

# JESUS CALLS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## DISCIPLES CALLED

Read Luke 5:1-11 & Luke 5:27-32

**Peter and Andrew** were brothers and fishermen who earned their living fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Andrew had been a disciple of St. John the Baptist and then became the “First Called” disciple of Christ (John 1:35-42). Peter was part of the “inner circle” who witnessed the Transfiguration and also wrote the epistles 1 & 2 Peter.

1

GOAL

Who are the 12 disciples?

2

AT CHURCH

Feast Day: June 29th  
Saints Peter & Paul  
Feast Day: June 30th  
Synaxis of the 12

3

AT HOME

Apostles Fast



**Disciple:**  
student

~  
The 12 disciples  
of Christ



**Lake Gennesaret:**  
*(click above for pronunciation)*  
the Sea of Galilee



**Drag net / cast net:**  
A drag net was used for fishing in deep water, while a cast net was used for shallow water

**James and John** were also brothers and fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. They were fishing partners of Peter and Andrew. (Fishing partners are used so that if one boat doesn't catch anything or only a small amount, then the other boat is there to balance out the loss for the day.) They were the sons of Zebedee and Salome, who was one of the myrrh-bearing women and the daughter of St. Joseph the Betrothed. James, **the Son of Zebedee**, was the first of the 12 Disciples to be martyred. John was the last of the 12 Disciples to die and he is known as St. John the Theologian, who wrote the Gospel of John and was granted the care of the Theotokos by Christ.



Photo of icon: [Lawrence OP](#)

After **Philip** had been called by Christ to be one of His disciples, he went quickly to share the news with Bartholomew that he had found the Messiah! He later traveled with his sister, Mariamne, Bartholomew, and John as they preached to the people about Christ.

**Bartholomew** was a man who never deceived anyone. He traveled with Philip and Philip's sister, Mariamne. While they were in Asia Minor, they were arrested in Phrygia and crucified head-downwards. Just after Philip died, the earth opened and swallowed up many of the pagans. All

those who survived were terrified that they would have the same fate, so they quickly took down Bartholomew and Mariamne and let them go. Bartholomew went on to evangelize other lands and eventually died a martyr's death.

**Thomas** was a fisherman as well. He touched Jesus' wounds after His Resurrection.

**Matthew and James (Son of Alphaeus)** were brothers as well. Matthew was a tax collector and wrote the Gospel of Matthew. In James' zeal for God, he threw down the altars of the idols to the

## EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Synaxarion Series:** April, May, June, September, October, November

*The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 114-128

*The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke* by Blessed Theophylact, pages 56-63

*Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed*



ground. While he was in Egypt, he was arrested and crucified.

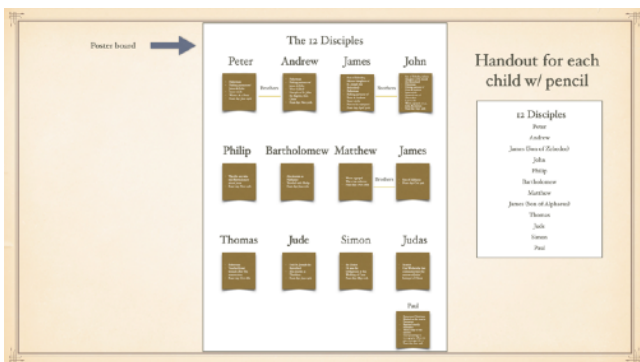
**Jude** was the brother of James (the Brother of Our Lord & the first bishop of Jerusalem). Jude was one of the 12 disciples, while his brother is numbered among the 70 apostles. Their dad was St. Joseph the Betrothed, whose wife passed away before he was betrothed to the Theotokos. They are step brothers to Jesus. He is also known as Thaddeus.

**Simon** the Zealot was the bridegroom at the Wedding of Cana. He followed Christ immediately after his wedding.

Our Wednesday fasts commemorates the sorrow of Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Christ. Later, **Paul** (also known as Saul before his baptism) is numbered among the 12. Initially, he persecuted Christians, but on his journey to Damascus, he was blinded by Christ. Not long after, Paul was baptized and became a Christian himself.

## ACTIVITIES

### Poster board of the 12 Disciples



There will be a poster board in your room with all of the disciples' names on it.

Pass out the "12 Disciples Handout" (provided at the end of this lesson) to each student with a pencil. Then pass out *one* post-it note to each

student (provided in your classroom). Each post-it note *will have two facts about one of the disciples.*

Provide instructions to the children to listen carefully to the lesson. They are to figure out which of Christ's Disciples are described on their post-it note and then circle their answer on the handout. For example, if they think they have a post-it note describing Matthew as they listen to the lesson, then they need to circle Matthew's name on the handout.

\*If you don't have enough kids to pass out one post-it note per child, then focus on the three pairs of brothers. These will likely be easier for the kids to memorize.

*After the lesson* is finished, they are to place their post-it note on the correct name on the poster board. Instruct the kids that they can discuss amongst themselves if everyone placed the post-it notes in the correct spots and fix any that need to be moved.

