

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

The disciples set an example for us to follow.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn who the disciples were.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Mark 3:13-19, Jesus Appoints 12 Disciples

### **INTRO:**

There are certain people who are natural experts on certain trivia topics. Take baseball fans, for example. Baseball is a game of numbers. Every baseball player is tracked by their hitting percentage and slugging percentage. Pitchers are judged by wins, losses, and the ERA, earned run average. These things mean nothing to a non-baseball fan, but it's not uncommon for a fan of, say, the Cleveland Indians to know every Cleveland player's batting average and every pitcher's ERA.

Some rock bands have fans who know their music backwards and forwards. Beatles fans are a great example. Some Beatle fans are so in tune with their favorite band, they can tell you what song is playing, who is singing the lead vocal, what album it was on, when that album was released, and which Beatle wrote it.

There are experts in everything from Saturday Night Live to Michael Jackson to Harry Potter to Transformers. You name it, there are fans so excited about their favorite thing, they are like sponges. They know who played whom in what movie, what was changed from the book to the movie, who wrote this song, who played lead guitar on this track, and so on, and so on.

Today we're going to talk about a special group of followers. These men lived long before things like Pokemon, Star Wars, Marvel comics, and other fun fan bases. They weren't fans of any musician or any movie or any book. These men weren't really even fans. We call them disciples. I'm talking about the twelve men Jesus called to be disciples.

### **READ MARK 3:13-19**

### **MAIN POINT:**

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Jesus chose twelve men to be his closest followers, his disciples. These men were with him more than anyone else during his time on Earth. The disciples saw every miracle. They heard every parable. They also had every parable explained to them. These men knew Jesus better than anyone, and when the time came, they were the ones who took the good news of Jesus to the world.

The twelve men Jesus chose were not the most educated or even the most religious. Peter, James, John, and Andrew were fishermen! Matthew was a tax collector, a job many people believed to be crooked and corrupt.

These were not perfect men, but they were perfect for the job Jesus had for them. When Jesus returned to Heaven, the disciples were the ones who established Jesus' church on Earth.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Many times we look at our pastors and religious leaders as people who could do no wrong, but that's simply not the case. All of our pastors, all of our Sunday school teachers, every one of us in this church is a sinner. We're not perfect. We all make mistakes. We all need God's forgiveness, and we all need to ask forgiveness of others sometimes.

History and the Bible tell us that Jesus' disciples were brave men who were willing to die for their faith, but the Bible tells us one thing more. It tells us they were not perfect. We see the disciples getting into jealous quarrels several times, fighting over who would be Jesus' number two man. On the night Jesus was arrested, it was Judas, one of his own disciples, who betrayed him. All but two of the disciples fled and hid, afraid for their lives, when Jesus was arrested. Only Peter and John followed him to Jerusalem to see what would happen, but then Peter, Jesus' closest friend of all, denied he ever knew Jesus three times!

It's okay that we're not perfect because the disciples were not perfect. But just like the disciples, an imperfect person like all of us can become disciples of Christ. The work of Jesus goes on even today, and God wants us to follow not only Jesus' example, but the example set by those wacky, imperfect disciples.

Are you willing to be a disciple? Are you ready to get to know Jesus and carry his forgiveness to the world? If a couple fishermen and a tax collector can do it, so can we. Let's ask God to make us his disciples, so we can help others become followers of Christ.

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## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Make us disciples of Jesus.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*