

# JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES



**MATTHEW 10**

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## MATTHEW 10:1-16

In this lesson, we will study what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus. This lesson is designed for the pre-teens and teens, and by the end of this lesson, they should have learnt about the following:

- Being a disciple.
- God knows us by name.
- God's blessings for His disciples.

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 10: 1-16

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Jesus called to Himself His twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every sickness."* Matthew 10:1

### BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

When the earthly ministry of Jesus began, one of the first things He did was to call twelve ordinary men to follow Him and become His disciples. They were to learn from Jesus and help to spread the gospel everywhere He went. Jesus taught and prepared the disciples for the great work ahead. The disciples later became the Apostles who began the early church after Jesus ascended to heaven.

In today's lesson, we will consider how Jesus sent His disciples out on their first mission to proclaim the gospel and perform miracles in His name.

### KEY POINTS FROM THE PASSAGE

#### 1. JESUS KNOWS YOU BY NAME (Matthew 10:2)

In past studies, we have already met five of these twelve: Four were fishermen--Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John (sons of Zebedee), and one was a tax collector, Matthew, also known as Levi.

Another Simon is known as the Zealot. He was a political rebel and freedom fighter against Roman rule.

Judas Iscariot is mentioned as the one who would later betray Jesus.

Philip was from the same seaport town as Simon and Andrew (John 1:44) and was good in mathematics (John 6:7).

Bartholomew was also known as Nathanael. Jesus said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit" (John 1:47).

Thomas is famous for doubting that Jesus rose from the dead. He became known in history as "doubting Thomas."

We also meet James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus whom we know very little about.

The twelve disciples of Jesus are all together for the first time in the Bible text for this lesson. After spending time in prayer, Jesus calls His disciples. The names of the twelve are mentioned one by one. This shows us that Jesus did not just generalize them. He knew them all by name. He knew their background, pains, strengths, weaknesses, and fears.

Even with the billions of people on earth today, Jesus has not changed. He still knows you by name. Don't get lost among people around you and think God does not know you personally. He created you (Psalm 139:13-14), knows the number of hairs on your head (Luke 12:6-7) and wants to have a personal relationship with you.

You may feel insignificant. But God knows you, entirely and perfectly. He knows you much better than you know yourself. He loves you deeply.

## **2. WHO IS A DISCIPLE? (Matthew 10:2-4)**

The word 'disciple' comes from Latin, meaning "pupil" or "learner." When Jesus called the first disciples, He said, "Follow me". A disciple is a follower who learns from a master. Everywhere Jesus went, His disciples would be close by learning from Jesus and becoming more like Him.

- A disciple is loyal and faithful to His master.
- A disciple is fully dedicated to his leader.
- A disciple is an ambassador of his master.
- A disciple represented their master wherever they went.

The word disciple occurs 269 times in the New Testament, while the word Christian only occurs three times. In Acts, we read, "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). This shows the two words disciple and Christian are interchangeable.

A disciple is a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. If you are a Christian, you are a disciple; if you are not a disciple, you are not a Christian either. These are two words, meaning the same thing, similar to how someone might say "my father and mother" or "my parents."

## **3. DISCIPLES ARE SENT OUT (Matthew 10:5-8)**

Jesus called the disciples and sent them out to further His work. Interestingly, the name 'Apostle' by which the disciples were later known means 'one sent on a mission.'

Jesus told the disciples; where to go, what to do and what to say. The disciples had clear instructions to follow and obey.

Likewise, Jesus sends us out as His disciples with clear instructions. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Jesus sends us out to be His witnesses. We are not only 'sent out' while on a short-term mission trip or a 'gap year', but we are to be Jesus' ambassadors every day. At home, at school, at our sports club, at work – everywhere!

#### **4. IF WE HAVE JESUS, WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED! (Matthew 10:9-14)**

Jesus taught that the disciples should expect God to meet their needs. Jesus told the disciples not to acquire extra money for their journey or fill a bag with supplies. They weren't even to take extra clothing. They were to trust in God's provision.

Further, Jesus commanded them, "Freely you have received; freely give."

When God calls us to do something, we often respond with a list of obstacles. "I would obey if only... I had more money, more time or a qualification. We use what we don't have as an excuse to disobey. Jesus is teaching an important truth. If we have Jesus, we have everything we need!

