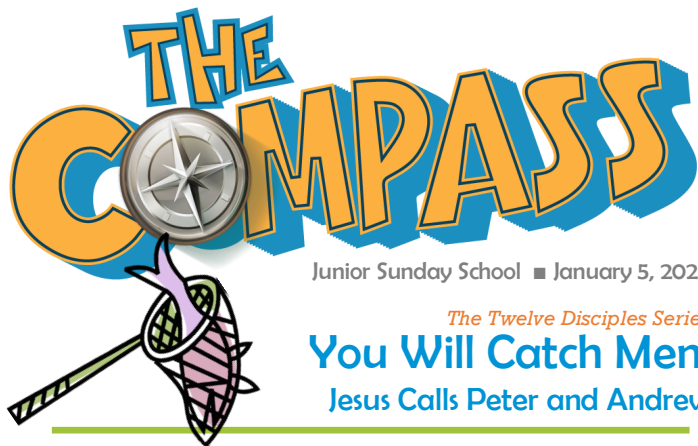


The Twelve Disciples

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They were fishermen and were throwing their nets into the sea. Jesus called out to them and said, “Follow me! I will make you fishers of men.” The brothers *immediately* left their nets and followed Jesus. Soon, they came across two more brothers. Their names were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and they were working hard mending their nets. Jesus called them, and they also left their nets and followed Him.

Did you notice how quickly all four men left their work and everything they had to follow Jesus?

(It is important to know that Jesus does not expect us to drop everything and follow Him without understanding *who* He is. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all disciples of John the Baptist before they were disciples of Jesus. They had been introduced to Jesus as the Messiah before Jesus called them from their nets. You will learn more about that later.)

Luke gives us a little more detail about why they were so excited to follow Him: while Jesus was teaching a crowd near a lake, he asked Simon Peter if He could sit and preach from his boat. Simon Peter said yes, and when Jesus was done preaching, He said to him, “Push off into deep water and let down your nets.”

Simon Peter answered, “Master, we have worked all night and caught nothing. But we will do what you say.” As soon as he obeyed, his nets were so full of fish that they began to break! Simon Peter called out to his partners in another ship to help, and soon both ships were sinking under the weight of all the fish they caught. Just imagine what Simon Peter was feeling at that moment! He fell down on his face before Jesus and said, “Leave me, for I am a sinful man, oh Lord!”

Jesus answered, “Do not fear. From now on, you will catch men.”

And when they brought their ships back to land, they left everything they had and followed Him.

It seems unbelievable that these men, including Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, would leave their families, their jobs, and their homes to follow Jesus. But they had faith in Him, and believed in what He taught.

Jesus *still* needs boys and girls to work hard for Him and be His disciples. Do you go to school? Do you see other kids on the playground or at church? Do you have brothers and sisters at home? Jesus is asking *you* to love and follow Him so that the people around you can learn to love and follow Him too. ■

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11

When Jesus was just beginning to preach and teach, He chose twelve special men to help Him teach, heal, and help people. These twelve men were called *disciples* or *apostles*. A disciple is a student, or someone who follows and learns from his or her teacher. Jesus needed these men to help Him; because, even though He lived on earth, He knew He would go back to heaven, and

He wanted men who would work hard to spread the Gospel.

When we read the story in Matthew and Luke, we get a very good picture of how He called His first two disciples.

Matthew tells us this part of the story: one day, while Jesus was walking near the sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers whose names were Simon Peter and Andrew.

Lesson Discussion

- What were the names of the first two men Jesus called to be disciples? How did they react when He called them?
- What miracle does Jesus perform in the story from Luke?
- How do you think you would feel if you watched Jesus do such an

amazing miracle? Would you be as excited as the fishermen to follow Him?

- What are some things in life that make it hard for us to follow Jesus? For the fishermen, it was their boats and nets and the money they made from catching fish.

Memory Verse

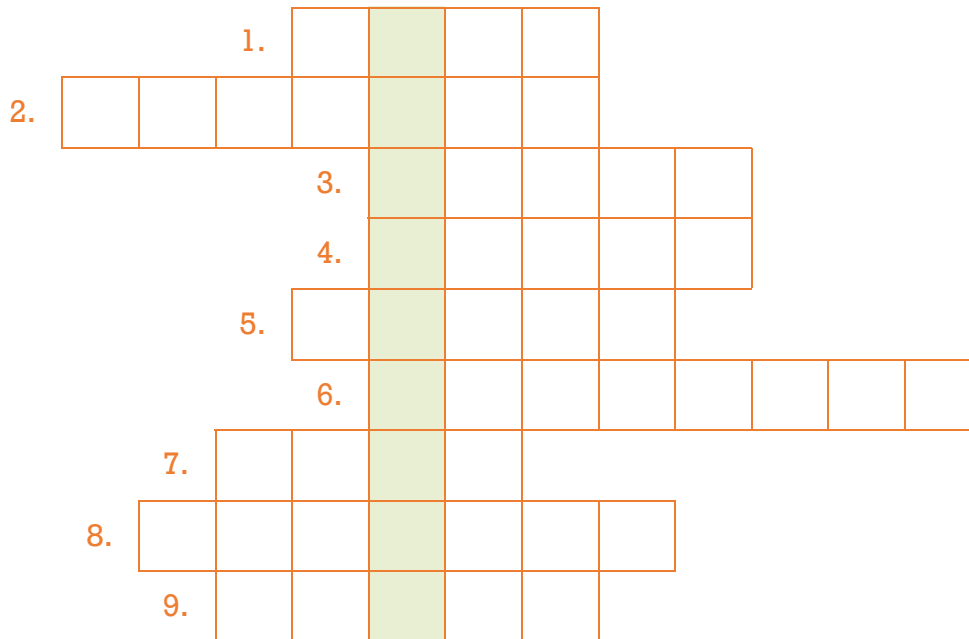
And Jesus said unto Simon,
Fear not; from henceforth
thou shalt catch men.
Luke 5:10

Key Thought

Jesus called disciples to
follow Him and learn how
to spread the Gospel.

VERSE CLUES!

Read Luke 5:1-11 and fill in the puzzle using clues from the passage.



1. Two boats were at the water's _____. (v 2)
2. The fishermen were _____ their nets. (v 2)
3. One of the boats belonged to _____ Peter. (v 3)
4. Jesus wanted them to put down their nets for a draught. (v 4) *Another word for draught is _____ t c h.*
5. The fisherman had worked all _____. (v 5)
6. They caught so many fish that they signaled for their _____ to help them. (v 7)
7. Simon _____ at Jesus' feet. (v 8)
8. James and John were sons of _____. (v 10)
9. _____ told Simon he would catch men. (v 10)

FOLLOWING JESUS, NOT STUFF

Materials:

- Items that represent drawing closer to Jesus (Bibles, memory verse cards, hymnals, devotionals, pictures from Bible stories, etc.)
- Items that represent can distract from Jesus, not necessarily evil things (pretend money, technology items, music, popular magazines or books, candy, clothing, toys, etc.)
 - A sign that says "Jesus"

Directions:

Lay out a path with the items that represent Jesus, going from one side of the room to the other. Scatter the items that might distract from Jesus around them so the pathway is not clear. When you are finished, there should be items all over the floor of the room. Place the sign that says, "Jesus" at the end of the trail.

Ask the students to find the items that might lead them closer to God. Challenge them to follow the trail, stepping over (not on) items that will only draw them closer to Jesus until they can get across the room to the sign.

Discuss what kinds of things they had to choose to get closer to Jesus and what kinds of things might have distracted them from Him.



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 12, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Peter Walks on Water

Doing the Impossible



Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-34

Peter was a fisherman. He did not work in a dusty roadside market stall selling produce. No, he knew the feel of the rocking and swaying of a boat. He saw the sea when it was as calm as glass and when it was choppy and rough. One night, however, experienced fisherman that he was, he became afraid—even as he did the impossible.

Earlier that day, Peter witnessed an incredible event by Jesus, the new master whom he now followed. Five thousand men, plus women and children, listened to Jesus teach. Late in the afternoon, they became hungry. After He had given thanks, Jesus took five loaves of bread and two small fishes and—impossibly—fed the multitude. The people ate and were filled and twelve basketfuls of food remained. Peter, the other disciples, and the rest of the people were astounded. Never before had they seen such a feat!

Memory Verse

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:23

Key Thought

Faith in Jesus Christ unlocks the door of impossibilities.

Lesson Discussion

- Name three “impossible” things Jesus did in our lesson today.
- Do you believe those things really happened? Do you

believe He can do impossible things in your life?

- What kinds of things seem impossible to you?
- Two things are needed to accomplish the impossible. What are they? Keeping our eyes on _____ and F _____.

After a full day of teaching, Jesus needed some quiet time to pray. He sent the people away and told the disciples to get into a boat and meet Him on the other side at a later time. They obeyed, and sometime between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning, Peter and the other disciples found themselves in the middle of a sea full of trouble! A terrible storm had come. It plunged the boat under the waves and back up again.

Unbeknownst to them (*without them knowing it*), Jesus, alone on the mountaintop, saw their exhausted efforts at rowing to keep the boat afloat.

Jesus sees us, too. He sees where we are all the time, even in the middle of the night. He knows exactly what is happening to us and what we are feeling.

Jesus was the first responder in His disciples' hour of trouble, and He will be ours, too.

As the disciples feverishly rowed, they looked up and saw a man walking on the water toward them. Surely they were seeing things now! Thinking they saw a spirit, they cried out in even more fear. Jesus immediately spoke some of the most comforting and beautiful words in the Bible: “Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.”

Peter was a bold disciple.

He answered Jesus and said, “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water,” and Jesus said, “Come.” So, Peter put one leg over the side of the boat and then the other—and then, amazingly, Peter walked on water too. In spite of his amazing faith, Peter took his eyes off Jesus. He looked around at the high waves and listened to the howling wind. His fear became greater than his faith. Beginning to sink, he cried, saying, “Lord, save me.” Immediately, Jesus stretched his hand out and caught him and said unto him, “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

As soon as Jesus and Peter got back in the boat, the wind stopped and the waves became calm. All that were in the ship worshipped Jesus, saying,

“Truly, you are the Son of God.”

