

# The Twelve

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|------------------|------------|--|
| 1. Peter (Simon) | } Brothers | 8. Matthew (tax collector)                 |
| 2. Andrew        |            | 9. James (son of Alphaeus)                 |
| 3. James         | } Brothers | 10. Simon the Zealot                       |
| 4. John          |            | 11. Lebbaeus/Thaddeus/Judas (son of James) |
| 5. Philip        |            | 12. Judas Iscariot                         |
| 6. Bartholomew   |            |  |
| 7. Thomas        |            |  |

Three groups of four

The Gospels' witness:

- Matthew 4:18-22 (first four called)
- Matthew 10:2-4 (the 12)
- Mark 1:14-20 (first four)
- Mark 3:13-19 (the 12)
- Luke 5:1-11 (first four)
- Luke 6:12-16 (the 12)
- John 1:35-51 (Peter & Andrew, Philip & *Nathanael*)
- John 6:66-67; 70 (references to “the Twelve” and the “desertion”)

Acts 1:13 – the 11

What is a disciple?

- Greek word used: *akolouthēō*
- Used 70 times in the four Gospels
- Applied chiefly to followers of Jesus
- AND to those who ascribe to the life of faith
- Can be used to describe a group or individuals
- Rabbis, Pharisees, John the Baptist all had disciples
- One key difference: Jesus specifically called his disciples

What is an apostle?

- Most often refers only to the 12
- But not always (Paul, Barnabas were both termed as apostles)
- No one set of criteria for being named an apostle
- Peter's requirements to replace Judas – Acts 1:21-22
- The founding authorities of the church
- Fully authorized delegates of the risen Christ

What made the 12 so extraordinary among all the people alive at that time?

What made them the perfect people for these roles?