

The Twelve. Studying the apostles of Jesus

PETER

Simon, Simon Peter, Cephas ("Rock")

CHARACTER: Outspoken, enthusiastic, strong-willed, impulsive, brash

BACKGROUND: From Bethsaida but lived in Capernaum; fisherman with James and John. Met Jesus through his brother Andrew.

- Confessed Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God"
- Part of the inner circle with James and John
- Prepared final Passover meal with John
- Walked on water
- Attacked high priest (and missed)
- Preached boldly before Sanhedrin
- Mark wrote his Gospel based on Peter's remembrance of his time with Jesus
- Wrote 2 inspired epistles: 1 and 2 Peter

DEATH: Traditionally, crucified upside down during Nero's reign

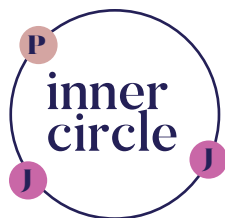
ANDREW

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: Peter's brother, fisherman on Sea of Galilee, from Bethsaida, originally a disciple of John (with John the disciple)

- First disciple to declare Jesus' messiahship
- Heard John the Baptist say Jesus is the Lamb of God, so he spent the day with Jesus. He was convinced that Jesus was Messiah and ended up following him, telling his brother about what he'd learned.
- First of the 12 disciples to follow Jesus. Also first to bring someone else.
- Only mentioned 12 times
- Probably younger than Peter
- Found the boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish
- Asked Jesus (with Peter, James, and John) to tell them when the temple would be destroyed.

DEATH: Traditionally, in Patras, crucified in a "x."



JOHN

Sons of Thunder, apostle of love, the one whom Jesus loved

CHARACTER: Zealous, passionate, ambitious, rash, reckless, impetuous, aggressive

BACKGROUND: —

- Wrote 5 NT books: John, 1-3 John, Revelation
- Part of the inner circle with Peter and James
- Witnessed Mount of Transfiguration
- Brother of James
- Requested (with brother James) right and lefthand seats in Jesus' kingdom
- Jesus asked him to take care of His mother
- Leaned on Jesus at Last Supper

DEATH: Exiled to Patmos

JAMES

Son of Zebedee, Sons of Thunder

CHARACTER: Zealous, passionate, ambitious

BACKGROUND: Fisherman with father and brother John

- One of Jesus' inner circle (with Peter and John)
- Asked to sit beside Jesus in His kingdom
- Wanted to call down fire from Heaven upon the unwelcoming Samaritans

DEATH: Arrested and killed by King Herod (first martyr)

linked somehow...

PHILIP

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: From Bethsaida in Galilee (like Peter and Andrew)

- Previous disciple of John the Baptist
- Found Nathanael and told him about Jesus
- Calculated how much it would cost to feed the 5000
- NOT Philip the Evangelist/Deacon

DEATH: —

MATTHEW

Levi, son of Alphaeus

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: Tax collector in Capernaum, probably previously well-to-do

- Wrote Matthew, the longest and possibly the first Gospel written
- Jesus had dinner at his house
- Tax collectors were considered some of the worst sinners . . . not exactly "disciple material"

DEATH: —

THADDEUS

Judas, son of James, Lebbaeus

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: —

- Only words were in John 14, where he asks why Jesus would reveal Himself only to them (instead of being the all-conquering political leader of Israel)

DEATH: —

BARTHOLOMEW

Nathaniel (in John)

CHARACTER: Jesus said he was full of truth

BACKGROUND: Son of Tolmai

- Philip and Bartholomew are listed together; they were probably friends or even related.
- Philip and Bartholomew were probably students of the Law and Prophets
- He's the one who said: "Nazareth! Can anything good come there?"

DEATH: Tradition, martyred

THOMAS

Didymus ("twin"), "Doubting Thomas"

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: —

- Only disciple to speak up and encourage them to go with Jesus to heal Lazarus
- Doubted Jesus' resurrection
- Wasn't in upper room for first appearance of resurrected Jesus

DEATH: —

SIMON

The Zealot

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: Zealot (Jewish party who wanted Israeli independence from the Roman government; willing to gain it through violent uprisings)

- He and Matthew were on opposite sides of the political party (Matthew, a tax collector and "employee" of Rome) yet they were able to team together through unity in Jesus

DEATH: —

JUDAS

Son of Simon Iscariot

CHARACTER: Loved money, yet trusted

BACKGROUND: —

- Possessed by Satan to betray Jesus
- Treasurer of disciples, but dishonest and stole
- Iscariot could possibly refer to one of two things: 1.) Refers to Kerioth, a Judean region or town, or 2.) the Sicarii assassins among Jewish rebels
- Disciples didn't suspect him. When he left the Last Supper, they figured it was to buy more food or give money to charity.
- His dead body fell into the very field he'd bought with Jesus' life.

DEATH: Hung himself

JAMES

Son of Alphaeus, James the Less (meant Smaller or Younger)

CHARACTER: —

BACKGROUND: —

- Tradition: took Gospel to Persia
- Despite lack of information, He will rule in Jesus' earthly kingdom.
- Quietly faithful

DEATH: Tradition, martyred in Persia