Keep your eyes on Jesus! Don't look away from Him. He *alone* has power over everything in nature, as well as the power to change people's hearts. Our faith unlocks His power, and He can do things for us we thought impossible. ■

WATCHES OF THE DAY AND NIGHT

We read in today's lesson that Jesus came walking on the water between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.. How do we know what time it was? Let's learn more about how the Jews and Romans divided the day and night into "watches."



Day Watches

First watch: 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Second watch: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Third Watch: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fourth Watch: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Night Watches

First watch: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Second watch: 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Third watch: 12 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Fourth watch 3 a.m. to 6 a.m.



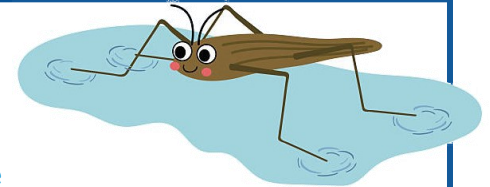
Matthew 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them walking on the sea.

What time was it?

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Luke 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

WATER STRIDERS



Did you know there is an insect that can walk on water? They are called water striders. The name makes sense, doesn't it? If you have been to a lake, pond, or a calm surface of rivers and streams, you have seen them. You can sometimes even see them in mud puddles. Most insects of the water strider's length and weight would quickly sink and drown. How do they stay afloat and walk and skip across the water? The secret is in their legs. The water strider's legs are covered with thousands of microscopic hairs that trap air. This air gives them buoyancy—making them "light" and able to float.

A water strider's legs can support 15 times its weight. The water strider's legs do more than cause them to stay afloat. The front legs are much shorter and allow them to quickly grab their prey. The middle legs act as paddles, and the back legs, which are the longest, give them additional power and allow them to "steer and brake." Water striders are capable of speeds of one hundred body lengths per second. To match them, a 6-foot-tall person would have to swim at over 400 miles an hour!

Let's have legs like a water strider! Faith in God for us is like the air in the legs of a water strider. Faith in God, with whom *nothing* is impossible, will cause us to rise above what we feel are impossible circumstances, attitudes, and situations. While God does not always change what we are facing, though He certainly can, our faith in His power is what enables Him to give US the power we need in our lives.

Peter's faith enabled him to walk on water. When he took his eyes off Jesus, his faith, which was BIG in the beginning, became much SMALLER when he looked at his circumstances. Faith in God is powerful. Many people and things that happen can destroy our faith if we let them. Let's resolve to be faith-filled water striders!

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 19, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Peter Denies Jesus Failure and Redemption



Scripture Reading:

Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:54-62; Acts 2:14-31

Peter was a **passionate (10)** and **impulsive (13)** man. He loved Jesus with all of his heart, and yet often made mistakes and was rebuked, or corrected, by his Master. It's easy to relate to someone who isn't perfect, isn't it? We feel that way ourselves sometimes, but Jesus used Peter in many amazing ways!

When Jesus and the disciples had just finished the **Passover (18)** supper, Jesus predicted that He would be **crucified (12)** and that all of the disciples would abandon Him.

Peter responded to Jesus saying, "Even if all men leave you, I will never leave you."

Jesus knew the truth, however, and said, "**Tonight (1),** before the rooster crows, you will have denied me three times." Peter did not waver in his belief that he would stay by Jesus. He said, "Even if I die with you, I will not **deny (6)** you."

Lesson Discussion

- Did Peter love Jesus and have faith in Him?

Memory Verse

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Act 2:38

Key Thought

Even though we make mistakes, God removes them from us and will still use us for His mighty plan!

- How do you think Peter felt when Jesus turned to look at him after the rooster crowed? Have you felt this way before?
- What does Jesus do with our sins or mistakes when we repent of them?
- Does making a mistake mean that our lives are useless to God?

Later that evening, Jesus was being held in His **trial (14)**. Peter followed the crowd from **afar (15)**, and as he sat and waited, some people built a fire to warm themselves. Peter joined in and kept himself warm as well. Soon, a young woman asked him, "Aren't you one of the disciples of this man?"

"Woman, I know him not," Peter answered.

A short time later, a man said, "You are also one of them, aren't you?"

"Man, I am not," Peter said again.

A third time, someone said, "It's true, this fellow was also with the man on trial, for he is **Galilean (8)**."

"Man, I don't know what you're talking about," Peter said. Before he even finished his sentence, the **rooster (4)** crowed.

Jesus turned from where he stood on His trial and looked at Peter.

Immediately, Peter **remembered (9)** the words of his Master. He went out and wept bitterly.

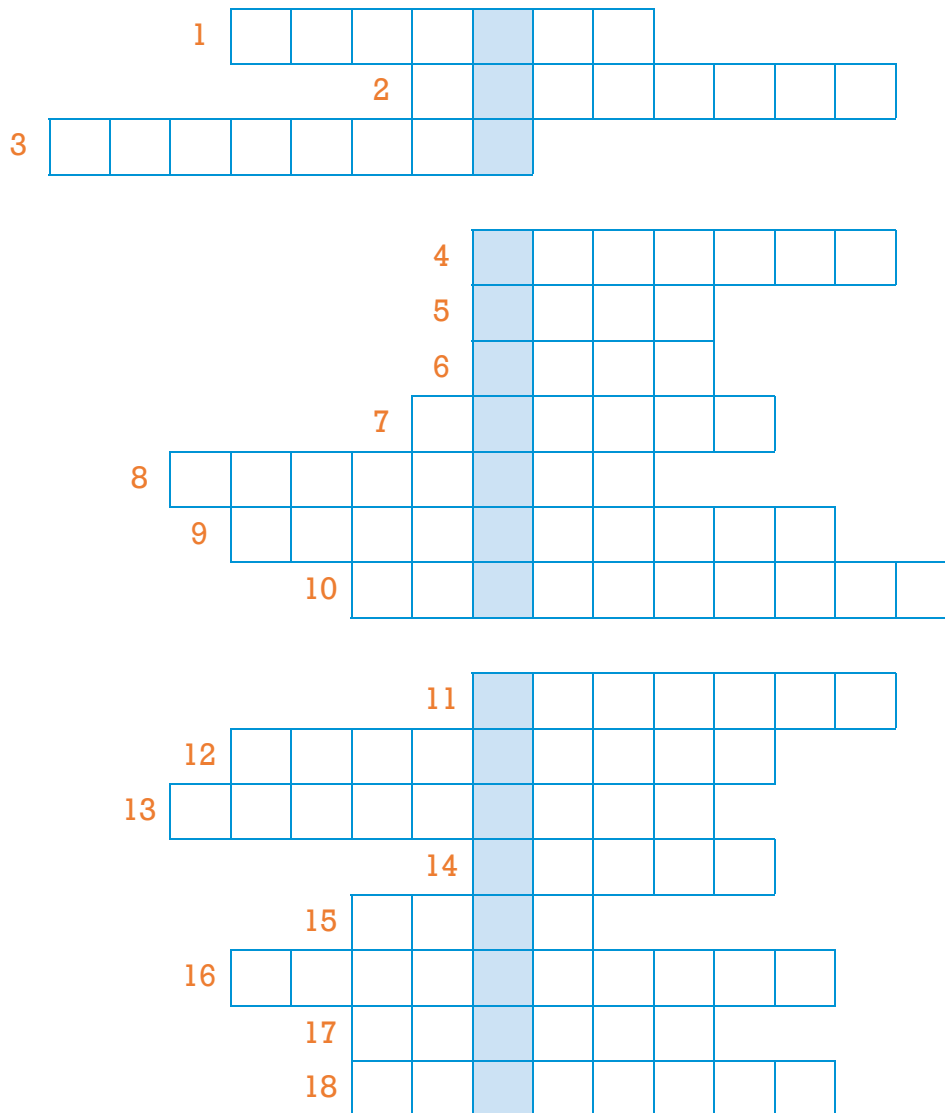
This part of Peter's story is so heartbreaking! We know how he might have felt in that moment when Jesus turned to look at him. We have felt that **gentle (7)** but undeniable sting when Jesus points to something we have done wrong. But **thankfully (16)** for Peter, and for us, the story doesn't end here!

After Jesus ascended into heaven, Peter received the Holy Spirit while dwelling in the upper room with the disciples. He went out that day and preached one of the most **powerful (2)** and beautiful messages ever recorded. Read it in Acts 2:14-31. He spoke with such anointing, or blessing from God, that every person heard the sermon in their own language!

Three thousand (3) people were saved and baptized that day.

From there, Peter traveled around and preached the gospel of Jesus to the Gentiles, was thrown in prison and miraculously released, and helped many more souls be saved. Did his **mistake (11)** ruin the rest of his life? Did he walk around feeling depressed and guilty for the rest of his days?

No! Jesus threw his sin from him, as far as the **east (5)** is from the west, and He used Peter in a mighty way to save many souls. Don't let the enemy get you down when you mess up. Remember Peter. He messed up in a *big way*, but his life was still valuable and **useful (17)** to God. Your life is too. ■



Lesson Review

You probably noticed words throughout the lesson that were in bold print and had a number beside them in parenthesis. Go back through and use them to fill out the table below to find the message of today's lesson!



EXPIRED CALENDARS

Materials: An old calendar

Directions: Show the calendar to the children or pass it around to let them look at it.

Does everyone know what this is? It's a calendar! We use these to keep track of time--holidays, appointments, school events, birthdays, and even the moon! It's a very valuable tool, isn't it?

Can anyone tell me what is wrong with this calendar? That's right, it's old. These days have already passed. Everything on this calendar has already happened.

This calendar reminds me of my own past. There are times I wish I could forget all the things I've done, and if I were to write down all the mistakes I've made this last year on a calendar, I would be embarrassed to show it to you! But the thing is, once the new year comes around, people throw old calendars away. They're not useful anymore.

