

What do you know about Apostles and Disciples? - Answers

1. The 12 who were chosen by Jesus to be Apostles are underlined. What did you find out about them? Some details below
2. Matthias was chosen to replace the person who betrayed Jesus, and so became the 12th Apostle. Did you find out how was he chosen, and why was it not just “lucky” that it was him? Details below.
3. What did you find out about any of the other “disciples” mentioned below? Some details below

First List

1. Simon Peter, son of Jonah (or son of John) and brother of Andrew
2. Andrew, son of Jonah (or son of John) and brother of Simon Peter
3. Saul, who became Paul
4. Timothy
5. Philip, brother of Bartholomew
6. Bartholomew (Nathanael), brother of Philip
7. James, son of Alphaeus
8. Mark (also called John Mark)
9. Luke
10. James, the brother of Jesus
11. James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John
12. John, the son of Zebedee and brother of James
13. Barnabas
14. Silas
15. Matthew (Levi)
16. Thomas
17. Stephen
18. Thaddaeus (also called Jude or Judas) the son of James
19. Simon the Zealot
20. Judas Iscariot
21. Simon of Cyrene
22. Matthias
23. Joseph of Arimathea
24. Nicodemus

Second list:

All of the women on this list were disciples. What can you find out about them?

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| (A).Mary the mother of Jesus | (B).Mary Magdalene |
| (C).Martha, sister of Mary | (D).Mary, sister of Martha |
| (E).Julia | (F).Priscilla |
| (G).Claudia | (H).Eunice |
| (I).Lois | (J).Lydia |
| (K).Mary the wife of Clopas (Cleopas) | (L).Joanna the wife of Chuza |
| (M).Susanna | |
| (N).Mary the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John | |
| (O).Mary the mother of James and Joseph (Josés) | |

More details on the 24 MEN who were disciples:

- ◆ Simon Peter, the fisherman. Brother of Andrew. One of the inner group of 3 apostles along with James & John. Impulsive so often stumbled – such as being brave enough to get out of a boat and walk on water – until he took his eyes off Jesus and then he began to sink. Said Jesus was the Son of God but followed it up by saying Jesus should not go to Jerusalem to die – he failed to understand what Jesus’ mission was. He voiced clearly that he would never leave Jesus but hour later ran away in garden of Gethsemane and then three times denied that he knew Jesus. After the resurrection Jesus asked him if he loved Him; the love Jesus asked of Peter was a self-sacrificial love, but Peter could only promise to be Jesus’ best friend, so the 3rd time Jesus asked “will you love me with a best friend’s love” which for the 3rd time Peter said “yes” – and then lived his life self-sacrificially for Jesus. Once filled with the Holy Spirit he was a bold preacher, the first to get up and speak on Pentecost day. Was the main source of information in St Mark’s gospel, which is why Mark is gentler with him, minimising or missing out some of his failings and low points of his life. Said to have been crucified upside down as he was not worthy to die the same way Jesus died. Read more about him in Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 8:29-33; Luke 22:31-34; John 21:15-19; Acts 2:14-41; Acts 10:1 to 11:18. St Peter wrote 2 letters in the New Testament.
- ◆ Andrew, fisherman, told his brother Peter about Jesus (John 1:40) after hearing John the Baptist say Jesus was “the Lamb of God”. Said to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross. Read more about him in Matthew 4:18-20; John 1:35-42; John 6:8-9; John 12:20-22.
- ◆ Saul who became Paul - who wrote many of the letters in the New Testament. Was present when St Stephen became the first Christian to be martyred for his faith. Persecuted Christians because he believed they were blaspheming God, then Jesus met him on the road to Damascus – and Paul became blind for several days but could see spiritually instead. God chose him to spread the gospel to the non-Jews (Gentiles or pagans as the Bible calls them). Paul had a strong knowledge of the Old Testament and was able to show Jews that Jesus was the expected Messiah (“Christ” in Greek). Paul went on three missionary journeys and another journey to Roma through countries that we now call is now Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Italy. God used Paul’s training as well as his Roman citizenship, his brilliant mind and even his weaknesses to ensure the gospel spread to the whole of the known world.
- ◆ Timothy – became a Christian after Paul went to Lystra (Acts ch 16) and joined Paul and Silas on the 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys. Paul sent him as his representative to Corinth and Ephesus. Shy and timid but went on to lead a church in Ephesus; was an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5). His mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, gave him good training in Scripture (Old Testament) as well as good Christian teaching. Paul wrote two letters in the New Testament to him to encourage and strengthen him.
- ◆ Philip, a fisherman, told his brother Bartholomew (Nathanael) about Jesus. Read more in Matthew 10:3; John 1:43-46; John 6:2-7; John 12:20-22; John 14:8-11.
- ◆ Bartholomew (Nathanael), initially rejected Jesus as the Messiah because he was from Nazareth but, when he met Jesus, he acknowledged him as the “Son of God” and “King of Israel” (Mark 3:18; John 1:45-51; John 21:1-13)
- ◆ James, the son of Alphaeus – not much is known about him except that he was one of the 12 (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15)
- ◆ Mark (also called John Mark) – was probably the young man mentioned in Mark 14:51-52 – in the garden of Gethsemane. He and his mother provided their home as a meeting place for Christians in Jerusalem. Went with Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey but it was too much for him and he dropped out at the 2nd stop, and returned to Jerusalem. Later Paul refused to take him on the 2nd missionary journey but Barnabas took him with him instead, so creating 2 missionary teams. Wrote the first gospel somewhere between 55AD and 65AD. He spent much time with Peter and so much of his gospel is based on Peter’s

