

# Jesus Chooses Helpers

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## **Scene Summary**

Jesus chooses helpers presents the story of how Jesus chose His disciples and trained them as helpers. Scenes include: Jesus calls Peter and Andrew as they cast their fishing nets...He calls James and John as they help their father mend the nets...Jesus sees Matthew at his tax collector's booth and calls him...He found Philip in the city...and Philip brings his friend Nathanael, who is also called Bartholomew...Jesus chooses other helpers: Thaddaeus, Thomas, Simon, James, and Judas...He teaches them how to be helpers.

## **Scripture**

(Mat 10:1-4 NIV) He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. {2} These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; {3} Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; {4} Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

(John 1:35-51 NIV) The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. {36} When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" {37} When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. {38} Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" {39} "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. {40} Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. {41} The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). {42} And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). {43} The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." {44} Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. {45} Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of

Nazareth, the son of Joseph." {46} "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. {47} When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." {48} "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." {49} Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." {50} Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." {51} He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

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### ***Players***

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.
- **Disciples** – **Matthew, James, John, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel** – more disciples can be added as needed.

### ***Special Props***

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

## ***Script – Jesus Chooses Helpers***

**Narrator:** Jesus knew that His Father has sent Him to do important work. Jesus was so busy telling people about God that He needed some helpers. [pause] One day Jesus walked beside the large Sea of Galilee. He watched at two fishermen put their net into the water.

**Jesus:** [in a strong voice] Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

**Narrator:** These men wanted to become Jesus’ helpers. A little further down the shore, Jesus saw James and John helping their father repair the holes in their fishing nets.

**Jesus:** [calling to James and John] I need your help young men.

**Narrator:** James and John left their nets and went with Jesus. In the city Jesus watched as Matthew collected taxes from the people.

**Jesus:** [to Matthew] Will you be my helper?

**Narrator:** Matthew was pleased that Jesus wanted him to be His helper. [pause] Another time Jesus had gone to a little town by the Jordan River. There He found Philip.

**Jesus:** [to Philip] Will you come and be my helper?

**Philip:** [excited] Yes Master.

**Narrator:** Philip hurried to tell his friend the good news and brought Nathaniel to see Jesus. The man, who was sometimes called Bartholomew, became one of Jesus’ helpers too. [pause] Jesus found other men to help Him: Thomas and Simon, James, Thaddaeus and Judas. Because these men would be learners, He called them his “disciples.” Every day Jesus taught His disciples about God. Sometimes He taught them as they rested on the hillside.

**Jesus:** Our Heavenly Father is kind and good.

**Narrator:** Sometimes Jesus taught the disciples as they walked along the road towards a city.

**Jesus:** God hates wrongdoing. He wants everyone to tell the truth; to treat others fairly; to be helpful and kind.

**Narrator:** Over and over He taught the disciples about God and showed them God’s love.

**Jesus:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

**Narrator:** The disciples listened carefully and sometimes they asked questions too. The disciples listened when they talked to the people also. They tried to remember everything He told them about God and heaven. They wanted to learn as much as possible so they could help Jesus do His Father's work. Often the disciples told other people what they had learned.

**Disciple 1:** God loves you. He wants you to give up your wrongdoings; do what is right, obey God.

**Narrator:** The disciples were glad to tell others about God. Jesus showed His disciples that God has great power. He made blind people to see. He made sick people well.

**Jesus:** God has power to forgive wrongdoings too.

**Narrator:** Once, Jesus fell asleep on a boat as His disciples rowed across the sea. A terrible storm came up and the frightened disciples awakened Him. Jesus showed them God's power when He spoke a word and made the sea calm again and the wind quiet. [pause] Jesus was with His disciples for about three years.

**Jesus:** One day soon, I shall go back to My Father. You are my helpers and will continue to do God's work while I am gone. I will come again, so be watching for My return.

**Narrator:** The disciples wished that Jesus could stay with them. They were glad that they had learned to do God's important work.

The End

## ***Supplemental Information***

These were the disciples, chosen as special helpers to Jesus: “first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.” (Matthew 10:2-4)

Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen. Some people believe that these were poor men, but fish was a popular food, even today, and fishermen were paid well for their catches. The Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and other waterways contained abundant fish. Peter and Andrew were from Bethsaida, at the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee. This area is still one of the best for fishing. From the northern coastline of Galilee, boatloads of fish were salted to keep them from spoiling, then shipped inland and sold in the city markets.

Andrew had learned much about God from following John the Baptist. John had pointed out Jesus to Andrew. When Andrew got acquainted with Jesus, he introduced his brother Peter. Jesus asked both men to become His disciples. Andrew helped many people believe in Jesus. Peter sometimes got into trouble because he acted too quickly, before he had time to think what was the best thing to do. After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit empowered all of the disciples. Peter became a great preacher.

James and John were brothers. They were fishing partners to Peter and Andrew. John became known for his love for God and other people. All four of these men were probably well off. The father of James and John owned his own fishing boat and had hired servants. Peter’s house was larger than poor people.

Philip was born in the city of Bethsaida where Peter and Andrew lived. Philip probably knew Jesus for a long time before he became a disciple, because he also knew Joseph and Mary. Philip also brought Bartholomew, who is sometimes called Nathaniel, to Jesus. Nathaniel also became a disciple. Jesus also called another disciple named James. James was thought to be a cousin of Jesus. Some he was called James the less, and probably that was because he was either shorter or younger than James the brother of John. Simon may have also been a cousin of Jesus.

We do not know much about the background of Thomas or Thaddaeus, but they may also have been fisherman. Judas may have come from the country of Moab, to the south of Palestine. [Ed. Check on this?] Judas became treasure of the disciples.

A disciple is a learner. The twelve men that Jesus selected were pupils. Jesus was the Teacher. He lived with them and taught them for about three years. Jesus knew that He would soon return to heaven and that He need people to carry on the work by the help of the Holy Spirit. Only Judas did not follow Jesus’ teaching. All of the other disciples spread the good news of God’s only Son, the Savior. They also trained other disciples to share God’s love.

## ***Fisherman***

Jesus chose several fishermen to become His disciples. Many believe that these were poor men. But it is likely that these men earned a good living for fish were important in the diet of the people of Palestine.

The Sea of Galilee was (and still is) the best fishing grounds in Palestine. From this area, fish were salted, dried and pickled and shipped throughout the country. Fresh fish were sold in the markets daily.

Fisherman used two types of nets. There was a casting net that a man draped over his arm as he stood on the shore or waded into the water. Quickly and skillfully, he whirled the net around and let it fall in a cone shape into the water. Weights on the edges pulled the net to the bottom of the lake. Sometimes the fisherman would dive into the water, pull on the drawstring of the net to enclose the fish, and then drag his catch to shore.

Carefully he emptied the fish on the shore so he would not bruise them. He washed his nets and hung them over his boat or on a tree to dry. If he found a rip or tear, he carefully mended it.

Another kind of net was the drag net. This was used in deeper water and was cast from a boat. Sometimes the net was cast between two boats, with fisherman in each boat helping to draw it in when it was full of fish.

Perch, carp, bream and a small fish called St. Peter's fish are common in the Sea even today.

## ***Extra Time***

A rhyming poem is sometimes useful in helping children remember the names of the disciples. Here is one example:

### **The Twelve Disciples**

Peter, Andrew, James and John,  
Fishermen of Capernaum,  
Thomas and St. Matthew, too,  
Philip and Bartholomew,  
James, his brother Thaddeus,  
Simon, and the one named Judas,  
Twelve disciples here in all,  
Following the Master's call.