



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
Church and School
Learn, Live, Share...Christ

Adult Bible Study – New Year, New Me, Same God

Lesson 1: What is a Disciple?

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

At the start of each year many people want to set goals that they hope to accomplish for the year. Many of you may know that these aren't always successful. As we go through the next three weeks we will look at what being a disciple of Jesus looks like and then cast a personal vision that we can use to help keep our focus.

The Twelve:

Who are the twelve disciples/apostles?

1. Simon Peter
2. Andrew Peter's brother
3. James son of Zebedee
4. John brother of James
5. Philip
6. Thomas (Didymus)
7. Matthew (Levi)
8. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)
9. Thaddeus (Judas son of James)
10. James the son of Alphaeus
11. Simon the Zealot
12. Judas Iscariot

List of the Apostles: Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-1; Acts 1:12-14

What kind of people are they?

The passages listed give a comprehensive list of who the apostles were. Jesus had many other disciples, those who followed him around and listened to his teachings. The apostles had a bit of a different role than that of your everyday disciple. That being said, we don't know for sure what each disciple's profession was, but we do know some of them.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all fishermen. We read this in *Matthew 4:18-22*, *Mark 1:16-20*, and *Luke 5:1-11*. Matthew, also known as Levi from *Mark 2:13-17* and *Luke 5:27-32* was a tax collector.

Another disciple we are told about is Simon the Zealot. The Zealots were Jewish religious fanatics that opposed foreign rule. Often they did this through extreme acts such as assassination and terrorism.

From all of this we can know that there really wasn't anything extraordinary about who the disciples were. They were somewhat ordinary people who Jesus appeared to and called them to be his disciple.

What were they like?

Jesus' disciples had faults just like we do. They didn't always understand what Jesus was saying. They didn't always react the right way. They doubted. They didn't always have the strongest faiths. They were defensive. Take heart and know that Jesus also calls you today to be his disciple.

Jesus call to all of his disciples is one that requires them to let go of all that they once held onto or once held to be important. His call is to deny yourself and to pick up your cross.

Modern Day Disciple:

Denying yourself and carrying your cross isn't inflicting pain upon yourself. Rather, "to deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self to see only him who goes before..." (Bonhoeffer, *Cost of Discipleship* 88).

Paul speaks of this in *Philippians 3:2-11*. Let's turn there.

The focus of our discipleship is only on Jesus and what he has done for us.

What does it mean to be a modern day disciple?

As disciples of Jesus here and now it is very clear that we live differently. We work differently. We think differently. We talk differently. We witness differently.

Group Discussion:

As a modern day disciples, what does it mean for you to drop everything and follow Jesus?

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15