## SING: O Holy Apostles

# JESUS CALLS HIS FIRST DISCIPLES

## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

**M** *arvel at how  
wisely the Lord  
arranges our  
salvation, drawing to Himself each  
one by means of the things that  
are his own and with which he is  
familiar.*

### *Blessed Theophylact*

*The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke,*  
page 56

We are all called to be disciples of Christ. As Fr. Lawrence Farley explains, “The poor fisherman [Peter] still felt himself unequal to the task to which Jesus was calling him, and in desperation he fell down at Jesus’ knees (the fish spilling over his ankles), saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’ That is, he felt sure that Christ was looking for holy men, for heroes, for saints - not him.” (pg 117)

We are all called to serve God, each in our own unique ways. Each day, we wake up and try our hardest to begin again with the hope and effort of growing ever closer to Him.

## HOME ACTIVITY #9

### Watch and discuss together:

- *(YouTube) [Fishing on the Sea of Galilee!](#)* - Learn about the discovery of a first century fishing boat found in the banks of the Sea of Galilee
- *(YouTube) [Fishing the Sea of Galilee](#)* - Learn how they cast a fishing net during Jesus’ time (\*stop at time stamp 7:36)
- *(YouTube) [Amazing Sound Experiment at the Cove of the Sower](#)* - *How did the crowds hear Christ’s teachings when he spoke from a boat and they were on the shore?*

# 12 DISCIPLES

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Peter

Andrew

James (Son of Zebedee)

John

Philip

Bartholomew

Matthew

James (Son of Alphaeus)

Thomas

Jude

Simon

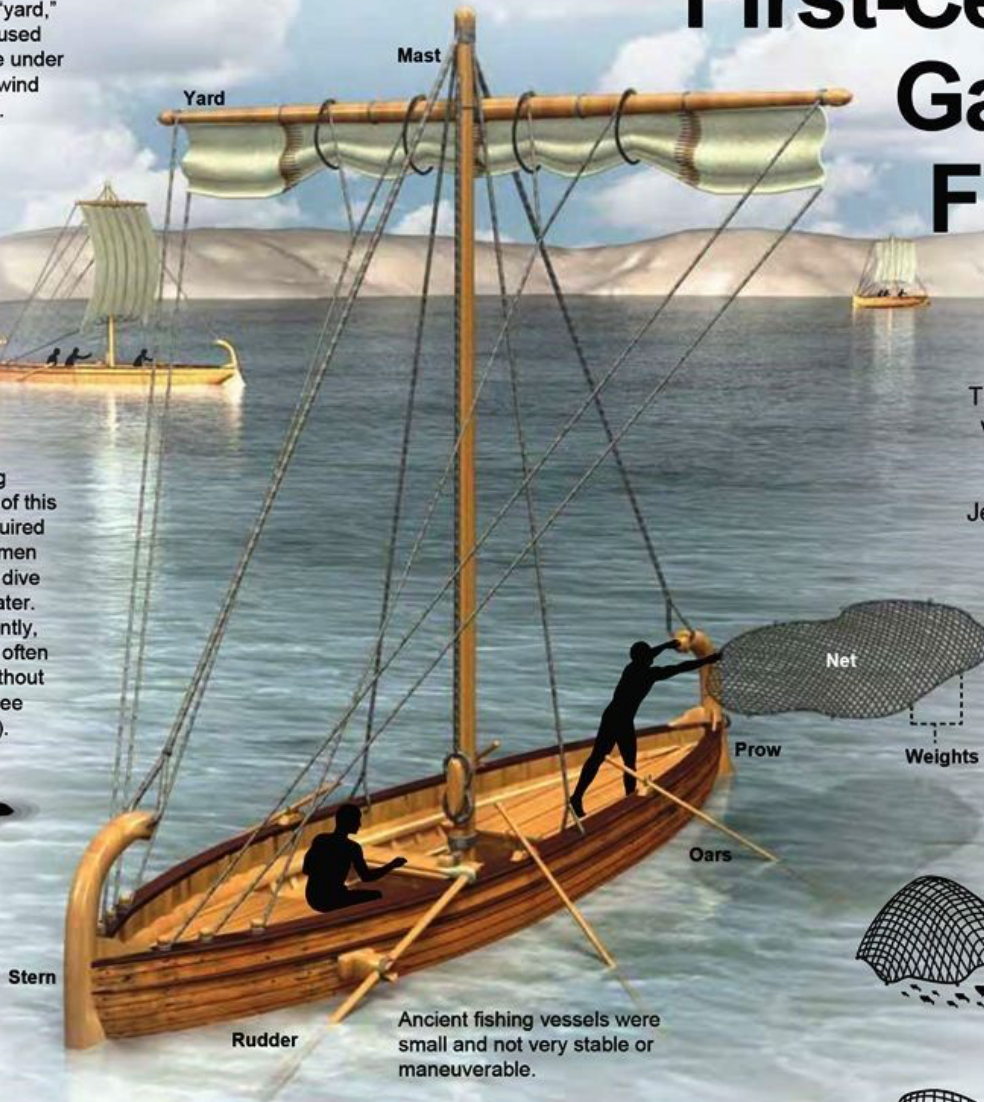
Paul

Sailboats of this period had only a mast and "yard," and were used near shore under favorable wind conditions.

# First-Century Galilean Fishing Boat

This type of small sailboat was very common in first century Galilee; it was likely the same kind that Jesus' first disciples used.

The fishing technique of this period required that fishermen frequently dive into the water. Consequently, fishermen often worked without clothing (see John 21:7).



The cast net opens as it is thrown and hits the water mostly flat.

The weights on the perimeter of the net pull the edges down around the fish.

As the fisherman retrieves the net, the weights come together and trap the fish inside.

Ancient fishing vessels were small and not very stable or maneuverable.

**Size comparison**  
(approximate):

