

Jesus Calls Disciples

Teacher Preparation

1. Study lesson.
 - Scripture **John 1:35–51**
Luke 6:13–16
2. Visuals
 - Map 1.3
 - Apostles Poster 5
 - Key Verse 5 **Matt. 4:19**
3. Objectives: To learn—
 - about Christ's disciples,
 - and the 12 apostles,
 - and why unsaved Judas was chosen as an apostle.

Lesson 5

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

“Behold the Lamb of God”

John 1:35–36

After Jesus' baptism and temptation, He returned to the Jordan River. There great crowds were gathered to hear **John the Baptist** preach. John cried, “**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**” The Lamb of God refers to all the OT animal sacrifices which pointed to Jesus and His death at Calvary.

John the Baptist so prepared the people for their Messiah that when Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist became less important, and Jesus moved into the spotlight. This should be **our desire—to lift up Jesus Christ** rather than seek our own glory.

Disciples

John 1:37–41

In those days, people who zealously followed a teacher were called his disciples. The word **disciple** reminds us of the word **discipline**; it is one who disciplines himself to follow a teacher. The Pharisees as well as secular leaders had disciples.

Thus the converts of John the Baptist who followed his teachings were his disciples. Two of John's disciples were Andrew and John.

Andrew brings Simon

John 1:35–42

Teacher reads, as class follows.

★ **John 1:35–37** *Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; ³⁶ And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold*

the Lamb of God! ³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Christ's **first disciples** were **Andrew** and **John the Beloved**; this is the John who wrote the Gospel of John.

★ **John 1:38–42** *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?*
³⁹ *He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.*
⁴⁰ *One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*
⁴¹ *He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*
⁴² *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephass, which is by interpretation, A stone.*

Andrew and Simon were from a town called **Bethsaida** near the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee. Point to area of Bethsaida →

Andrew did what all believers are to do—invite others to Jesus. **Andrew** found his brother Simon and told him, “We have found the **Messiah!**” and he brought Simon to Jesus. Those who bring others to Jesus are often referred to as “Andrews.” As we pray for and witness to unsaved family members and friends, God often uses that to bring them to Christ.

Jesus gave to Simon a new name: **Cephas** (or **Peter**). The name **Cephas** means “a stone.” Jesus knew that later Simon Peter would stand firm as a rock for God's truth.

Philip tells Nathanael

John 1:43–46

★ **John 1:43–45** *The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.*
⁴⁴ *Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*



⁴⁵ Philip findeth **Nathanael**, and saith unto him, *We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, **Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.***

When Jesus met **Philip** and said, *“Follow me,”* Philip immediately followed Jesus. Then Philip found **Nathanael** and said, *“We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”* Notice that Philip **incorrectly** called Jesus *“the son of Joseph.”* It is interesting that scripture accurately quotes Philip’s incorrect statement. This shows that the people were ignorant of Christ’s virgin birth and did not know that **Joseph was not Jesus’ father.**

No last names

In those days, **last names** had not begun to be used. Individuals were just called by their name, then, if needed, their **father’s name**—*“Simon the son of Jona”*—John 1:42, **or their hometown**—*Saul of Tarsus*—Acts 9:11, **or their occupation**—*“Simon a tanner”*—Acts 10:6, **or by both** *“Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”*—John 1:45. Since many had the same first name, this helped to identify the exact person.

A history student asked the teacher, “Is ‘Christ’ the last name of Jesus?” The answer was, “Probably.” But the teacher did not know that **Christ** is a **title** and not His name. “Christ” is Greek for **Messiah**. The title can be used before or after His name—Christ Jesus or Jesus Christ.

Come and see

* **John 1:46** *And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of **Nazareth**? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.*

Nathanael **knew** that **scripture** said the Messiah would be **born in Bethlehem** of Judea; so, he responded, *“Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?”* But he did **not know** that Jesus **was born in Bethlehem** and only **grew up in Nazareth**.

Philip was so convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, he said, **“Come and see.”** And we can say that to others, **“Come and see! for yourself!”**

Nathanael meets Jesus

John 1:47–51

Nathanael then went with Philip to see Jesus.

* **John 1:47, 48** *Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an **Israelite indeed**, in whom is **no guile**! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, *Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast **under the fig tree, I saw thee.****

It shocked Nathanael that Jesus **knew him** and said he was an **“Israelite indeed.”** And that meant Nathanael was a **true Israelite**, a man of **faith**. Nathanael was also **shocked** that Jesus had **seen him** under the **fig tree**. We are not told what Jesus saw Nathanael doing under the fig tree. Perhaps he was **praying** and had such a **powerful experience** with God that it **convinced** Nathanael that Jesus was the Messiah.

* **John 1:49** *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, **thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.***

Nathanael then **believed** that Jesus was the **Messiah**, the Son of God.

* **John 1:50, 51** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, **believest thou?** thou shalt see greater things than these.*

⁵¹ *And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the **Son of man.***

Scripture does not tell us what, nor when that happened. Notice, Jesus refers to Himself as the **Son of man**, not the **Son of God**. Jesus **often referred** to Himself as Son of man, which shows His **humility** in coming to earth to identify with sinful man. Later at Calvary, Jesus totally identified with sinful mankind by taking our eternal punishment for sin.

