

In our reading Jesus tells us that He declares the need for helpers to spread God's healing word of new life. We are given a list of the workers that God has, so far, sent to Jesus – the 12 disciples. These followers God has chosen are not those whom the world might expect. These were ordinary people. They had no special education for this task until Jesus called them.

From a tax collector to a fish man – in any other circumstances they would not even have been friends. Jesus is not, at this stage, sending his disciples "into all the world" but just to Galilee, to the famed "lost sheep of Israel."

They are asked to show their trust in God's promises by not taking money, extra clothes, or other aids to make the walking easier. Hard times and persecutions will come, but they need not worry for God is at work in them, and through them.

He even calls people whom society would call sinners or outcasts and they became his faithful servants. Could this be because Jesus saw him as a child of God, loved him for who he was and did not judge him for his work? Did Matthew perceive Jesus' love and mercy, even at the beginning of his ministry? We also are called to be followers of Christ.

One of our temptations in the world is to follow somebody or something else rather than following God in Jesus Christ. We don't often think of it this way, but if we follow somebody or something else and thereby neglect God, we become disciples of that something else. Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and money."

Jesus calls us to make God and following God our top priority. Jesus calls ordinary people to become his followers. How are we following Jesus into our lives today?

Are we trusting God in what he teaches us, and helping other along the way?



Simon Peter Andrew James John Philip Bartholomew



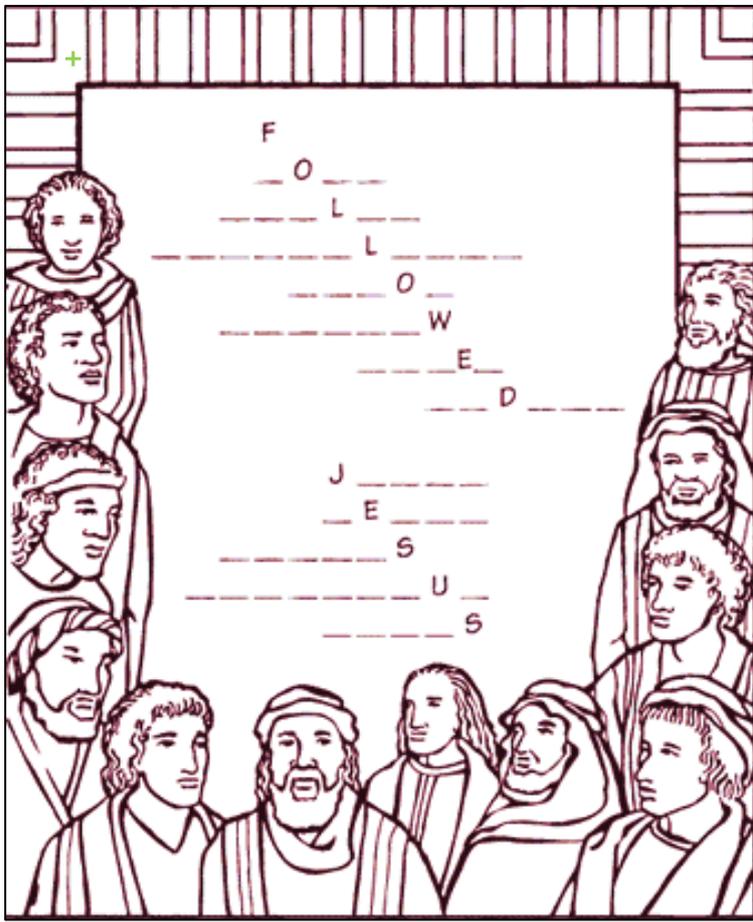
Matthew Thomas Simon Thaddaeus James Judas

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus, who
taught the disciples and us.
How to receive your
compassion, healing, and
teaching

So that we can then share,
your compassion, healing, and
teaching with others.

Amen

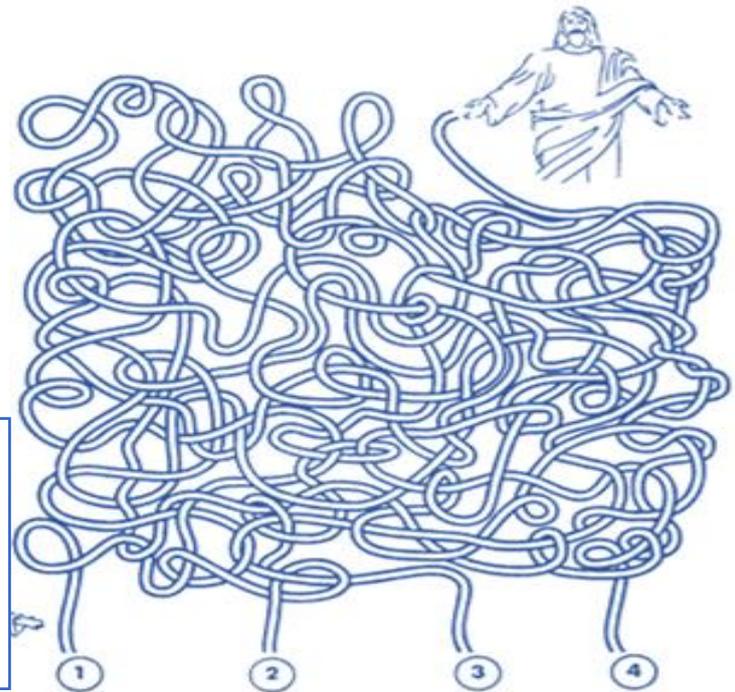




Jesus chose twelve men to follow him while on earth. He taught them to continue teaching after he went to heaven. Look up this week's reading and use the names of the twelve disciples to fill in the blanks. (Remember that two men have the same name)

T B L G O O D Q X S V J O S E
 N O X K E I N C S Y D W S R I
 G G W M C E S E T O L R S C C
 L B G N V I L L A G E S Y O X
 S T M A S P L I T K Z R N M L
 I H E A L I N G R B H H A P N
 C H M E W L S O D G J S G A E
 K C H F T D W S I Q A H O S W
 N J U L W R Z H S K Z E G S S
 E Y K O A R V E E U C P U I J
 S Z R E A Q B E A Y E H E O K
 S C N M Y N H P S I F E S N S
 E K I N G D O M E O B R P I W
 X T E A C H I N G G I D H T K
 J E S U S V P R E A C H I N G

CROWDS	KINGDOM	DISEASE	TEACHING	SYNAGOGUES
HEALING	TOWNS	GOOD	NEWS	HELPLESS
VILLAGES	HEAVEN	SICKNESS	NEAR	SHEEP
WORKERS	JESUS	COMPASSION	SHEPHERD	PREACHING



FOLLOWING JESUS

The apostles are ready to follow Jesus. They want to learn from him and help him in his ministry. Can you help them find the right path? Mark the route. There is only one right way to go.