accounts of the gospel as he preached it. It means he was careful not to embarrass Peter by highlighting his weaknesses. He appears in Acts of the Apostles

- ◆ Luke- who wrote a gospel and Acts of the Apostles. A doctor (physician) – see Colossians 4:14. Appears in Acts of the Apostles but you will need to look closely – up to Act 16:8 it is “they” then from Acts 16:10 it becomes “we” so Luke joined them for part of the journey before it returns to “they” again; he joined twice more later on – (chapters 20-21 and then chapters 27-28). Being a doctor he make good observations, cross-checked his information to make sure it was accurate. Archaeology has over time shown his historical facts to be correct.
- ◆ James the brother of Jesus – wrote a letter in the New Testament. First leader of the church, in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-20)
- ◆ James the son of Zebedee, a fisherman, short-tempered. He and his younger brother John were called “Sons of thunder” as they were judgmental (Luke 9:54), but they also wanted places of honour in Jesus’ kingdom, not really understanding what that meant (Mark 10:37). Part of the inner core of three apostles – along with his brother John & Simon Peter. First disciple to be martyred (Mark 3:17; Mark 10:35-40; Luke 9:52-56; Acts 12:1-2)
- ◆ John the son of Zebedee, the youngest disciple, and in his gospel refers to himself as “the disciple Jesus loved” (brotherly love). He and his brother James were called “Sons of thunder” as they were judgmental (Luke 9:54), but they also wanted places of honour in Jesus’ kingdom, not really understanding what that meant (Mark 10:37). John later became very loving – he wrote a gospel and 3 letters to churches. Took Mary, the mother of Jesus, into his house as his own mother.(Mark 1:19; Mark 10:35-40; Luke 9:52-56; John 19:26-27; John 21:20-24)
- ◆ Barnabas - actually called Joseph, and he was a Levite from Cyprus. Barnabas means “son of encouragement”. In Acts 11:25 we read that he went to find Paul in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch and disciple him. They went on the first missionary journey together. In Acts 15:39 we read that they disagreed about taking “John Mark” (St Mark who wrote a gospel) with them so Barnabas and Mark went to share the gospel in Cyprus whilst Paul went with Silas to Syria. God used this disagreement to create two missionary teams. Barnabas encouraged Mark and later he became a close friend of Paul who asked for him to come to support him when he was in jail
- ◆ Silas-went with Paul on two missionary journeys. Life as an early missionary was exciting as people responded to hearing the gospel and became Christians but was also dangerous – the journeys, hunger, health issues, hostile resistance to the gospel, beatings, floggings with whips, being put in prison. Co-wrote first letter of Peter (1 Peter 5:12).
- ◆ Matthew (Levi), despised outsider as he was a hated tax collector, so a collaborator with the Romans, and took extra money from the people to keep for himself. He gave up everything to follow Jesus, and unlike the fisherman would have no job to go back to if things went wrong. He invited Jesus to a party with all his notorious friends. Wrote a gospel aimed at the Jewish Christians showing how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies (53 quotes and 76 other references to Old Testament) to prove that Jesus is the Messiah and to explain God’s kingdom. He wrote it in AD 60-65, about 30 years after Jesus rose from the dead. His gospel is about what Jesus said – whereas Mark was written for Gentile (Pagan) non-believers and shows what Jesus did. (Matt 9:9-13; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:27-32)
- ◆ Thomas, the twin (Didymus) courage (John 11:14-16 – prepared to die) as well as doubt that Jesus had really risen from the dead, but quickly believed when had the evidence, replying that Jesus was “my Lord AND my God”. (Matt 10:3; John 14:5, John 20:24-29; John 21:1-13)
- ◆ Stephen - the first martyr. He was chosen to serve food at the tables “because he was full of the Holy Spirit, strong in faith and full of wisdom and grace (Acts 6:3 and 8). God worked through him doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people (Acts 6:8) so he was seized and brought before the Jewish council (the Sanhedrin) as he was falsely accused

