

The Twelve Disciples of Christ

SIMON PETER

Simon Peter - is the Son of John

A.K.A. Peter or Cephas meaning "Rock" (Brother of Andrew)

Occupation

Fisherman

Characteristics

Impulsive; later - bold
in preaching about
Jesus

Major Life Events

One of Three in core
group of Disciples
(Peter, James, and
John); recognized
Jesus as the Messiah;
disowned Christ and
repented; preached
Pentecost sermon; a
leader of the Jerusalem
church; baptized
Gentiles; wrote 1 and 2
Peter.

What Jesus Said

Named him Peter &
Cephas, which in
Aramaic & Hebrew
means "Rock" ([John
1:42](#)). Jesus called
him "Satan" when he
urged Jesus to reject
the Cross; said he
would become a
Fisher of Men; he
received revelation
from God; he would
disown Jesus; he
would later be
Crucified.

Key Lesson

Christians falter at
times, but when they
return to Jesus, he
forgives them and
strengthens their faith.

Death

He was reportedly
Crucified, upside
down, during the reign
of Emperor Nero.

Verses

[Matt 4:18-20](#)
[Mark 8:29-33](#)
[Luke 22:31-34](#)
[John 21:15-19](#)
[Acts 2:14-41](#)
[Acts 10:1-11:18](#)

ANDREW

Andrew - Peter's Brother

Occupation

Fisherman

Characteristics

Eager to bring others to Jesus

Major Life Events

Accepted John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus; told Peter about Jesus; he and Philip told Jesus that Greeks wanted to see him.

What Jesus Said

Said he would become a Fisher of men.

Key Lesson

Christians are to tell other people about Jesus.

Death

The Apostle was Crucified on an X-shaped Cross, the two ends of which were in the ground.

Verses

[Matt 4:18-20](#)
[John 1:35-42; 6:8,](#)
9
[John 12:20-22](#)

JOHN

**John - Son of Zebedee; James the Greater's Brother;
"the Disciple whom Jesus loved"
"Sons of Thunder" (James & John)**

Occupation

Fisherman

Characteristics

Ambitious,
Judgmental, later -
very loving

Major Life Events

Third disciple in core group; asked Jesus for a place of honor in his kingdom; wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village; a leader of the Jerusalem church; wrote the Gospel of John and 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation.

What Jesus Said

Called James and John "Sons of Thunder"; said he would be a Fisher of men; would drink the cup Jesus drank; would take care of Jesus' Mother after Jesus' death.

Key Lesson

The transforming power of the love of Christ is available to all.

Death

He Died of Old Age.

Verses

[Mark 1:19](#)
[Mark 10:35-40](#)
[Luke 9:52-56](#)
[John 19:26, 27](#)
[John 21:20-24](#)

JAMES THE GREATER

James the Greater - is Son of Zebedee *James the Greater*; he & his younger brother John were called the "Sons of Thunder"(James & John)

Occupation

Fisherman

Characteristics

Ambitious, short-tempered judgmental, deeply committed to Jesus. He did **NOT** write the Book of James. Jesus' half- brother James did; and that James was **NOT** a Disciple.

Major Life Events

Also in core group; he and his Brother John asked Jesus for places of honor in his Kingdom; wanted to call fire down to destroy a Samaritan village; first disciple to be martyred.

What Jesus Said

Called James & John "*Sons of Thunder*"; said he would be a Fisher of men; would drink the cup Jesus drank.

Key Lesson

Christians must be willing to die for Jesus.

Death

James was killed by the sword by King Herod Agrippa ([Acts 12:1-2](#)).

Verses

[Mark 3:17](#)
[Mark 10:35-40](#)
[Luke 9:52-56](#)
[Acts 12:1-2](#)

JAMES THE LESS

James the Less is - Son of Alphaeus; James the Less or James the Younger his Mother was called "the other Mary". Some think that Matthew & he were Brothers because they were both the Sons of Alphaeus, but never called brothers.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Major Life Events</u>	<u>What Jesus Said</u>
Unknown	Unknown. He did NOT write the Book of James, but Jesus' half-Brother James did— and that <i>other</i> James was NOT one of the 12 Disciples.	Became one of Jesus' Disciples	Unknown
<u>Key Lesson</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Verses</u>	
Unknown	Was Stoned & Clubbed to Death in Jerusalem.	Matt 10:3 Mark 3:18 Luke 6:15	

MATTHEW

Matthew is - Son of Alphaeus is also called Levi; Some think that Matthew & James the Less were brothers because they were both the Sons of Alphaeus, but never called brothers.

Occupation

Tax Collector

Characteristics

Despised outcast because of his dishonest career

Major Life Events

Abandoned his corrupt (and financially profitable) way of life to follow Jesus; invited Jesus to a party with his notorious friends; wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

What Jesus Said

Called him to be a Disciple.

Key Lesson

Christianity is not for people who think they're already good; it is for people who know they've failed and want help.

Death

He was killed with a halberd (a pike fitted with an ax head) in Nadabah.

