

Bible Verse: John 1:41 (NIV) “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).”

During this season of Epiphany, our stories come from the New Testament of the Bible. They are stories about Jesus and his followers while Jesus is alive on earth. We find them in the four Bible books we call “Gospels”. “Gospel” means something like “Good Story” or “Good Talk” or “Good News.” The Gospel Books written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John mostly tell the same Jesus stories in slightly different ways.

The Gospel-writer John tells us that before Jesus is baptized, a lot of people are following John the Baptist. They are impressed with him. Some people even start to think that John the Baptist might be the Messiah.

But John the Baptist tells about the dove coming down from heaven when Jesus is baptized, and about God’s voice announcing that Jesus is the Son of God. John the Baptist tells his followers to follow Jesus.

According to John, the first disciples of Jesus are named Simon Peter and Andrew. They learn about Jesus from John the Baptist.

PETER and ANDREW are excited to be with Jesus. Andrew says “We have found the Messiah.”

Their neighbor PHILIP joins them. He finds NATHANAEL under a fig tree and tells him “We have found the one the prophets wrote about.”

Nathanael calls Jesus the Son of God.

These are four of Jesus’ closest followers.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus chooses eight more special disciples-twelve in all- to be near Him and to learn from Him. Some are fishermen. One is a tax collector.

The twelve are:

Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Nathanael (also called

Bartholomew); Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot.

In the Bible, these disciples help Jesus. Sometimes they stay with Him. Sometimes Jesus sends them on missions. They spread the good news about the Son of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Wonder Question: How do you think it would feel to leave your family and friends and follow Jesus?

Twelve Disciples

P	R	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	R	J	N	E	E	
R	F	O	L	L	O	W	O	C	E	O	H	H	A	PRAYER
F	W	R	S	M	N	O	M	I	S	A	C	R	H	FISHERMEN
I	E	A	I	H	P	E	T	E	R	G	A	O	W	TEACH
S	H	P	S	S	H	A	N	A	E	G	E	N	E	JUDAS
H	T	F	R	E	R	S	R	F	N	A	T	G	M	BOAT
E	T	Y	N	A	L	S	J	H	M	L	G	S	O	FOLLOW
R	A	W	P	H	Y	P	T	H	S	I	J	L	L	DISCIPLES
M	M	E	H	N	O	E	I	E	N	L	U	T	O	PREACHING
E	N	R	T	S	M	J	R	C	N	E	D	H	H	GALILEE
N	S	D	P	H	I	L	I	P	S	E	A	O	T	BARTHOLOMEW
T	O	N	S	S	E	M	A	J	N	I	S	M	R	SIMON
B	O	A	T	E	E	A	E	T	D	R	D	A	A	PHILIP
S	T	F	C	H	N	D	C	T	F	R	R	S	B	MATTHEW