of blasphemy. He courageously defended the gospel (Acts ch 7) and as a result was stoned to death by the Jews in the council.

- ◆ Thaddaeus (Jude or Judas) son of James, (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; John 14:22)
- ◆ Simon the Zealot, a Zealot is a patriot who wanted the Roman occupation to end and Israel to be an independent nation again. Matt 10:4; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15)
- ◆ Judas Iscariot, chosen by Jesus even though Jesus knew from the start that Judas would betray him. He was expecting Jesus to overthrow the Roman occupation and establish an earthly kingdom, and thought if he pushed Jesus into a corner the Jesus would reveal His power, but Judas failed to understand what Jesus' mission really was. Judas was treacherous & greedy, he loved money more than he loved Jesus and used to steal from the disciples moneybag (John 12:6). He betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, by giving him a "friend's kiss of greeting"; but then when he realised what he had really done, he regretted it and killed himself. He was a follower and believer in Jesus but never became a disciple as he did not apply Jesus' teaching (for example you cannot serve both God and money). All that happened was all part of God's plan – God uses our character for His bigger purposes bringing good out of bad things for those who trust Him. (Matt 26:20-25; Luke 22:47-48; John 12:4-8).
- ◆ Simon of Cyrene – who helped Jesus carry his cross (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26). Mark 15:21 tells us he was the father of "Alexander and Rufus". Simon must have become a disciple because we know Rufus is a disciple – Romans 16:13)
- ◆ Matthias - Acts 1:21-26 tell us he was chosen by "drawing lots" BUT everything in this world is controlled by God so no such thing as "luck" – God knew who he wanted and arranged for the "drawing of lots" (like throwing dice) to select Matthias.
- ◆ Joseph of Arimathea – who helps bury Jesus after the crucifixion (Matthew 27:57-61 ; Mark 15:42-47 ; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-40)
- ◆ Nicodemus – came to Jesus at night (John 3:1-21), and Jesus told him he needed to "be born again" by the Holy Spirit. Had a slow, steady growth in faith so challenged the Sanhedrin (John 7:45-52) who then courageously steps forward to help bury Jesus after the crucifixion (John 19:38-40)

Second list:

More details on the 15 women on this list were all disciples. These women were all disciples – some are mentioned in the gospels as following Jesus and supporting him with money; some were at the cross when Jesus died and went to the tomb on Easter Sunday morning. Others are mentioned in the rest of the New Testament. Jesus treated all women with dignity and respect – not normal in that culture.

- A. Mary the mother of Jesus – mentioned throughout the gospels in the Nativity account, and would have been 13 or 14 years old when she became a mother (normal age for marriage then). Accepted what God asked her to do. Knew her Old Testament ("Scripture") and shown by what she said when she met up with Elizabeth (The Magnificat). Later appears in the gospels visiting Jesus with his brothers as they thought he was mad. Then was at the cross with other women, and Jesus asked John to take her home as his mother. Finally mentioned in Acts 1:14 - she is with the 120 in the upper room praying after the Ascension

(Acts 1:14-15) and will have been there at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down on 120 disciples. Jesus is her Lord and Master in the same way as He is Lord and Master of all disciples – then and now.

