left realizing that they would have become blind, but now they were going to be able to see for the rest of their lives.  He said that they never said, "Thank you," because that phrase was not in their dialect. Instead, they spoke a word that meant, “I will tell your name.” Wherever they went, they would tell the name of the missionary who had cured their blindness. They received something so wonderful that they eagerly proclaimed it. |

**Discussion Questions:**1. How is this story like evangelism?  
2. How is the motivation of these people the same as that of Philip the disciple?  
3. How much do you share the name of Jesus?   
4. Have you accepted the call of Christ to follow Him? When did you do so, or why haven’t you yet?  
  
Jesus seems to have chosen regular, spiritually-unqualified, and very NORMAL people to serve as His apostles. Their common thread was their willingness to follow Him. Philip was certainly no exception. We don’t know of anything magical that he said or did. We just know that after he had an experience with the Messiah, his life showed it. He “told the name” of Jesus.   
 **General Discussion**:  
• Do you view the ordinary-ness of the disciples as encouraging or discouraging? Why?  
• Do you ever feel ill-equipped to share about Jesus? Why?  
• Why do you think we believe you have to be “special” in order to do something significant for God? Is that false based on what we’ve studied today? How so?  
• Do you ever tell yourself that you’re doing “good enough?” How is this a wrong attitude?

As the old hymn goes, “I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” We were people trapped in spiritual blindness, but because of Christ, we are able to see. Our everyday life should be a reflection of the awesome gift Christ has given us in Himself. We should be going around “telling the name” of Christ with our everyday actions.

Ask yourself today: has your encounter with Jesus so transformed your life that you can’t help but live it every day?  If not, I think you have some work to do spiritually. Jesus is ready and wants to use you like He used the apostles to turn the world upside down.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Pray that your group accepts Jesus' call to follow Him, and like Philip have an eagerness to spread the name of Christ.

Background on the Twelve Disciples

Disciples/Apostles:

Disciple means a learner or follower. Although there were many disciples, or followers of Jesus, we often refer to the   
twelve whom He called to follow Him as the twelve disciples. During His ministry on earth, Jesus taught and trained these men, and after His resurrection and ascension, sent them to spread the Good News. It was at this time the name "apostles" is gives to the twelve. (Matthew 28:16-20)

The Names:

The names of the original twelve disciples (or apostles) are listed in several different passages of the Bible:  
Matt. 10:2-4,   
Mark 3:16-18   
Luke 6:14  
Acts 1:13

Commonly, these are the names given to the original twelve disciples:

**Simon** (who is called Peter)  
     **Andrew** (Peter's brother)  
     **James** (son of Zebedee)  
     **John** (son of Zebedee)  
     **Philip**     **Bartholomew** (also called **Nathaniel**)  
     **Thomas**     **Matthew** (the tax collector)  
     **James** (son of Alphaeus)  
     **Thaddaeus**  
     **Simon** (the Zealot)  
     **Judas** Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus)

Later, Matthias became the 13th apostle replacing Judas Iscariot

The Mission:

The twelve disciples were ordinary men from different walks of life. Some were fishermen, one was a tax collector, others were activists. One had a much different idea about the Messiah. Despite their constant failing and struggles, God was able to use these disciples who remained faithful to Jesus in a mighty way.  Powered by the Holy Spirit, they changed the world.