How many times do we hang onto our past mistakes instead of throwing them away? Are they useful to us? Does it help us to look back and think about them all the time? No, in fact, Jesus Himself said that He threw our sins as far as the east is from the west.

We read today about Peter's mistake. He was so sorry and so disappointed in himself. However, he let Jesus remove that sin from his heart, and look what he was able to accomplish! Three thousand people were saved on the day of Pentecost because of the powerful sermon he preached.

Let's let Jesus throw out our old and useless mistakes and allow Him to do something powerful and amazing in our hearts!



Junior Sunday School ■ January 26, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

James and John—Sons of Thunder

Following Jesus Changes Us!



Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20; Mark 3:13-17; Matthew 20:20-22; Luke 9:51

It started out as an ordinary day for two brothers, James and John. As they busily mended their fishermen's nets, Jesus passed by and called for them to follow Him. They understood that following Jesus was more important than what they were doing, so they left their father and hired servants for the boat-work and became the third and fourth of Jesus' 12 disciples.

Sons of Thunder.

This was the nickname Jesus gave to His two newest disciples, James and John. The Bible does not tell us exactly why He gave them this name, but let's study two different Bible stories that might give us a clue as to the reason.

Salome, mother to James and John, came to Jesus. He

had already called all of His disciples to follow Him. Salome worshipped Him and then asked Him this question: "Will you let my two sons sit next to you in your kingdom, one on your right side and the other on your left?" (*Matthew 20:20-22*). Jesus however, answered James and John directly, not the mother, because He knew the request had really been instigated by them! (*See Mark 10:35-41*) He told them, You don't know what you are asking. You think you will only have honor and happiness, but there will be suffering.

Have you ever put someone else up to asking something for you so that it wouldn't look like you were the one asking? That is what James and John did—they used their mom! They each wanted to sit by Jesus, so *they* would look good and feel important! When the other ten disciples heard this conversation, they were very unhappy!

A different time, Jesus and His disciples were traveling to Jerusalem and passed through a Samaritan village. The Samaritans did not like the Jews and refused to let Jesus and His disciples stay in their town. In this instance, James and John demonstrated some truly thunder-like qualities. They said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy these people like Elijah did?" They were so angry they were ready to have the whole town destroyed, demonstrating a very obvious "get-back-at-them" attitude. Jesus, however, turned to James and John and rebuked them saying, "You don't know what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Jesus wanted these brothers to understand that His assignment on Earth was one of love, not one of vengeance.

In spite of these not-so-pretty actions by James and John, Jesus counted them as dear friends. We find many instances where James and John, along with Peter, were with Jesus during some of His most personal experiences.

Sons of Thunder: two ordinary men who became extraordinary as they followed Jesus.

They still had the forceful personalities that made them who they were, but they were tempered (*made calmer*) by Jesus' love and by the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which they received on the Day of Pentecost. John became known as the disciple of love. Not much is known of James after Jesus' crucifixion, but we do know he was the first of the 12 disciples to willingly give his life for the sake of the gospel. ■

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

Key Thought

As we daily follow Jesus, He changes us to become more like Him.

- What did Jesus nickname his third and fourth disciples, and what were their "real" names?
- When you think of thunder, what adjectives come to mind?
- Can our actions be loud without raising our voices? Why were the other 10 disciples unhappy about the request

made by James and John (and their mother, Salome) to Jesus?

- What did James and John want to do to get back at the Samaritans who would not let them stay in their town?



Fill in the Blanks

James and John weren't perfect, but they let Jesus change them for the better. Use the words below to finish the lyrics to the song.
earth, Jupiter, loving, ought, patient, stars, week, working

There really ought to be
a sign upon my heart

Don't judge Him yet, there's an unfinished part
But I'll be better just according to His plan
Fashioned by the Master's loving hand.

He's still _____ on me
To make me what I _____ to be

It took Him just a _____ to make the moon
and _____

The sun and the _____ and
_____ and Mars

How _____ and _____ He
must be

He's still working on me.

ARE YOU EXCITED TO FOLLOW JESUS AND SERVE HIM COMPLETELY?

Materials: A big jar. Objects to represent all the activities, interests, and possessions which have a place in our lives.
Explain what each object represents and place it in the jar.

Examples:

A PENCIL to represent SCHOOL

A GOLF BALL to represent SPORTS/GAMES

A few PLASTIC ANIMALS to represent PETS

Small AIRPLANE to represent TRAVEL

Some TOYS to represent STUFF

DVD to represent MUSIC

(Have a small sponge with the name of each of the same objects written on them in permanent ink ready for the second half of the object lesson.)

Ask the students if the jar looks full when all the objects are placed therein. At this point, pour in small stones. No matter how full our lives are, we always manage to add more activities—birthday parties, school concerts, etc. Again, ask the students if they think the jar is full. Now, pour sand into the jar. Obviously, the jar can hold a lot of sand. Next, pour water into the jar, which represents the Holy Spirit. The water is only able to fill in the places that are “left-over.” In and of themselves, none of the items represented are “bad,” but they can take up space in our lives and prevent us from being “all-out” for Jesus.

Now, remove all the items and empty the jar and place each sponge in the jar. Explain that the sponge also represents each of the items taken out. What is the difference? There is a lot more room! Next, pour water in the jar. The sponges absorb all the water and the jar has much more room to allow the “Holy Spirit” into it. When we completely follow Jesus like James and John did—when we get saved and then ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit in our lives—we allow GOD to become the focus of everything we do. His Spirit controls and fills our activities, hobbies, and interests. In this way, we bring glory to God through our lives.



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 2, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

John, the Disciple Jesus Loved

Love Jesus and Love Others



Scripture Reading: John 13:23, 15:14-15, 19:25-27, 21:7

John is one of the most well-known disciples of Jesus, and there is a lot of information about him! He is the brother of James, and together, they are known as the Sons of Thunder! He is often one of the first disciples we talk about because the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Revelation are all attributed to him. That means it is most likely that he wrote these books.

Historians believe that John was one of the younger men in the group of twelve disciples, and he is known as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

When the twelve disciples and Jesus were eating the Passover supper, John was reclining, or leaning back, on Jesus' chest. At that time, people ate their meals while lying on cushions around a low table, and John

Lesson Discussion

- Name a few of the places in the Bible where John was found near Jesus.
- Why did John stick close to Jesus?

What main attribute (or character trait) of Jesus did John remember and write about?

- Name the four books that are attributed to John.
- What did you learn from John's life? What makes it easier for you to love those around you?

Memory Verse

And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 John 4:21

Key Thought

Jesus loves you unconditionally. If you love Him with all your heart, He will make it easier to love everyone around you.

was found in the special place next to Jesus. This is just one of the places in the Gospel of John where he is called the disciple whom Jesus loved (read John 13:23).

Later, John stood with Jesus' mother as their Lord was being crucified. Jesus looked down from the cross and said to His mother, "Behold, thy son." Then, he asked John to take care of His mother, saying, "Behold, thy mother." From that time on, Mary lived with John as if he were her own son.

We find John again in the forefront of Jesus' story when we read about the empty tomb after He rose. Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb and ran to tell the first disciples she could find. She found Peter and John, and told them that Jesus' body was gone. Immediately, Peter and John ran to the tomb, but John outran Peter and got there first. How sorrowful John must have felt when he saw the empty tomb. He still did not know that the Lord, his dear and beloved friend, had risen from the dead!

His sadness did not last long, however, because Jesus appeared to the disciples, and they truly believed that He was alive and well. John's heart must have overflowed with joy!

In his writings, John focused a lot on the love he felt for Jesus and how that love should overflow to others. In his gospel, he wrote these words of Jesus: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." This theme continued on into the epistles, or letters, John wrote as well (1st, 2nd, and 3rd John).

1 John 3:11 says, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

Not only did John believe in loving Jesus completely, he also believed that Jesus wanted us to love each other.

Following this commandment isn't always easy. But remember John's life--he was always where Jesus was and he soaked in Jesus' love for him. If we stick close to Jesus, His love for us makes it easier for us to love each other. ■

Learn about John



Later in his life, John lived in Ephesus and was the pastor for the congregation there. When the persecution of Christians got worse, the Roman emperor, Domitian, ordered that he be thrown in a pot of boiling oil.

Miraculously, John survived! Domitian still felt threatened by the gospel that John was preaching in Ephesus, so next he ordered that John be exiled. To be exiled means that you are banished--you can no longer live in or near your home. John was exiled to the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9). Patmos and Ephesus are only about 60 miles apart, but in John's day, that was the equivalent of a long journey.

While he lived on Patmos, he wrote the book of Revelation. Revelation is the last book in the Bible and is a letter to the Seven Churches of Asia. It also includes visions of the future that the Lord gave John.

The second to last verse of this book reads, "He which testifieth these things [Jesus] saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Historians believe that John returned to Ephesus in his later years, and died peacefully there. He is the only one of the twelve disciples that is believed to have died of old age.

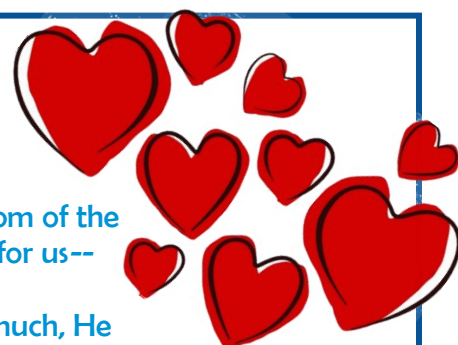
See Ephesus in the upper right hand corner of the map, and the island of Patmos in the middle of the sea.

SPREAD JESUS' LOVE

Materials: Paper towel, ballpoint pen, red marker, and a cup or bowl of water

Directions:

- On the paper towel, use the ballpoint pen to draw a heart near the bottom of the paper towel. Explain that this is our heart before we accept God's love for us--empty.
- Read John 3:16, a very common verse, but explain that God loved us so much, He sent Jesus to die for us.
 - Color the heart red with the marker.
- This is what our hearts look like after God fills them with His love--beautiful and full! We can be this way because of Jesus' death on the cross.
- Draw a few more small hearts above the red heart with the ballpoint pen. Ask if they remember what the disciple John wrote about in his books--loving each other! But we can't do that if we don't already have God's love in our hearts.
- Dip the edge of the paper towel in the water and watch as it soaks the water up. The red from the first heart should bleed up into the hearts above it.
 - Explain that when we love God first, He is able to spread His love to others through us!



