

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Jesus' twelve disciples are major characters in the Gospels and Acts. The personalities of several of them are drawn with great clarity and consistency, while others remain obscure. As you read the Gospels with your children, get to know the characters: **Simon Peter** is by all odds the most vivid individual in the group: blunt, bossy, enthusiastic, impulsive, loyal but not nearly as brave as he thinks he is. He is traditionally portrayed with short curly hair and a curly beard, and appears that way in *The Sunday Paper*. His brother **Andrew** is much less forward, and somewhat skeptical: he is the one who said, "Here are five loaves and two fish, but what good is that?" He is depicted as beardless, with curly hair; so is **Philip**, whose personality, however, is very different. Philip is the one who dragged Nathanael to Jesus; the one who joined the Ethiopian in his chariot; he is bursting with enthusiasm for the Good News. **John** is the "beloved disciple," whose understanding of Jesus's mission is most intuitive and loving; *The Sunday Paper* shows him beardless, with straight hair that curves forward, and (often) a dreamy expression. His brother, **James**, with beard and up-sweeping hair, is almost always with him, but is much less dreamy and more practical. **Thomas**, the "doubter," has backswept hair, a beard, and a perpetually worried expression; **Judas Iscariot**, with curly hair and a straight beard, has a driven look. **Nathanael** (Bartholomew) is curly-haired but bald on top; **Matthew**, the former tax-collector, has straight hair and a beard. The last three disciples are nearly anonymous: **Simon the Zealot**, **James the son of Alphaeus**, and **Thaddeus** or **Lebbaeus** or **Jude**.

Jesus' disciples were not "heroes"—they were not notable for their social status, education, or talents. They often misunderstood Jesus' teachings, they fussed and argued about the wrong issues, bickered and jockeyed for position within their own group; they failed him at the moment of crisis, and, most basic of all, they were operating all along under a mistaken notion of what the Kingdom was all about. Yet God gave them power to spread the Good News far and wide, and he will do no less for us if we ask him.

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TRACKS 1 and 2



JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:

"Go out two by two. Do not take a lot of stuff with you. God will give you what you need.



Go to all the villages and towns. Tell them how God's Kingdom is coming...



... heal the people who are sick...



... and save them from the Devil!"



Jesus's twelve friends are called his DISCIPLES. A DISCIPLE is someone who is learning from a teacher. Jesus wants us to be his disciples too, and learn to do his work.

This girl wants to be Jesus's disciple. Draw a church for her to belong to, to learn about Jesus. Draw a Bible for her to read. Draw people for her to love, and help, and tell about Jesus.

