

Disciple Dozen — Family Study Guide

Twelve short devotionals for family or small-group use. Each entry pairs the disciple, a Scripture reference, a family discussion question, and a memory verse.

Simon Peter

Read: Matthew 4:18-20; John 21:15-17

Peter was quick to speak, quick to act, and quick to stumble. Jesus still built the church on his witness.

Family question: When have you had to stand up for what you believe? What made it hard?

Memory verse: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." — Matthew 16:16

Andrew

Read: John 1:40-42; John 6:8-9

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus and pointed out a boy's small lunch that became a miracle.

Family question: Who could you invite this week to learn about Jesus with you?

Memory verse: "He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah."" — John 1:41

James (son of Zebedee)

Read: Mark 1:19-20; Acts 12:1-2

James left his boat, walked with Jesus, and was the first apostle to die for his faith.

Family question: What is one thing that would be hard for you to leave in order to follow Jesus?

Memory verse: "Come, follow me." — Matthew 4:19

John

Read: John 13:23; 1 John 4:7-8

John called himself the disciple Jesus loved and wrote often about love.

Family question: How does knowing Jesus loves you change the way you love others?

Memory verse: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God." — 1 John 4:7

Philip

Read: John 1:43-46; John 14:8-9

Philip asked honest questions and invited Nathanael to "come and see."

Family question: What is a question about Jesus you would like to ask?

Memory verse: "Come and see." — John 1:46

Bartholomew (Nathanael)

Read: John 1:47-51

Jesus called Nathanael a man in whom there was no deceit.

Family question: What does it mean to be honest — even when no one is looking?

Memory verse: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!" — John 1:49

Matthew

Read: Matthew 9:9-13

Matthew was a tax collector. Jesus called him at his booth and shared a meal at his house.

Family question: Who does Jesus want you to welcome that others might overlook?

Memory verse: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." — Matthew 9:13

Thomas

Read: John 20:24-29

Thomas doubted until he saw the risen Jesus — then he worshiped Him.

Family question: What do you do with your doubts and questions?

Memory verse: "My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28

James (son of Alphaeus)

Read: Mark 3:18; Acts 1:13

Little is said of James, yet he faithfully followed Jesus and prayed with the disciples.

Family question: How can you serve God quietly this week, without needing to be noticed?

Memory verse: "Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much." — Luke 16:10

Thaddaeus (Judas son of James)

Read: John 14:22

Thaddaeus asked Jesus why He revealed Himself to some and not others — a heartfelt question.

Family question: What do you most want to ask Jesus?

Memory verse: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word." — John 14:23

Simon the Zealot

Read: Luke 6:15

Simon came from a fiery political group but found a bigger cause in Jesus.

Family question: What are you passionate about? How can that passion serve God?

Memory verse: "Seek first the kingdom of God." — Matthew 6:33

Judas Iscariot

Read: Matthew 26:14–16; John 13:26–27

Judas walked with Jesus for years yet chose to betray Him. His story is a warning to guard our hearts.

Family question: What is one habit that could quietly lead you away from Jesus? What would guard against it?

Memory verse: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." — Psalm 139:23

A Note to Parents & Teachers

This guide is designed to sit next to your Bible, not replace it. Read the referenced passages together. Let the children hold the cards while you read, and pause on the verse printed on each card. Feel free to skip a question or add your own — the goal is a family conversation about following Jesus.

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