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 9, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Philip

Found by Jesus



Scripture Reading: John 1:35-45; John 6:5-7; John 12:19-22, and John 14:6-9

John the Baptist, second cousin of Jesus, had been preaching in the wilderness, preparing the people for Jesus. Word of this powerful preacher spread rapidly throughout the country, and John the Baptist had many disciples.

One day, as Andrew and another unnamed disciple (*very likely John*) were with John the Baptist, Jesus walked into their midst. John the Baptist uttered these words, "Behold, the Lamb of God." He knew it was time to fade into the background and let Jesus lead. Andrew excitedly went to find his brother, Peter and said, "We have found the Messiah!" Andrew and Peter immediately followed Jesus. Jesus had His first followers, but He knew He would need more.

Lesson Discussion

- Did Philip find Jesus or did Jesus find Philip? What was Philip's response? Do you think Jesus is still trying to find disciples to follow Him?

Memory Verse

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

John 1:43

Key Thought

When Jesus finds us, we should not only follow Him, but always seek to know more about Him.

- When Jesus asked Philip how they were going to feed the people, what was Philip's logical answer? Did Jesus have something different in mind?

- The Greeks wanted to know more about Jesus. To whom did they go? Describe specific things we can do to let people know we follow Jesus and

that they can come to us if they have questions.

- Did Philip know everything about Jesus and God? Do we? How can we learn more?

The next day, Jesus went into the city of Galilee, found Philip, and said to him, "Follow me." What did Philip do? He went and found Nathanael, a man he knew would want to know the latest, exciting news. He said, "We have found the man written about by Moses and the prophets, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Imagine his excitement! The Jews had been waiting for a very long time for the Messiah!

Jesus found Philip, and Philip found Nathanael. Isn't it great to be found?

Do you remember when Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two small fish? When the people became hungry, it was to Philip Jesus turned. Jesus already knew what He would do, but He wanted to see if Philip had faith to really believe in His power to feed the people. Jesus said, "Where shall we buy bread, that these people may eat?" Philip answered like most of us would have, saying, "We don't have enough money to buy bread for all these people!"

Like Philip, many times we believe in Jesus, but do we really believe He has the power to do the impossible?

Almost three years later, it was to Philip that a group of Greeks came saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus." They did not want to just see Jesus with their eyes, but they wanted to hear His teachings. So, Philip found Andrew, and together they told Jesus about these Greek men who wanted to talk to Him.

If people want to know more about Jesus, would they know to come to us?

Philip was specifically mentioned in one other place. It was almost time for Jesus to be crucified, and the disciples were troubled. They had been following Jesus for three years, but they did not completely understand what was going to happen to Him. Jesus told them, "Don't be troubled." He explained that, "in my Father's house are many mansions," and that He was going to prepare a place for them to live forever. Philip still did not understand, but wanted to understand. He said, "Lord, show us who your Father is."

We may not understand everything about God, but we should be like Philip and keep asking questions until we do understand.

It is believed Philip later preached about Jesus to people in upper Asia, now the country of Turkey. He, like the other disciples, gave his life for the truth in which he believed so strongly. ■

Philip the Disciple

G Y O G M C Y Z L D D P C Z D
D J M Z V D X E A Z C H W S N
S U S E J M A H Q S W I H L A
C L M G S N X T Q S V L F W T
Q I A S A S N U N N H I E U S
O D N H Q E I T Q P N P R C R
P C T F T Q E A Q W K K R S E
G A L I L E E Z H H E K U H D
N X D Z W C I M J Y U V J Z N
P W K N B J M V U K V K J B U



Find the following words
that have to do with
Philip and Jesus!

Galilee

Jesus

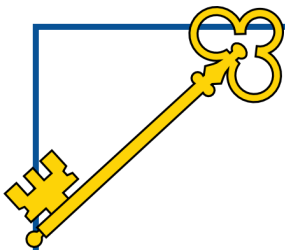
Messiah

Nathanael

Philip

Turkey

Understand



ONE KEY

Needed: A varied assortment of lots of different keys and key rings—a key to your house, a key to your car, an electronic card key to a hotel room, a key with an imprinted picture, an old-fashioned key, and a cool and different key ring. Also bring a lock which only one of the keys can open (padlock or bike lock is probably the easiest). A combination lock would also work well—you have to have the right series of numbers to unlock the lock.

Lesson: Each key is unique and has its own use and has an appealing quality. One represents the key to unlock the door to your home where your bed, food, and shelter await. Another key represents transportation—your way to get from one place to another. Yet another key represents a hotel room where you stayed, maybe on a memorable vacation. Have the students try to unlock the lock with all the wrong keys. Then demonstrate how only that one key will open the lock.

There are many different ways (*keys*) to God, many people say. Many even believe Christianity is “just another religion.” In fact, Jesus’ claim of being the true Messiah was crazy to those who did not believe in Him. Many others who lived back in Jesus’ time or before had already claimed they were the long-awaited Messiah, but their claims never “stuck” because they didn’t have proof to back up what they said.

When Philip asked Jesus, “Show us your Father,” Jesus told Philip and the other disciples, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me.” He didn’t say He could teach the way to God—He said He **WAS** the way to God.

In what ways did Jesus *prove* He was the true Messiah while He lived on this earth? Whether or not people today believe Jesus is the only way to God, it remains true that He is the only key to unlock access to God!



Junior Sunday School ■ February 16, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Nathanael, James the Less, Thaddeus, and Simon the Canaanite *It is Enough*

Jesus had called five disciples to follow Him—Andrew, Peter, James, John and Philip.

Philip was so thrilled to have found the promised King, that he went to find his friend, Nathanael (also known as Bartholomew). Philip excitedly told Nathanael,

“We have found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph.”

Philip was at once doubtful. He responded, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael remembered the king of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem, not Nazareth. He also knew that Nazareth did not have a good reputation.

Philip was undaunted by Philip’s uncertain response. “Come and see,” he said, and eagerly led the way to Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael, He greeted him with these words: “Behold, an Israelite in whom is no guile!” (*In other words, an honest man*). Nathanael was astonished. He asked Jesus, “How do you know who I

am?” Jesus answered, “Before Philip came to you, I saw you sitting under a fig tree.”

How could Jesus have possibly known what Nathanael was doing? At once—without any more doubt or hesitation, Nathanael believed. He said, “Rabbi (*or teacher*), You are the Son of God. You are the king of Israel!” Jesus said, “You believe in me because I said I saw you under the fig tree? I will show you greater things than this.”

Nathanael, along with the other men Jesus had called, would soon see Him heal blind eyes, raise the dead to life, and perform many other miracles!

That is *all* we know about Nathanael.

Jesus had another disciple we know nothing about—well, almost nothing. His name was James. Perhaps to not mix him up with James, brother of John, one of the “Sons of Thunder,” they called him James, the Lesser. Did that mean he was short? Or young? Or did not have a lot of influence over people? Or maybe all of the above? We know nothing of what he said or what he did. Nothing. Well, we do know one other thing about him. His father’s name was Alphaeus.

And then there was Thaddeus—whose nickname was Lebbaeus. He was also known as Jude. (*Can you pronounce those names?*) Again, nothing else is known about this disciple except his three names.

Lastly, Simon the Canaanite was also a disciple of Jesus. He is not the same man as Simon Peter!

The truth is, the very fact that the names of Nathanael, James the Less, Thaddeus, and Simon the Canaanite were even listed among Jesus’ 12 disciples is impressive!

It meant they believed in Jesus, and they loved Him. Furthermore, Jesus wanted them on His team of men.

The other truth is this: the story of the gospel was never meant to put any of the disciples in the center of the stage with the spotlight shining on them.

It was always about Jesus. It is still about Jesus. He is the center. He is the focus.

But, it is encouraging to know that if we tell Jesus we are sorry for our sins and make the decision to follow Him—to be His disciple—we don’t have to “be all that.” We can just be who we are. It is enough to know our name—simply our name—is written by God’s very own hand in that book in heaven where He keeps track of His children. ■