- B. Mary Magdalene Matt 27:56 & 61; Matt 28:1; Mark 15:40; Mark 15:47; Mark 16:1; Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2; Luke 24:10; John 19:25; John 20:1; John 20:11; John 20:18. Had had seven demons cast out of her by Jesus. Was eager to obey Jesus even though she did not understand everything. Contributed financially to the ministry of Jesus. Was at the crucifixion, watched where his body was laid as they rolled the stone in front of the entrance to the tomb, and was one of the women who went to the tomb to finish embalming Jesus' body only to discover he had been raised from the dead. She was the first to see Jesus alive after the resurrection, and Jesus told her to go and tell the Apostles about it. They did not believe her.
- C. Martha, sister of Mary Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:1-45 – was busy round the house when Jesus visited and grumbled that Mary was not helping. Was the first to go out to meet Jesus when he came to see them, after Lazarus had died. She said "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." This lead on to Jesus declaring "I am the resurrection and the life...do you believe this". Like Peter she said that she believed Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God". She said when Jesus commanded them to roll away the stone from the tomb in which they had placed Lazarus "But Lord, by this time there is a bad odour for he has been there for four days". Jesus then prayed and then called Lazarus out of the tomb and he walked out alive.
- D. Mary, sister of Martha Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:1-45 – sat at Jesus' feet when he visited, a place for disciples which in those days would normally have only been men. When Lazarus died she said, when she saw Jesus she also said "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died."
- E. Julia Romans 16:15 – mentioned in greetings to other prominent, active Christians
- F. Priscilla Acts 18; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19 - Priscilla, & her husband Aquilla, were key Christians in churches that met in their home in Rome and then in exile in Corinth and Ephesus (expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius). Were tent makers. Accompanied Paul on part of his 2nd missionary journey, from Corinth to Syria and they stayed at Ephesus when Paul travelled onwards. Risked their lives for Paul. Took Apollos under their wing when they discovered he only had John the Baptist's message about Jesus). They explained the rest to him.
- G. Claudia 2 Timothy 4:21 – mentioned in greetings to other prominent, active Christians

- H. Eunice 2 Timothy 1:5 – Timothy’s mother
- I. Lois 2 Timothy 1:5 – Timothy’s grandmother
- J. Lydia Acts 16:13-15 and Acts 16:40. Dealer in (expensive) purple cloth. Became a Christian through Paul’s preaching in Philippi and welcomed them into her home where she and her household were all baptised.
- K. Mary the wife of Clopas (Cleopas) John 19:25 – sister of Mary the mother of Jesus. Was at the crucifixion. May have been in the group of women who went to the tomb of Jesus.
- L. Joanna the wife of Chuza Luke 8:3 and Luke 24:10 – had been cured of evil spirits and diseases and after that followed Jesus as a disciple and supported Jesus out of her own money. Was one of the women who went to the tomb to finish embalming Jesus’ body only to discover he had been raised from the dead, and the women went back and told the Eleven (the Apostles)
- M. Susanna Luke 8:3 – had been cured of evil spirits and diseases and after that followed Jesus as a disciple and supported Jesus out of her own money.
- N. Mary the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John Matt 20:20; Matt 27:56 – asked Jesus for places of honour for her 2 sons (James & John). Was present at the crucifixion.
- O. Mary the mother of James and Joseph (Joses) Matt 27:56 & 61; Matt 28:1; Mark 15:40; Mark 15:47; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10. Was one of the women at the crucifixion, and saw where Jesus was laid in the tomb. Was in the group of women who went to the tomb to finish embalming Jesus’ body only to discover he had been raised from the dead; and the women went back and told the Eleven (the Apostles)

If you want to look up these verses use the “search” box on www.biblegateway.com or use your Bible at home.

If using Bible Gateway (internet option) when you are looking for “Mary” you will have to think what you type into the “search” box. For example if you type “Joses” you may get a better answer as “Mary” will bring up all answers for anyone called Mary. Also when you get your list select New Testament in the “Filter by” area, as they will all be in the New Testament. Use the “Easy-to-read” version in the drop down list to right of the “search” box, then click search. Alternatively there are two other options for Catholic translations – “New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised, Catholic Edition (NRSVACE)” and for the American not British English spelling the “New Revised Stand Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE)”.