Verses

[Matt 9:9-13](#)
[Mark 2:15-17](#)
[Luke 5:27-32](#)

PHILIP

Philip was Tested by Jesus ([John 6:5-6](#)). There are Two Different Philips in the Bible. There is also Philip the Evangelist, who was 1 of 7 Believers appointed by the Apostles to care for the Widows & Needy ([Acts 6:1-6](#)). Philip the Evangelist Preached & did Miracles ([Acts 8:4-6](#)), and he shared the Scriptures with the Ethiopian in Gaza (great authority) & led him to Christ ([Acts 8:26-39](#)). He led Simon the Magician to the Lord ([Acts 8:9-13](#)).

Occupation

Fisherman

Characteristics

Questioning attitude

Major Life Events

Told Nathanael about Jesus; wondered how Jesus could feed 5,000; asked Jesus to show his followers God the Father; he and Andrew told Jesus that Greeks wanted to see him.

What Jesus Said

Asked if Philip realized that to know and see him was to know and to see the Father.

Key Lesson

God uses our questions to teach us.

Death

He reportedly suffered Martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was severely flogged, imprisoned, and later Crucified. This is **NOT** the Philip mentioned in the Book of Acts

Verses

[Matt 10:3](#)
[John 1:43-46; 6:2-7](#)
[John 12:20-22](#)
[John 14:8-11](#)

BARTHOLOMEW

Bartholomew is also known as Nathanael

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

Honesty &
Straight
forwardness

Major Life Events

Initially rejected
Jesus because
Jesus was from
Nazareth but
acknowledged him
as the "Son of God"
and "King of Israel"
when they met.

What Jesus Said

Called him "*a
true Israelite*"
and a man "*in
whom there is
nothing False.*"

Key Lesson

Jesus respects
honesty in people -
even if they
challenge him
because of it.

Death

He was Tortured
& Crucified in
India.

Verses

[Mark 3:18](#)
[John 1:45-51](#)

THOMAS

Thomas is known as The Twin; Didymus

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

Courage & Doubt

Major Life Events

Suggested the Disciples go with Jesus to Bethany — even if it meant death; asked Jesus about where he was going; refused to believe Jesus was risen until he could see Jesus alive and touch his wounds.

What Jesus Said

Said Thomas believed because he actually saw Jesus after the resurrection.

Key Lesson

Even when Christians experience serious doubts, Jesus reaches out to them to restore their faith.

Death

He was reportedly killed with a Spear in India.

Verses

[Matt 10:3](#)
[John 14:5](#); [20:24-29](#)

THADDAEUS

Thaddaeus - the Son of James (a.k.a. Judas) - he was the "good Judas"

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

Unknown

Major Life Events

Asked Jesus why he would reveal himself to his followers and not to the world.

What Jesus Said

Unknown

Key Lesson

Christians follow Jesus because they believe in him; they do not always understand the details of God's plan.

Death

He was Crucified at Edessa.

Verses

[Matt 10:3](#)
[Mark 3:18](#)
[John 14:22](#)

SIMON THE ZEALOT

The name Simon means "Hearkening" "Listening" "God has heard."
His name Simon the Zealot helps us to differentiate between Simon Peter & himself.

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

Fierce patriotism

Major Life Events

Became a Disciple of Jesus

What Jesus Said

Unknown

Key Lesson

If we are willing to give up our plans for the future, we can participate in Jesus' plans.

Death

He was believed to have been Crucified in what is today called Britain.

Verses

[Matt 10:4](#)
[Mark 3:18](#)
[Luke 6:15](#)
[Acts 1:13](#)

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas also known as the Betrayer

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

Treacherous &
Greedy

Major Life Events

Became one of
Jesus' Disciples;
betrayed Jesus;
killed himself.

What Jesus Said

Called him "*a
devil*"; said Judas
would betray
Jesus.

Key Lesson

It is not enough to
be familiar with
Jesus' teachings.
Jesus' true
followers Love &
Obey Him.

Death

He later committed
suicide by hanging
himself.

Verses

[Matt 26:20-25](#)
[Luke 22:47-48](#)
[John 12:4-8](#)

MATTHIAS

Matthias was chosen to become the 12th Apostle after Judas Iscariot had committed suicide.

[Psalms 109:8](#) "Let his (Judas) years be Few (a Few years with Jesus), let someone else take his position."

Matthias fulfilled this Prophecy. He was chosen to Replace Judas as one of the 12 Disciples in [Acts 1:21-26](#).

Occupation

Unknown

Characteristics

He was one of 2 men nominated (Joseph Justus—*aka* Barsabbas was too) to take Judas' place. The Assembly of 120 Prayed to God to make the right choice. They "*cast lots*" and Matthias was chosen.

Major Life Events

He was chosen to replace Judas after Peter had recited Scripture ([Acts 1:15-26](#)) from some of King David's Prophecies showing their need to replace Judas. [Ps 69:25](#); [Ps 109:8](#). Matthias means "Gift of God."

What Jesus Said

Unknown

Key Lesson

Unknown

Death

He was Stoned, then Beheaded at Jerusalem.

Verses

[Acts 1:21-26](#)