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

Notwithstanding, in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20

Key Thought

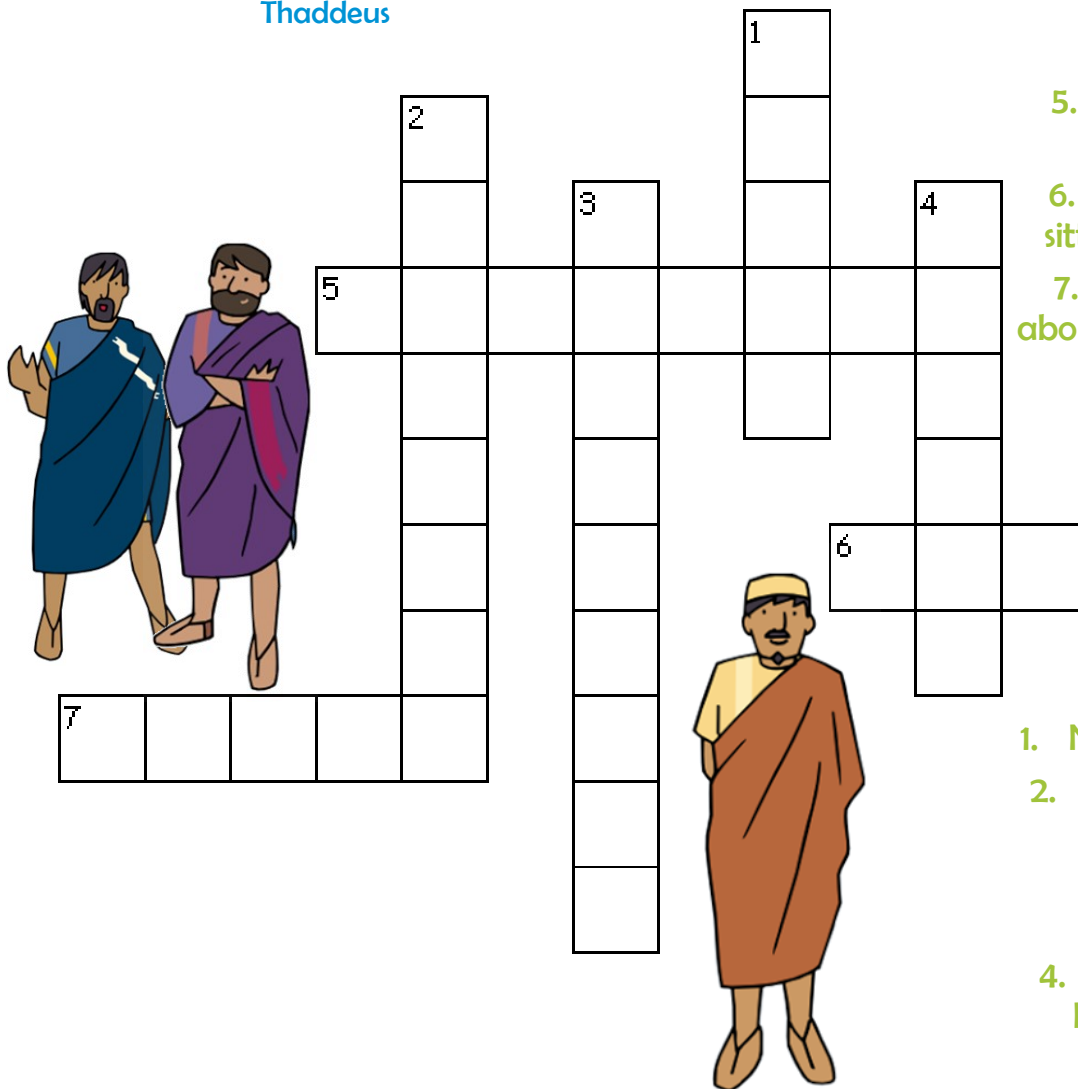
“It is Enough” (the title of the lesson) to simply be a follower of Jesus.

- Of the three disciples in our lesson, we know the most about Nathanael. What one character trait did Jesus recognize in him? Why is honesty so important?
- What are the names of the other two disciples of our lesson? What do we know about them?
- We all like to be recognized—and that is okay. Do we have to

have a long list of recognized accomplishments in order to be a disciple of Jesus?

Three of Jesus' Disciples

Fig, James, Jesus, Nathanael, Nazareth, Philip, Thaddeus



Across

5. "Can anything good come out of ___?"
6. Jesus saw Nathanael sitting under a ___ tree.
7. Being a disciple isn't about being important. It's about ___.

Down

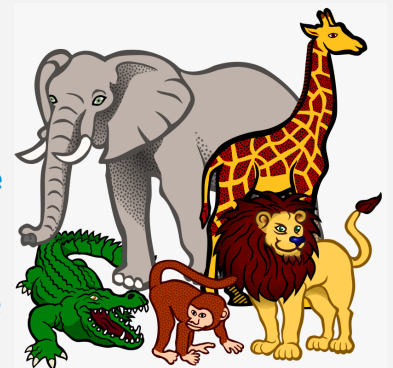
1. Not the brother of John
2. Also known as Jude or Lebbaeus
3. Also known as Bartholomew
4. The disciple that told Nathanael about Jesus

A RIGHT FOCUS

Materials: Three printed pictures of three different animals

Show the pictures of the animals to the students. Have them stare at each picture intently for 30 second. Then have the students close their eyes and ask them what they are thinking about. Give time between each picture to discuss their thoughts.

Discuss how we usually talk about and think about the things in life we pay the most attention to, so our focus should be on God.



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 23, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Thomas's Doubts

Jesus is the Way to Faith



Scripture Reading: John 11:16; 14:1-7; 20:19-29

Thomas often gets a bad rap. He is referred to as “Doubting Thomas” the majority of the time. But he was also extremely loyal and faithful to Jesus. When Jesus was preparing to travel to Judea after Lazarus died, the disciples asked Him if it was wise to go there when the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Jesus explained the situation (you can read everything He said in John 11) and then said He would go. Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us go too, that we may die with Him.” How faithful!

Later, while Jesus and the disciples were eating the Passover supper, Jesus was saying that He was going to prepare a mansion for His children. He said, “You know where I am going, and you know how to get

there.” Thomas didn’t understand what his Master was saying, and he asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you’re going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered with some of His most well known words:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Maybe Thomas didn’t even understand after Jesus said that, but he came to understand after the resurrection!

The disciples were gathered in a room, hiding from the Jews because they were scared. Jesus appeared among them and showed them the marks in His hands and sides. They were so excited when they saw the Lord! Thomas, however, was not with the ones who saw Jesus. When they told him they had seen the Lord, Thomas said the words that earned him his name. He said, “Unless I see the nail prints in His hands and put my hand on the wounds in His side, I will not believe.”

We can easily judge Thomas based on this one moment, but aren’t we like him sometimes? Isn’t it sometimes hard to believe that Jesus will do the things He says He will do? Do you ever pray half-heartedly, not really thinking it will be answered?

We are all Doubting Thomases at some point in our lives.

Thankfully, Jesus is faithful. Eight days after the other disciples saw Jesus, He appeared again, and this time, Thomas was there. Jesus said to everyone, “Peace be unto you.” And then, He immediately turned to Thomas and addressed his unbelief, saying, “Put your finger in my hands and touch the wounds in my side. Do not be faithless, but believe.”

Thomas, with his voice no doubt full of faith, said, “My Lord and my God.”

Jesus doesn’t leave us in unbelief. He doesn’t let us struggle forever with doubts and fears and questions. He comes to us with peace, and He tells us what we need to do to increase our faith, just as He did with Thomas. He wants us to believe fully in Him. Our faith in Him makes Him happier than anything else!

When you come to a place where it’s hard for you to believe, remember Thomas. Jesus told him long before his famous moment of doubt how he could know for sure that Jesus was the Messiah. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” And after Thomas touched His scars, Jesus said, “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” Take Jesus at His word. You haven’t seen Him with your physical eyes, but your heart sees Him every day, and you can believe in that. ■

Lesson Discussion

- What is the name people often use to refer to Thomas? What did he do to earn that name?

Memory Verse

Jesus saith unto him,
Thomas, because thou hast
seen me, thou hast
believed: blessed are they
that have not seen, and
yet have believed.

John 20:29

Key Thought

Even if we have moments
of doubt, like Thomas, we
can believe that Jesus is the
way, the truth, and the life.
Believe in your heart that
Jesus loves you.

- What other character traits did Thomas show in the Bible?
- Did Jesus condemn Thomas for doubting? How did He address Thomas’s questions and doubts?
- Did it make Thomas less of a disciple or Christian to have a struggle of faith? Does it make you less of a Christian to struggle with faith? What does Jesus do to help us gain faith?

Introducing Thomas

Learn about Thomas by filling in the blanks below. Find the letter that comes *after* the one given to complete the puzzle.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Thomas was a _____. When he heard that Jesus was _____ from the
C H R B H O K D Q H R D M

_____ a _____, he could not _____ it! He _____ Jesus, but he had to _____
C D C A D K H D U D K N U D C R D D

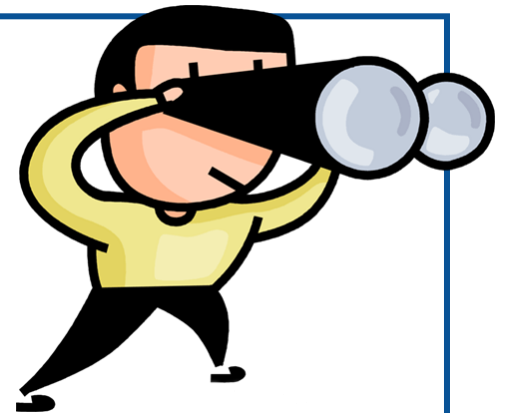
For himself that Jesus was _____ dead. When he _____ a _____ Jesus, Thomas said, "My _____ and
M N S R V K N Q C

My _____!" Thomas _____.
F N C A D K H D U D C

Jesus wants us to believe _____ seeing! He wants us to have _____ a _____.
V H S G N T S E H S G

BELIEVING WITHOUT SEEING

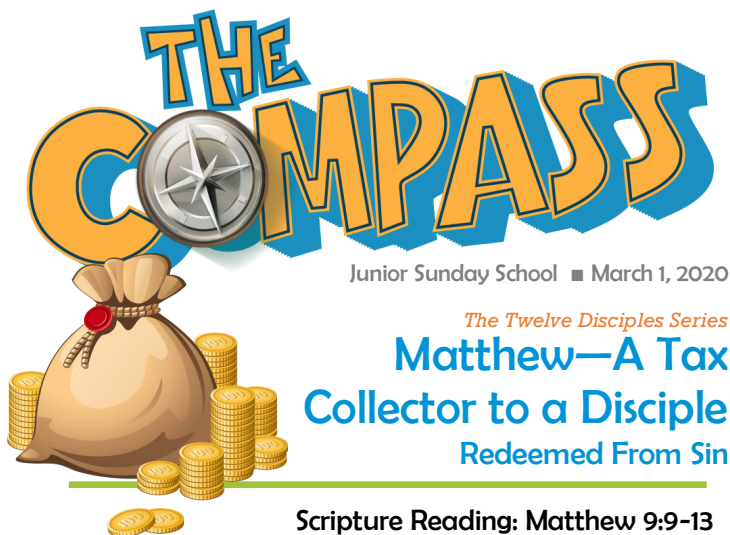
Materials: A small box with something interesting inside—something not easily obtained or rare. If you can't find anything of that nature, a sweet treat will work as well.