12 apostles chosen

Many thousands believed on Jesus during His short earthly ministry of

about **3½ years**. And many of those became His **disciples**—dedicated followers.

Later, there would be a **third group** and much smaller—only 12 men.

From the disciples, Jesus will choose **12** to be His **apostles**. The word *apostle* means “**sent one**.” These 12 apostles would leave their occupations as fishermen, tax collector, etc. and follow Jesus full time. This would occur later in His ministry.

The words **disciple** and **apostle** are not synonymous, for Jesus had thousands of disciples, but only 12 apostles. An apostle is a disciple “sent for a special purpose.” Jesus knew that when He returned to His heavenly Father, the **apostles** would have the main responsibility to continue His work on earth.

Luke 6:13–16 gives the names of the **12 apostles**:

Simon Peter	Matthew (Levi)
Andrew	Thomas
James	James (son of Alphaeus)
John	Simon (Zelotes)
Philip	Judas (brother of James)
Bartholomew	Judas Iscariot (traitor)
(Nathanael)	(Paul later replaces Judas)

→
(read
names
twice)



Why Judas, an apostle?

Jesus chose **Judas Iscariot** to be an apostle, and he became the treasurer, responsible for money given to buy food, etc. At the **end**, Judas turned **traitor** and **betrayed Jesus** for **30 pieces of silver**. This showed he was “*greedy of filthy lucre*”—I Tim. 3:3. And he **hanged** himself.

John 6:64 says, *Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him*.

Since Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot did not believe on Him and would betray Him, the question is—**why** did **Jesus choose** Judas to be an apostle?

4 possible reasons

The question cannot be answered for sure; let's consider 4 possible reasons.

1st reason—It warns each person to **examine** himself whether or not he is **truly saved**. I trust you know for sure you are saved. If you don't, then don't put it off. Believe on Christ, and He will save you.

2nd reason—Choosing Judas Iscariot gives proof that an **unsaved** person can live and work in a **godly** atmosphere and yet remain unsaved. And only God and the person may know it.

3rd reason—Choosing Judas for an apostle demonstrates that it is **not** always the **fault** of the **leader** that followers go astray. And that is good for us to remember throughout life.

4th reason—Perhaps Jesus chose Judas to help us understand what will occur when **Christ returns** to set up His **1,000 year kingdom** on **earth**. During that time, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit, and righteousness will reign as Christ rules the earth as King. But, everyone **born** during that 1,000 years will **not experience** the **new birth**. Therefore, near the end of the thousand years, Satan will be loosed out of the bottomless pit for a season. Then, **those** who are **not saved** will become **troublemakers** and turn **against Christ**, even as Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord Jesus the night before His crucifixion (Rev. 20:3, 7–9).

Jesus sends apostles and disciples

As Jesus' popularity continued to increase, He later sent the 12 apostles to preach, “*The kingdom of heaven is at hand*”—Matt. 10:7. When the King of heaven is present, then His kingdom is “*at hand*.” Jesus and

His apostles invited all to enter God's **spiritual kingdom**.

Jesus also gave the apostles **power** to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils"—Matt. 10:8. He not only had **power**, but He **gave** them **power** to do **miracles**.

Later, Jesus would also send out **70 disciples** (Luke 10:1) to go **two by two** to the villages and places where He would visit. They would **prepare** the people for **His coming**.

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

After Christ's resurrection and at His **ascension**, Jesus said to the apostles,

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

This is commonly called the **Great Commission**, for it commands believers to give the gospel to every creature—whether across the street, or halfway around the world. Because Christ's apostles and disciples did this, Christianity spread quickly throughout the known world in that **first century** A.D. And it continues to spread today as God's people obey the Great Commission.

Key Verse 5

A Key Verse is

Matt. 4:19 *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

(Repeat 2 times)



Notice He promises to **make** us **fishers** of men.

Give the gospel

There are simple ways each of us can give the gospel—

- We can tell our **unsaved** family members, neighbors, and those that God brings our way—about Jesus Christ. We can also give gospel tracts to those who serve us in stores, at meals, or other places of business.
- We can also **give financially** to support God's work in our church and to missionaries in foreign countries and at home.

- And we can **pray** for **missionaries** and those who labor to get the gospel to people at home and around the world.

Disciples today

Jesus calls **all** who are **saved** to be His disciples. But not all Christians respond to His call to become disciples. Some choose to live their own life—the way they want and not God's way, but later they will regret it. A **disciple** must follow the Lord Jesus and discipline himself to do right—by being **morally clean** and **separated** from the evil of this world.

God also calls some disciples to serve Him **full-time** in a Christian ministry, such as pastors, missionaries, Christian school teachers, or many other areas of full-time Christian service. And those who respond to God's call for full-time service and give their life to the Lord's work—never regret it.

If you are saved but not a disciple, God may be calling you to follow Him.

You could decide that today.

Review Key Verse

Matt. 4:19 —→

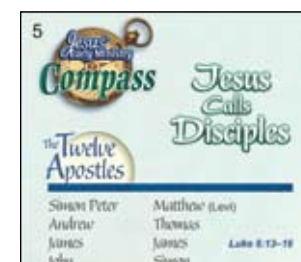
Let's say it together.

Key Verse 5



Prayer

As class exits,
Asst. gives out
Compass #5.



Scripture to read before next study

John 2: 1–11