

January: Apostles and Disciples

Opening Prayer: Lord, we ask that you help us understand why you have chosen each of us to follow you. We often times do not feel worthy and turn our back on you, our friends and even our families. Help us make good choices and see your plan for us as we continue growing in your love throughout our lives. We ask this thru Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time Period: The beginning of Jesus' public ministry

Where we are on the journey: Jesus chooses followers...they accept/decline. The core group called the "Apostles" are listed by name.

Opening Question: Who are these people that followed Jesus called apostles and disciples?

The Sermon on the Mount beginning in Matthew chapter 5 teaches us how to live.

Read Matthew 7:28-29 to find out how those who had gathered took Jesus' message.

Jesus needed help spreading the Good News

Jesus Calls His Disciples Early in His Ministry

([Matt. 4:18-22](#); Mark 1:16-20; Lk. 5:2-11; Jn. 1:35-42)

Jesus *chooses* twelve main disciples—Apostles

([Matt. 10:1](#); Mark 3:13; Lk. 6:13; Jn. 6:67-71; 15:16).

Where do women fit into discipleship? Are you a Martha or Mary?

Jesus knows the Bethany sisters Martha and Mary

(Lk. 10:38-42; Jn. 11:1-12:8).

Women follow Jesus

([Matt. 27:55](#); Mark 15:41; Lk. 8:2-3; 23:49; Jn. 19:25-27).

Mary Magdalene is named as a close follower

([Matt. 27:56-28:1](#); Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1, 9; Lk. 8:2; 24:10; Jn. 19:25; 20:1, 18).

The Call to discipleship was not something to take lightly. Take turns looking up the following passages to see the responsibilities, "perks" and challenges of discipleship.

Matt. 10:1 The Mission of the Twelve (Mark 6:6-13, Luke 9:1-6)

Matt. 10:5 Commissioning of the Twelve—instructions (Mark 6:8, Luke 9:3-6)

Matt. 10:16 Coming Persecutions (Mark 6:11, Luke 9:5)

Matt. 10:26 Courage Under Pressure

Matt. 10:37 The Conditions of Discipleship

Matt. 10:40 Rewards

The apostles were more than mere followers. They were body guards, "go-fers" (go for this and that) travel agents and guides who also were given the responsibility to teach and the powers to heal.

February: Miracles

Opening Prayer: Lord, we understand that you offer us a “gift” in following you. Many witnessed your miracles and became believers...others choose to turn their backs on you. Help us to appreciate the gift you have offered and share the gift of love with others, so that one day we may meet in person. We ask this thru Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time Period: The heart of Jesus’ ministry.

Where we are on the journey: People flock to Jesus for his healing powers.

Opening Question: Who are these people that come to Jesus for help?

Assign each youth (or two) a passage to read and explain to the group:

Who are the characters in the Story?

What was the miracle?

How do you think that miracle changed the life of the person who was healed?

If someone requested healing on behalf of a loved one, how did the miracle affect that person?

Jesus’ Healing Miracles

The Official’s Dying Son (John 4:43-54)

Peter’s Mother-In-Law and other Healings (Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)

The Leper (Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)

The Paralyzed Man (Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)

The Roman Centurion’s Servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)

Sick Daughter of a Woman (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)

Epileptic Boy (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43a; 17:5-6)

Restoring a severed ear (Luke 22:45-54)

These are wonderful physical healings that people actually could see for themselves!

What about those suffering from acts of violence, bullying, date rape, abortion?

After listening to the women’s testimonies from the “Silent No More” program, the women who regretted their abortions found healing NOT in alcohol, drugs, increased promiscuity, love from another man...they found healing through the loving forgiveness and healing powers of Jesus Christ.