Tell the children you have something very interesting in your box. Let some of the children look inside and ask them if you are telling the truth. Tell the other half of

the children that they will have to believe based on the word of their peers. Relate this to the story of Thomas. He did not believe that Jesus was alive based on the words of the other disciples. He wanted to see for himself that his Master had risen from the dead.

Jesus told Thomas that the person who had not yet seen with his own eyes, but still believed that Jesus was alive, was blessed. It's hard sometimes to believe what we learn about Jesus, but our hearts can hear His voice and feel His presence. It helps us have faith that He is truly alive and living inside our hearts. He wants to help us all have faith, just like He helped Thomas.



The street is hot and dusty, and you, a Jewish farmer, are just returning home after a long day in the field. On your way home, you pass a couple of Roman soldiers, and anger burns inside you. How dare they act like they own the land that God gave Moses and the Israelites so long ago? You wish they would just go back to Rome where they belong.

You're almost home when someone across the street calls your name. You turn and look, and there sits Matthew, the tax collector. The anger you felt minutes before gets hotter and stronger. Matthew, a Jew! One of your own people, sitting behind his table in fancy, flowing robes, taking the money of his brothers and tribesmen and then turning it over to the Romans! But you can't ignore his call for money, or the soldiers might hurt you or your family. You trudge across the street and hand over a large chunk of the money you made today, and then you go home in a very bad mood.

Lesson Discussion

- Why did the Jews dislike the tax collectors so much? Did they have a valid reason?
- What did Matthew do for Jesus after

He called him to be a disciple?

- Did the Jews who thought they were holy approve of Jesus sitting with tax collectors and sinners? Why or why not?
- How did Jesus answer their question about why he ate with the tax collectors? Why was Jesus on Earth?

Memory Verse

They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. Luke 5:31

Key Thought

Jesus came to save even the worst of sinners, and He is able to make them into something beautiful and useful!

This little illustration is what was happening at the time that Jesus was calling these men to be His disciples. Some Jews worked for the Roman government and took the money of their own people, often times keeping a portion for themselves.

The general feeling among the Jews was that tax collectors were traitors and sinners.

Matthew, one of Jesus' own disciples, was one of these tax collectors.

In Matthew 9, we can read about how Jesus called him. He passed the tax booth and saw Matthew working there. He looked at him and said, "Follow me." And Matthew did! In fact,

Matthew prepared a large feast in Jesus' honor at his house,

and Jesus came in and sat down among Matthew's friends. The house wasn't filled with the "holiest" Jews. So when the men who considered themselves holy and strictly followed the law of Moses found out that Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors, they said, "Why are you sitting among sinners?" Jesus answered,

"The people who are well don't need a doctor, but the people who are sick do."

Jesus was saying that He was on the Earth to show sinners how to be redeemed. That's exactly what He did with Matthew--someone who was most likely dishonest and hated by his own people could still be saved and made clean by Jesus.

Are there people around you that do things so bad that it seems like they can't be saved? Jesus has the power to take their lives and make them beautiful and useful, just like He did with Matthew. In fact, Matthew went on to write the Gospel of Matthew. He became a preacher in the Early Church. He traveled to Ethiopia and Egypt to tell people about the Messiah, and eventually he died by a spear for the sake of the Gospel.

What a difference that is from the man who sat behind a table and took the money of his own people for the Roman government. Jesus has the same power to save people today. He can turn their lives around and make them into strong Christians.

If you see someone who is clearly sinning against God, don't assume they aren't able to be saved. Remember Jesus' words. The ones who are sinning need a Savior the most, and they can be redeemed just like Matthew!



Decode!

Use the key to decode the message.

26 10 17 17 12 19 5

5 10 1

8 25 1 14 25 3 19 8

21 19 1 11 1

1 10 20 19 8

12 25 26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	4	16	8	19	2	23	12	25	21	3	14	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
9	7	15	18	22	1	17	11	20	5	13	29	6

ORANGE SURGERY



Materials:

- An orange and paper plate for each student (If you have a large class, demonstrating with one orange might be easier.)
- Various office supplies (thumb tacks, different kinds of tape, staplers, paper clips, string, rubber bands, glue, scissors, and anything else that might be helpful to “put the orange back together”)
- Wet wipes or paper towels for cleanup

Instructions:

- Have each student peel their orange and pull the slices apart. Leave the peels and slices all on the plate.
- Say something like: Now we are going to play a game. (If you are using a single orange, pick a volunteer to demonstrate in front of the class.) Here are the rules: No one can touch their plates or oranges until I say, “Go.” When I say, “Stop,” everyone must leave their orange as-is on their plate. You may use the supplies in this pile one at a time (i.e., if you are using the tape, you must return it before you can use a stapler). You may not move your workstation.
- Say “go” and allow the students to attempt to reassemble their orange.

Obviously, we aren’t capable of putting this orange back together to make it as appealing as it was originally. There aren’t enough supplies in the world that would make it possible! But we are like the oranges that are peeled open and torn apart--our lives are a mess. On our own, we simply can’t put ourselves back together. But who can?

God created the world and us to live in perfect harmony with Him, but sin ruined it. God sent His son, Jesus, to heal those who were sick, hurting, and sinful, just like we learned in today’s lesson. Only He has the power to restore us to what we were before, and make us something wonderful and useful.

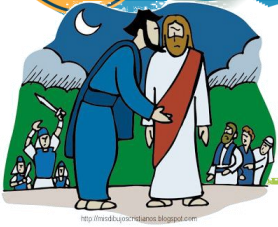
THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 8, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

Judas

Betrayed by a Kiss



Judas is remembered as the **disciple (3)** who betrayed Jesus. He acted like he was Jesus' friend, but, in the end, he wanted money more than he cared about following Jesus.

A few short days before Jesus was crucified, He was eating supper with His disciples when a woman came in with very valuable and expensive oil.

She loved Jesus so much she anointed His feet with this oil and wiped it with her hair.

(Today, we don't really understand showing love in this way, but back then, they understood.) As Judas looked on, his indignant response was this: "Why didn't they sell this **expensive (5) perfume (4)** and give the money to the poor?" The truth was, Judas did not care about the poor at all! The Bible tells us that he "was a thief," and since he took care of the money, perhaps he saw it as an opportunity to line his own pockets. Jesus rebuked Judas for his **greed (9)**.

Lesson Discussion

- All of the disciples had faults. What was Judas' fault? Did He ultimately "give" that fault to God or not?

Memory Verse

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Proverbs 27:6

Key Thought

To betray (be disloyal) to Jesus, while still acting like we love Him, is tragic and never has a good ending.

- What did Judas say when the woman anointed Jesus' feet with oil? What does the Bible say he was?

- For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Jesus? After he realized Jesus would not save himself, did he want the money?

What did he do with it?

- Discuss how we (people) today betray Jesus with a kiss. Does it happen literally or in a different way?

What did Judas do? He went to the **chief (6)** priests and elders and said, "What will you give me if I help you **arrest (2)** Jesus? And they paid him 30 silver coins. From then on, Judas looked for a chance to betray Jesus.

The night Jesus was taken by his enemies to be crucified, He and His disciples were having another supper—The Last Supper, as we know it. Jesus already knew **Judas (1)** was going to betray Him. Sadly, He told them, "One of you will betray me." The 12 disciples all began to look at each other, wondering who He was talking about. Even Judas acted innocent, saying, "Am I the one?" Jesus told Judas, "Whatever you are going to do, do quickly." The other disciples may have thought Jesus was sending Judas on an errand, but Judas knew better. He immediately got up and went out; and it was night.

Jesus knew the time had come for Him to give His life—for our sins. He took Peter, James, and John and went into the Garden of **Gethsemane (13)** and prayed till sweat, as drops of **blood (7)**, fell down His face. After a few hours, however, Jesus said, "Get up. The one who betrays me is coming."

Soon, a great crowd of officers and Jewish leaders entered Jesus' special garden with lanterns, torches and weapons. Judas had told these officers, "The man whom I kiss—that is the one you want to arrest."

Judas looked at Jesus and said, "Hail, Master," and kissed Him.

Sorrowfully, Jesus said, "Friend, why are you here? Do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" Judas' actions said He respected and honored Jesus, while at the exact same time, He was giving Jesus' **enemies (12)** the information they needed to murder Him.

Perhaps Judas thought Jesus would save Himself from this great crowd of soldiers. When he realized that Jesus was not going to save himself, he went back to the chief priests and elders. He said, "I have sinned because I have betrayed an innocent man." They basically shrugged their shoulders and said, "That is your problem." Judas threw the **silver (10)** coins down in front of them, left, and took his own life.

Judas' kiss of **betrayal (8)** is perhaps one of the saddest stories in the Bible.

If Judas had truly repented of his sin (like Peter did), Jesus would have gladly forgiven (11) him, but he did not. ■



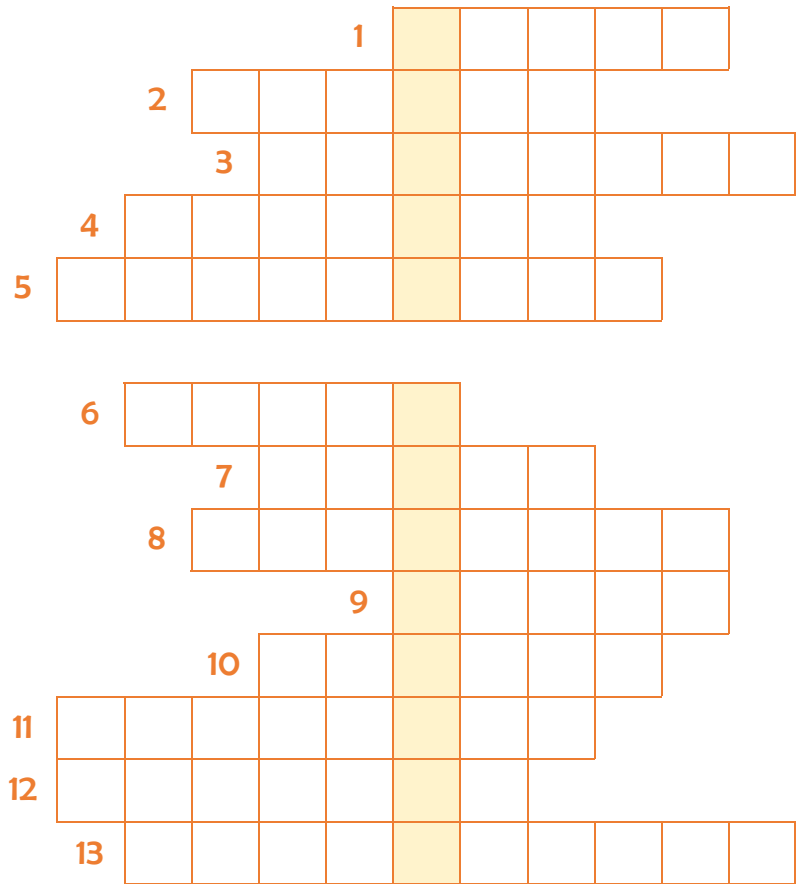
phillipmartin.info

Lesson Review

You probably noticed words throughout the lesson that were in bold print and had a number beside them in parenthesis. Go back through and use them to fill out

the table below to find the message of today's lesson!