Jesus wants His disciples to focus on the job He has given and get on with it. There is nothing wrong with preparing for a task, but we must never use it as an excuse not to trust in God's providence. We must learn to rely upon Him wholly. Now is the time to obey.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, review the following points from the lesson and pray to finish up the lesson.

- God knows you by name.
- We are disciples of Christ.
- When God sends you out, He always takes care of you.
- We are to take the gospel into the world and make disciples!

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**DESCRIBE A DISCIPLE IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

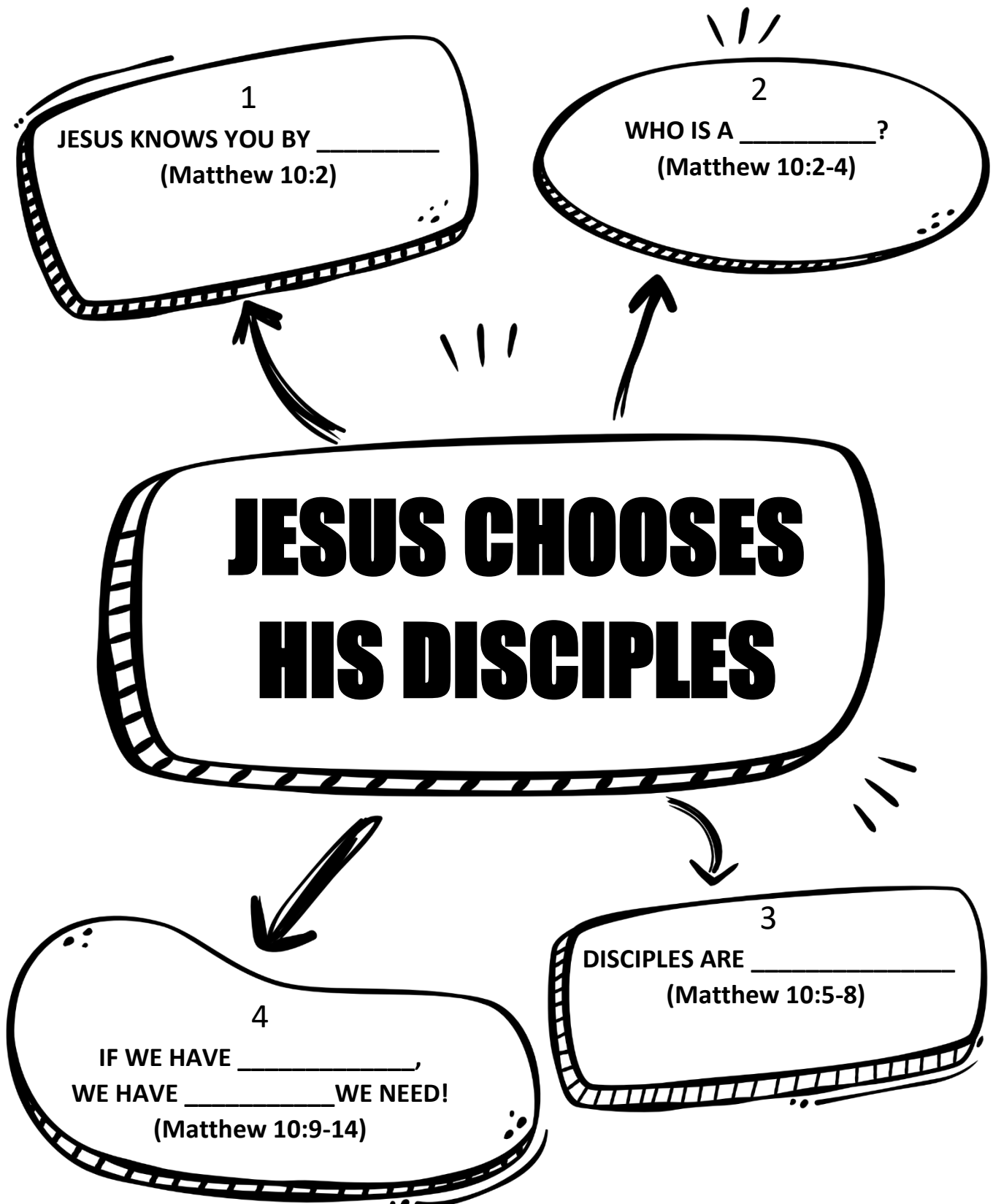
**WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE THAT GOD KNOWS YOU PERSONALLY?**

**WOULD YOU CALL YOURSELF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS? WHY?**

**WHAT EXCUSES DO PEOPLE MAKE NOT TO OBEY JESUS AND SHARE THE GOSPEL?**



# STUDY NOTE MIND MAP



# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## COLLECT ALL TWEELEVE

Cut out the disciple cards and number 1 – 12. You will need a copy for each team or player. You will also need two dices.

