

OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to
- identify differences among Jesus' disciples.
- relate Biblical Truths 6, 7, and 8 to the choice to follow or reject Jesus.

SUPPLEMENTALS

SW 26.4
BLM 26.4A
TR 19.16.4A
TR 20.17.4A

MATERIALS **M**

- World map or globe (*Develop 5*)
- Worldview Model—House of Truth (*Develop 6*)

PREPARATION **P**

- Make a copy of **BLM 26.4A Twelve Followers** for each student pair. (*Develop 1*)

Introduce

Display **TR 20.17.4A Initiative** to review with students that *initiative is the ability to do what needs to be done without being told*. Read **Ecclesiastes 9:10a**, the verse for this trait. Then display **TR 19.16.4A Perseverance** and read its verse, **Hebrews 10:36**. State that today's lesson is about the disciples and how they showed initiative and perseverance.

Develop **M** **P**

- Distribute **BLM 26.4A Twelve Followers** to student pairs and have them read Section A. Then ask: What is a disciple? (**a faithful pupil and follower of Jesus and his teachings**) What does it mean to follow Jesus? (**Answers will vary.**)
- Have students read Section B of BLM 26.4A. Ask: Which pairs of disciples were siblings? (**Peter and Andrew, James and John**) Do you have friends who are siblings? (**Answers will vary.**) Who sometimes tagged along with the other three disciples? (**Andrew**) Who got a new name from Jesus? (**Peter**) Who were the "sons of thunder"? (**James and John**) Do you have a nickname, or have you given your friends a nickname? (**Answers will vary.**) Who took care of Jesus' mother? (**John**) Why did Jesus ask John to do this? (**Answers will vary but may include that perhaps he did so because John was Jesus' best friend among the disciples.**) Who led the apostles after Pentecost? (**Peter**)
- Read Section C, then ask: Who was a tax collector? (**Matthew**) Do we know Thaddaeus' profession? (**No.**) What job did Peter, Andrew, James, and John have? (**They were all fishermen.**) What job did Jesus have before he began his ministry? (**Answers will probably be that he was a carpenter or builder.**) Did the disciples all do the same type of work before they decided to follow Jesus? (**No.**) Why did Jesus choose disciples who had different jobs? (**Possible answer: Jesus wants everyone to follow him.**) Remark that Matthew and Thaddaeus wrote part of the New Testament. What other disciples were also writers? (**John and Peter**)
- Read Section D. Ask: Who was a twin? (**Thomas**) Do we know who his sibling was? (**No.**) Which disciple might have been revolutionary? (**Simon the Zealot**) Which disciple was like Andrew? (**Philip**) Whom did Philip bring to Jesus? (**Bartholomew, or Nathanael**) What did Jesus say about Nathanael? (**that he was a man without deceit**) How would you feel if Jesus said that about you? (**Possible answers: happy, honored**) What should you do to become a person Jesus would compliment? (**Answers will vary.**)

Continue asking: Which three disciples did not always believe or follow Jesus? (**Peter, Thomas, and Judas Iscariot**) How do you know? (**Peter denied him three times; Thomas doubted his resurrection; Judas Iscariot betrayed him.**) Did Peter deserve to be forgiven even though he had denied Jesus three times? (**No.**) Why did Jesus forgive him? (**Possible answer: Jesus loved him.**) Did Thomas deserve to be forgiven? (**No.**) Did Jesus forgive him anyway? (**Yes.**) Did Judas Iscariot deserve forgiveness? (**Answers will vary.**) Emphasize that no one deserves God's forgiveness; we all receive it by God's grace. Add: What happened to these disciples after they doubted Jesus? (**Peter and Thomas repented of their sin and then served Jesus. Judas Iscariot hanged himself.**) Do people who follow Jesus today sometimes struggle with doubt and sin like the disciples did? (**Answers will probably be yes.**) What advice would you give them? (**Possible answers: pray, ask for help, study Scripture**) What should you do if you sin and feel sorry about what you did? (**Possible answers: repent, ask for forgiveness, make amends**) Who replaced Judas? (**Matthias**)

State that three pairs of disciples had the same first name. Who were they? (**Simon Peter and Simon the Zealot; James, son of Zebedee, and James, son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus, also known as Judas, and Judas Iscariot**) Do you know anyone who shares your name or do you have friends who share the same first name? (**Answers will vary.**)

- Display the map or globe. Have volunteers point out the countries where Jesus' disciples are said to have gone. Note that they traveled north, south, east, and west to preach the gospel. Ask: Who probably went the farthest north? (**Andrew**) Who went the farthest south? (**Thomas**) Read **Matthew 28:19–20**. Did the disciples do what Jesus asked them to do? (**Yes.**) How did the apostles show initiative? (**They taught everywhere they could.**) How did they show perseverance? (**Even when they were threatened, they continued to preach; most of them died as martyrs.**)
- WORLDVIEW LINKS:** Direct students' attention to the House of Truth. Link the lesson to Biblical Truths 6, 7, and 8. Those who rejected Jesus represent all humanity separated from God by sin (BT 7). Those who placed their trust in Jesus and left everything to follow him (BT 6) represent all those whom God the Father calls to be his children through faith in his Son, Jesus (BT 8).
- Have students work in pairs and use BLM 26.4A to complete **SW 26.4 Twelve Men**.

Close

Call on students to answer the questions. Have the class clap if the answer is correct, or cover their mouths if it is incorrect.

- What is a disciple? (**a faithful pupil and follower of Jesus and his teachings**)
- Who was the leader of the disciples after Pentecost? (**Simon Peter**)
- Which disciples died serving Jesus? (**all of them except Judas Iscariot**)
- What did Jesus ask the disciples to do? (**go into all the world to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them**)

Prayer

Have students consider Jesus' call to become his disciple. Have them thank Jesus for the opportunity to work with him to proclaim the good news of the kingdom today.

ENRICHMENT

- Discuss characteristics of being a follower or disciple of Jesus today, including the cost of discipleship.
- Have students play a game called *Who am I?* Prepare index cards with questions about a disciple on one side, and the disciple's name on the other. Write only one question per card, and include a Scripture that answers the question. For example: *Jesus called my brother Andrew and me to be disciples while we were fishing in the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:19). Who am I?* (**Simon Peter**)

Name _____ Date _____


26.4 Twelve Men

- Write the names of four disciples who wrote part of the Bible.
a. John b. Peter c. Matthew d. Thaddaeus, or Judas, or Jude
- Write the names of four disciples who were fishermen.
a. Peter b. John c. Andrew d. James (son of Zebedee)
- Write the names of three disciples who did not always believe or follow Jesus.
a. Peter b. Thomas c. Judas Iscariot
- Which name appears in all three exercises above? Peter
- What did this disciple do after Pentecost? He led the other disciples.

Write the letter on the blank to match the disciple with the description.

6. <u>E</u> Simon the Zealot	A. was a tax collector.
7. <u>B</u> Thomas	B. was a twin.
8. <u>A</u> Matthew	C. was a thief.
9. <u>C</u> Judas Iscariot	D. was a man without deceit.
10. <u>D</u> Bartholomew	E. was a revolutionary.

- How did your favorite disciple show initiative in serving Jesus?
Answers will vary.
- How can you show perseverance as you serve Jesus?
Answers will vary.



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