(Think about what Jesus did for the woman with the expensive perfume.)



JUDAS VS. PETER

Judas did a terrible thing when he betrayed Jesus. His guilt weighed so heavily on him that he took his own life. Can you think of another disciple that betrayed or denied Jesus in His hour of greatest need? Peter! When Jesus was standing before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish counselors who were trying to kill Him, Peter stood outside by the fire. Did he walk into the midst of the gathering and stand beside Jesus, willing to die like he had promised? Did he even admit that he had been a follower of Jesus when three different people asked him? No! He didn't join Jesus, didn't lay down his life, and denied three times that he even knew who Jesus was. Shouldn't his guilt have crushed him like Judas's had? No doubt it did. The Bible says that Peter wept bitterly after he denied the Lord. However, Peter went on to become a powerful force in the early church. He preached on the day of Pentecost, traveled around spreading the Gospel, and healed many sick people in the name of the Lord.

What was the difference?

The difference is that Peter returned to the Lord and begged for forgiveness. He didn't let his sin become his identifier. Jesus forgave Peter, filled him with the Holy Spirit, and sent him out into the world to preach.

Eventually, Peter kept his promise to Jesus and laid down his own life for the sake of the gospel.

Judas could have had a similar story. Instead of letting despair and guilt drown him, Judas could have come back to Jesus with a broken and repentant heart. Jesus would have forgiven him too!

Don't let your mistakes change your story for the worse. When you mess up, come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. He will make you clean and give you a wonderful job in His kingdom.



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 15, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

I Am A Disciple

Following Jesus and Spreading the Gospel



We have spent the last several weeks learning about the twelve disciples that Jesus chose to follow Him. He wanted them to learn from Him and carry out special jobs. Can you name all twelve men?

Andrew, the brother of Peter. **Peter**, the impulsive and passionate man who denied Jesus three times! **James and John**, the Sons of Thunder. **Philip**, the man Jesus found. **Nathanael**, **James the Less**, **Thaddeus**, and **Simon the Canaanite**, we don't know a lot about these four men. **Thomas**, the doubter. **Matthew**, the tax collector. **Judas**, the disciple who betrayed Jesus to be crucified.

These men were important because they were among the very first to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, to give their hearts and lives to Him, and to begin spreading the Gospel far and wide. By definition, these are the things a disciple of Jesus needs to do.

Lesson Discussion

- Were the people Jesus called to be disciples perfect people?

Memory Verse

And he [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

Key Thought

If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, you must ask forgiveness for your sins, learn to obey Jesus, and tell other people about the Gospel.

- What did they learn to do while they were following the Lord?
- What do you have to do in order to be a disciple of Jesus?
- Where can you go to spread the Gospel? Do you have to travel far away to do it?

Did you know that Jesus is still asking people to follow Him, just like He did with Peter, Andrew, James, John, and all the rest? He still needs people who are willing to learn from Him and love Him. That means you and I can be disciples, just like the twelve in the Bible.

It's easy to read the stories about the twelve disciples and see that they followed and loved Jesus, but what do we have to do in order to be disciples?

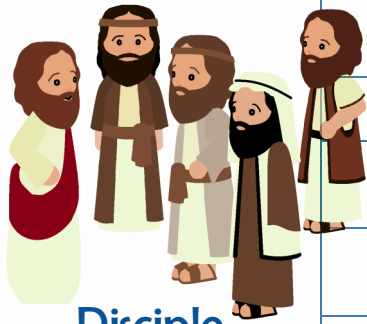
First, we have to ask forgiveness for all our sins. Jesus died on the cross so that our souls could live in heaven after we die. He did not deserve to die such an embarrassing and painful death, but He did it because He loves every one of us that much! Because of His sacrifice, we are able to come to Him and ask for forgiveness and for Him to live in our hearts. Jesus will always answer your sincere prayer when you ask Him to take your sins away.

After you have been saved from your sins, Jesus wants us to learn how to obey Him. Sometimes that is hard to do. When you live at home with your parents, obeying Jesus means obeying your mom and dad. They are the people God has put in your life to help you learn right and wrong. Obeying also means praying and reading your Bible every day. The words in the Bible are God's way of speaking right to us! We can't hear Him talk anymore like the disciples did with Jesus. But we can read His words, and we will make Him happy if we obey them!

Then, just like the first twelve disciples, we have to "go into the world" and tell people about Jesus.

Did you know that all of the disciples (except Judas) traveled and preached to people about the Gospel? We can't all travel around and be missionaries, but you can "go into the world" just by going to school! The other kids will see how you obey the teacher, work hard, and have a joyful heart, and they will wonder what makes you so happy! You can tell them that Jesus is the one who helps you with all of those things. You can even be a disciple in your own house. When was the last time you helped your brother or sister obey your mom or clean up his/her room?

Now it's your turn! Every boy and girl can be listed with Peter, James, John, and all the other disciples if you ask for forgiveness, obey Jesus, and spread the Gospel! ■



Disciple Review

Think back over all the things you have learned about the twelve disciples over the last several weeks. Use what you remember and the facts in today's lesson to match each disciple with his fact.

Peter
Andrew
James
John
Philip
Nathanael
James the Less
Thaddeus
Simon the Canaanite
Thomas
Matthew
Judas

Not the same man as Peter, brother of Andrew.
Father's name was Alphaeus.
The disciple who betrayed Jesus with a kiss.
Also known as Lebbaeus or Jude.
One of the disciples that Jesus named a Son of Thunder.
Jesus saw him sitting under the fig tree.
Few people liked this man because of his job.
Brother of Andrew and son of Zebedee.
The author of Revelation.
The first disciple Jesus called.
This man was found by Jesus, and immediately went to Nathanael.
This disciple gets looked down upon, but Jesus was kind and gentle with him.

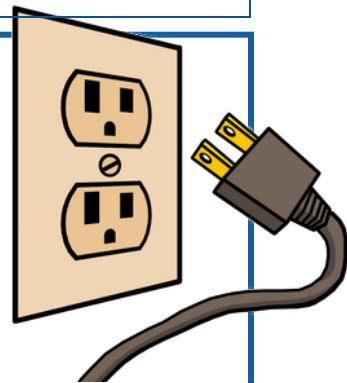
POWER TO BE A DISCIPLE

Materials: Five sheets of printer paper, each with one of the following letters on it (P O W E R), and enough room for a small picture and a short sentence.

Prepare: Print or draw simple pictures on each paper along with the letter, to help the children guess what the letter stands for. Examples: P--praying hands. O--the ten commandments. W--hands lifted in worship or a person singing. E--on person talking to another. R--a bible. When you are going over the explanation below, hold up each sheet of paper and let them guess what each picture stands for. Write the explanation below the picture. In the end, you should have five things each person can do in order to have POWER to be a disciple of Jesus.

Explain: The disciples had great power after Jesus went back to heaven. They healed the sick, cast out demons, and taught others how to be saved. How did they get such amazing power?

- Pray from your heart
- Obey the Holy Spirit
 - Worship God
- Explain your faith to others
 - Read your Bible daily



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 22, 2020



The Twelve Disciples Series We are Disciples Working Together for Jesus

Take a minute and review what a disciple is.

What does it mean for a person to be a disciple of Jesus?

Can you name the twelve disciples that Jesus chose to follow Him in the Bible?

Last week, we learned what each individual person needs to do in order to be called a disciple of Jesus. Did you know that your church, Sunday school class, or family can be disciples as a group too? After all, Jesus didn't just choose one person to follow Him--He chose *twelve*! But how can a group of people work together to be disciples? Let's look in the *best* book for learning about God to find the answer to this question--the Bible!

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were together in an upper room, praying together, and

Lesson Discussion

- Talk about how it is easy for us to look at our differences and how that can sometimes lead to fighting.

Memory Verse

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:1

Key Thought

God can do amazing things when you work together with other disciples.

- What did Jesus say to His disciples when they each wanted to be the most important?
- When the disciples prayed together in the upper room, were they focused on each other or on Jesus? What happened when they put aside their differences and prayed to the Lord

together?

- Brainstorm: what can you do with your group of disciples that you couldn't do alone?

waiting for the Holy Spirit to come down and fill their hearts. Jesus had promised them this would happen, and they had faith to believe it! Acts 2:1 says that they "were all with one accord in one place."

That means that every person's heart and mind was focused on Jesus. An amazing thing happened!

The Holy Ghost came down and filled them, and cloven tongues like fire sat upon each of them!

Imagine being there that day and feeling the unity they shared. They were all individual men, but together, they were able to do amazing things through the power of the Holy Ghost! Jesus had taught them, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Together, they had even more power than they would have had on their own. Just like the disciples, we can do wonderful things for God if we join with other disciples in prayer.