The player can decide whether to roll one or both dices. They should then pick up the card which matches the number on the dice.

Players (or teams) take turns to roll and pick a card. If they roll the same number twice, they simply pass on the dice.

The first player or team to collect all twelve cards first wins.

## I KNOW YOUR NAME

One child stands in the middle of a circle and say my name is '\_\_\_' and I choose '\_\_\_\_'. They then throw the ball to that player. If the player catches the ball, they join the middle of the circle.

The new player then repeats my name is '\_\_\_' and I choose '\_\_\_\_' and throws the ball to a new player.

This repeats until all players are in the middle.

If the ball is dropped at any time, everyone but the original player moves to back to the outer circle.

## FIND THE DISCIPLES

Hide the images of the disciples around a room or building. Send the children out to find all twelve of the disciples.

## WHO CHOOSE WHO?

Everyone should write a name of a famous person on a piece of paper. It should be someone they inspire to be like. It could be a famous actor, person from history or world leader. The papers should be kept secret from everyone else in the group.

The leader then collects all papers and lays them on the floor or a board.

Players take it in turn to try and match the paper with the player who wrote it.

Game continue until all players are matched with their paper.

# DISCIPLE CARDS





# DISCIPLES QUIZ



Simon Peter,  
Andrew,  
James (the son of Zebedee)  
John,

Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
Thomas,  
Matthew,

James (the son of Alphaeus),  
Thaddaeus.  
Simon the Zealot,  
Judas Iscariot.