Many years later, Paul wrote a letter to the congregation in Corinth. It is likely that the people in that congregation had misunderstandings and were fighting among themselves. Paul wanted to make the following clear to them: each person is given a gift from God. Not all gifts are the same, and sometimes, a person might do things a little differently from his or her neighbor. This is not a good reason to fight with each other! (In fact, Jesus wanted us to be kind to those who *aren't* following Him as well!) Imagine if the twelve disciples had fought among themselves that way. In fact, they did fight about who was the *best* in God's kingdom. Jesus' answer to them was, "He that is the least among you all, the same shall be the greatest" (Luke 9:18).

Being a part of God's group of disciples isn't about who is the most important. You don't have to be the person everyone looks up to for God to think you are important. If everyone is focused on Jesus, just like the disciples were in the upper room, then the small differences between everyone don't matter! Notice, the disciples weren't fighting about who was the most important that day when the Holy Ghost came. They were looking at Jesus. He really *is* the most important!

Jesus' plan to spread the Gospel will always include groups of people who need to work together.

If you go to Sunday school with other children, they are part of your group of disciples! What can your group do to help people around you learn about Jesus?

D I S C I P L E S G J R L Y G Z E G U S
 F K E S U S E J M Y O Z L G A J U N C T
 T O G E T H E R I G H S H T H R I F P R
 Y N H G Q V S F H T R O P V P T P Z I O
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 following words:

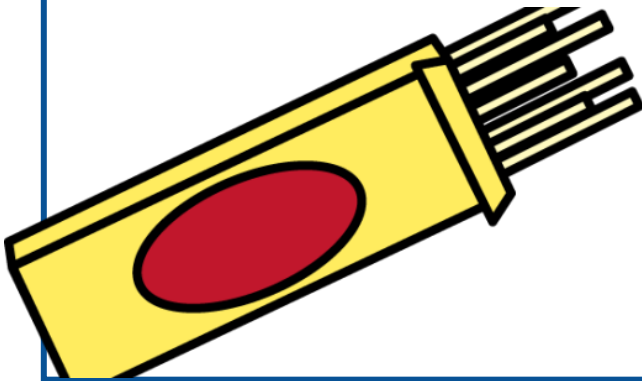
Disciples
 Gospel
 Holy Ghost
 Jesus
 Pray
 Strong
 Together
 Unity



EXPIRED CALENDARS

Materials: A box of uncooked spaghetti (or other long noodle)

Hand a single piece of dried spaghetti to each child and ask them if they can break it. Then, either ask a volunteer or demonstrate yourself, say that when you hold all the pieces together, they aren't nearly as easy to break!



When we are alone, it is easy for the enemy to attack us and cause us to mess up. Sometimes, we have to do things alone, but one of the benefits of going to church and having a family that serves God is that they make us stronger! The disciples worked together on the day of Pentecost, and they were able to do amazing things. They were strong against the devil. Remember that God gave us other Christians so that we can work together with them, and so we can be strong against the devil with them.



Junior Sunday School ■ March 29, 2020

The Twelve Disciples Series

A Promised Gift

The Holy Spirit (Comforter)



Supper was over. Judas Iscariot had gone out into the night, and Jesus had just washed His disciples' feet. They knew Jesus was in danger and had enemies who wanted to kill Him. They were troubled and scared. What would they do when Jesus left them?

Jesus lovingly told them, "Don't be troubled and don't be afraid. I have to leave you for a while, but I will not leave you alone.

I will send the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, and He will be with you forever."

Being alone can be hard. Have you ever been lost, alone and scared, or been in a big crowd of people and still felt lonely? Jesus promised us something to help with these problems.

Jesus also told His disciples that the Comforter would be their teacher and help them remember everything He had taught. How would you like to take a test

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Key Thought

The Comforter—the Holy Spirit—is the presence of God living inside our hearts, giving us power to live right when we would otherwise fail.

- Why were the disciples afraid?
- What gift did Jesus promise them? The H____ S____ or the C____.
- After Jesus went back to heaven, where did He tell his Disciples to go? For what were they waiting?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us today? Talk about why we not only need salvation, but also the Holy Spirit.

where someone gave you all the answers?—that is what the Holy Spirit does for us.

(Challenge: If you want to read Jesus' words to His disciples after the Last Supper and right before His death, they are recorded in John chapters 13-17.)

Jesus did leave. For a while. In one of the darkest days the world has ever seen, Jesus, the Son of God, was arrested and crucified on the cross. What did the disciples do? In spite of their belief in Jesus and their brave words that said they would never leave Him, they ran away. Three different times Peter denied he knew Jesus. John followed to see what would happen, but he stayed a long way away.

We know the story—Jesus did not stay in the grave. For 40 days after His resurrection, He again saw and met with His disciples, teaching them many things. *(Wouldn't you like to have heard what He taught them?)* One important thing He told them before He went back to heaven was this:

"You can't continue to follow Me all on your own and be successful. (They knew He was right.) You need power. You need help. You need comfort. You need teaching. Go back to Jerusalem and wait until I send you the Holy Spirit."

After Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples obeyed Jesus' words. They went back to Jerusalem and met in an upper room. Mary, the mother of Jesus, other women, and Jesus' brethren also met with them. One hundred and twenty people filled the room. A man named Mathias was chosen to take the place of Judas, the disciple who was no longer with them. These men and women then prayed together for Jesus to send them the promised Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind filled the house where they were sitting, and tongues of fire appeared over their heads.

They were all filled with the Holy Ghost—the promised Comforter had come. No longer were they alone.

God's very presence now lived inside of their hearts. These men and women had wanted to do right before, but many times failed. Now, they boldly and without fear preached Jesus Christ.

Until we see Jesus face-to-face in heaven, we, like the disciples, need God's Holy Spirit to live inside us today. Otherwise, we will try to do right and fail. We will feel alone and scared, and we won't know how to live right. ■

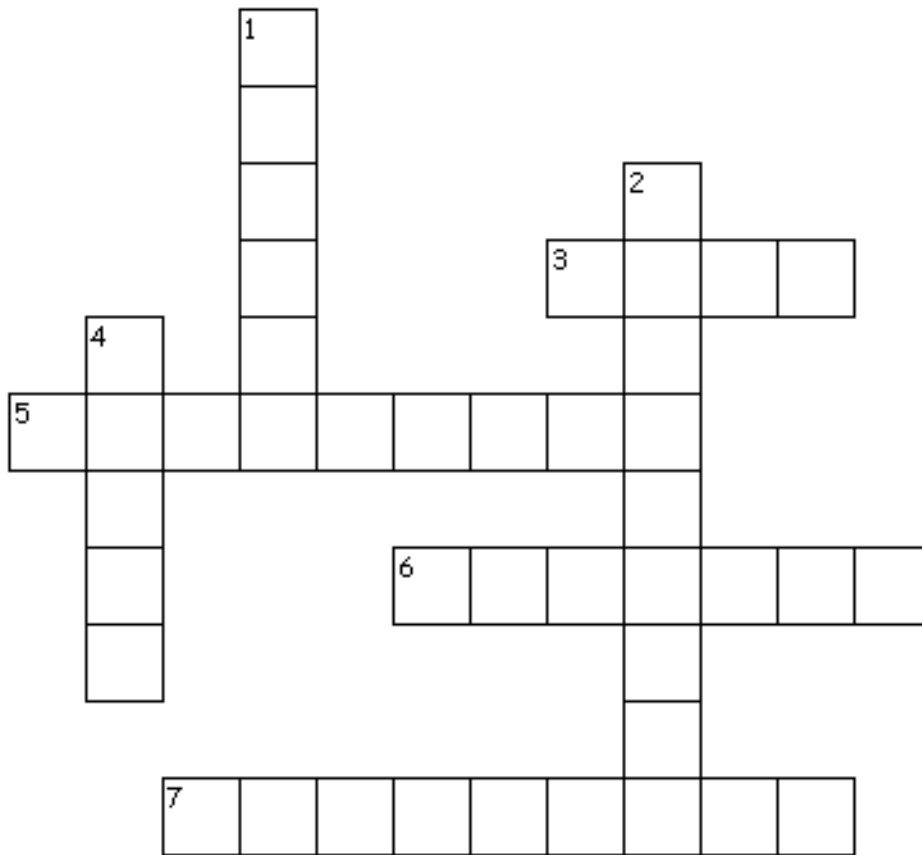
Holy Spirit Crossword

Down

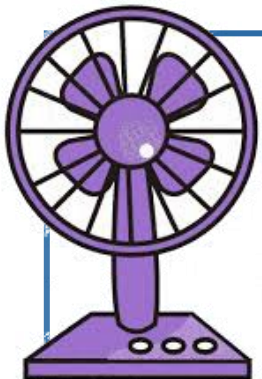
1. Sometimes we feel this way, but Jesus sent someone to help.
2. This is the day when the Holy Spirit descended to dwell within the hearts of Christians.
4. The Holy Spirit gives us this.

Across

3. God knew we would need ____ to live for Him.
5. Another name for the Holy Sp ____.
6. Jesus taught while He was on earth, but now the Holy Spirit ____ us.
7. Jesus called His spirit the C ____.



Comforter, Help, HolyGhost, Lonely, Pentecost, Power, Teaches



THE HOLY SPIRIT—OUR POWER SUPPLY

Needed: A fan

Let's talk about power. Have the students look at the (unplugged) fan and talk about what it is supposed to do. Is it doing what it was built to do simply sitting on the floor or table? Then, plug the fan in and let it blow over the students. The air moves. Perhaps loose papers close to the fan blow around. Things happen. Contrast an unplugged fan to a plugged-in fan.

In the same way, if we have asked Jesus to forgive us our sins, we are a Christian. But until we are connected to the power source, we will not be the Christian we were meant to be. The Holy Spirit is our source of power. When we ask for an infilling of the Holy Spirit, we will have the power of God in our lives. We will be able to live the holy life Jesus' intended for us. It does not mean we will always be perfect, but it does mean we will have power to have victory in our lives. The Fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-25 tells us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."