**Who was the brother of Simon Peter?**

**Which disciple later doubted Jesus was raised from the dead?**

**Who was a tax collector?**

**Which disciple was a freedom fighter?**

**Who was also known as Nathanael?**

**Which disciples came from the same seaport town?**

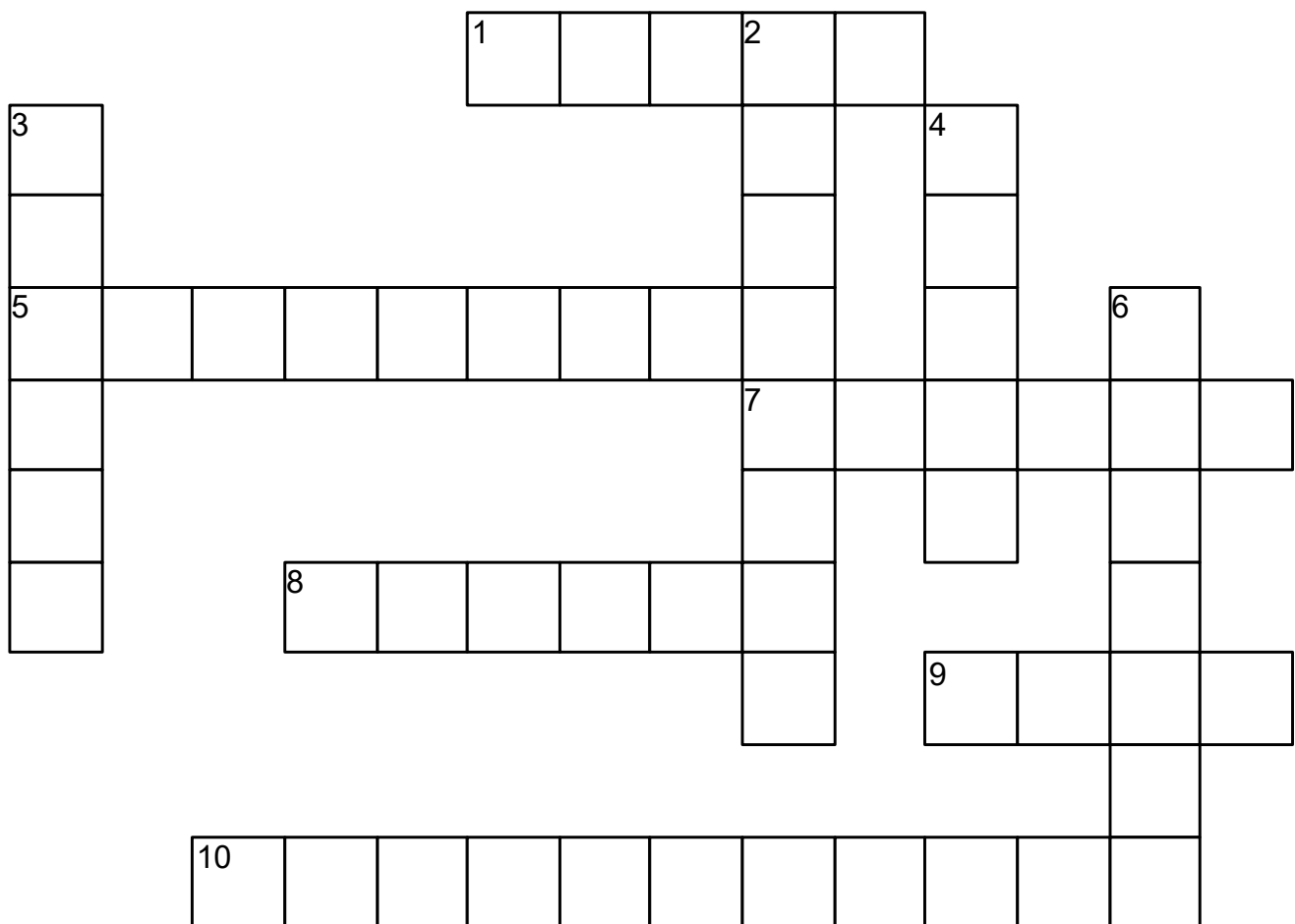
**Who later betrayed Jesus?**

**Which disciple was also known as Levi?**

**Which two disciples were sons of Zebedee?**

**What were the disciples later called?**

# DISCIPLE CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Who later betrayed Jesus?  
 5 Jesus called the twelve men to be His \_\_\_\_?  
 7 Which disciple later doubted Jesus was raised from the dead?  
 8 How many disciples did Jesus call in Matthew 10?  
 9 Who was the brother of James, the son of Zebedee?  
 10 Who was also known as Nathanael?

## DOWN

- 2 What were the disciples later called?  
 3 Who was the brother of Simon Peter?  
 4 Which disciple a freedom fighter?  
 6 Who was a tax collector?

# FIND SOMEONE DIFFERENT TO YOU

The twelve disciples were all so different and yet Jesus united them as His disciples.

**Find someone with a different number of siblings:**

Name:

Number:



**Find someone who speaks a different language:**

Name:

Language:



**Find someone with a different eye colour:**

Name:

Colour:



**Find someone with a different favourite colour:**

Name:

Colour:



**Find someone who likes a different style of music:**

Name:

Music style:



**Find someone with different colour hair:**

Name:

Colour:



**Find someone born in a different country:**

Name:

Country:



**Find someone who has a different favourite subject at school:**

Name:

Subject:



**Find someone who has a different favourite food?**

Name:

Food:



**Find someone who has a different favourite Sport:**

Name:

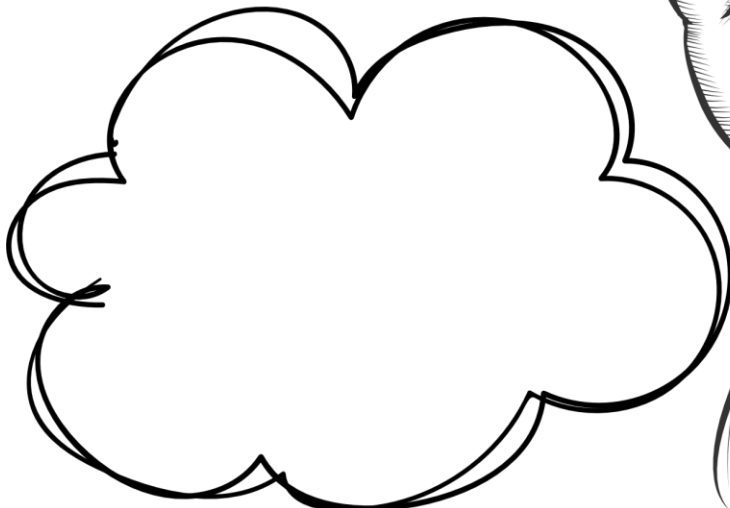
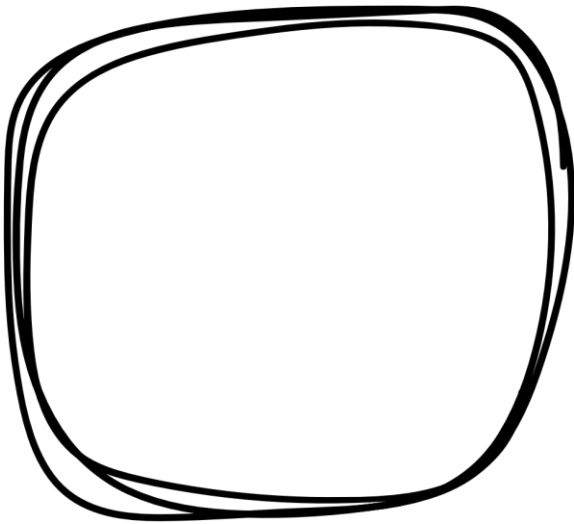
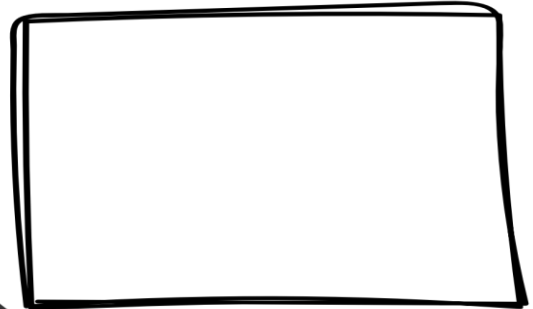
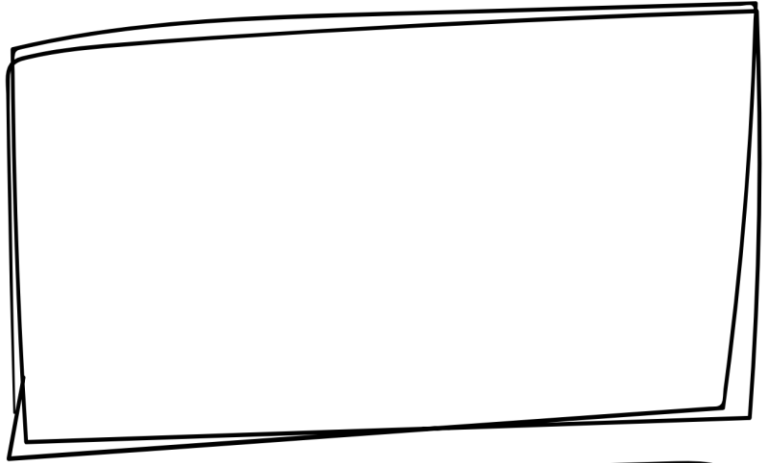
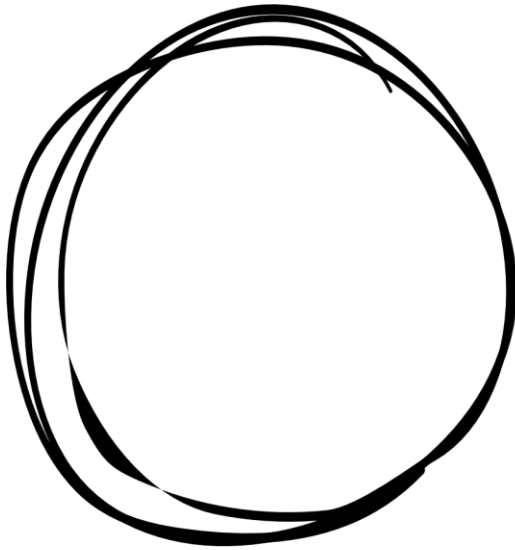
Sport:



# PRAY FIRST

In Luke 6, we can read that Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God, before He chose the twelve. Jesus knew the importance of praying before making important decisions.

**What are some things that you should pray about before deciding?**

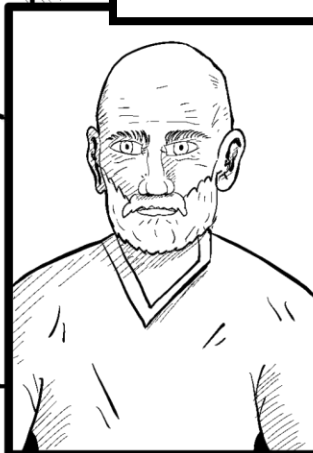




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# WRITE OUT THE MEMORY VERSE

**Matthew 10:1**

