

5. **Philip** — *obsesses with numbers, a bean counter*
6. **Bartholomew** — *also known as Nathaniel*
7. **Matthew** — *a tax collector that wrote the gospel which bears his name*
8. **Thomas** — *the doubter and the twin*
9. **James, the son of Alphaeus** — *also known as James the short guy*
10. **Thaddaeus** — *called mama's boy.*
11. **Simon the Zealot** — *former member of a political revolutionary group, the antifa of his day.*
12. **Judas Iscariot** — *betrayed of Jesus*

The crowds still need the gospel. Jesus is still in the business of calling and equipping ordinary people to take his good news to the world.

Life Group Questions

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1. Read Mark 3:7-19 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What was the most interesting part of the study? What did you learn about Jesus and the apostles that you did not know?
 2. Jesus' training strategy was to have his disciples with him. How does that change the way you think about helping other Christians mature? (Mark 3:14, Acts 12:25, Acts 16:1-5)
 3. Why does God often call ordinary people to be part of his church? Why does God raise up ordinary people as leaders in his church? How does that encourage you? Read James 2:5; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Amos 1:1; 7:14; Judges 6:14-16)
 4. Jesus called the apostle John and his brother James, "Sons of Thunder", which referred to their temper. At the end of his life, John was known as the apostle of love because he always encouraged people to love one another (See 1 John, especially 1 John 3:11,18). How does knowing the radical change Christ made in John's character over time encourage you?
 5. Read the calling of the twelve apostles in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16). Study the verses before and after the apostles calling to better understand the context. What insights do the other gospels give to better understand the way things transpired? (Note: Matthew immediately tells about the apostles sending, which actually comes later in Luke 9 and Mark 6 after they spend time with Jesus.)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 3:7-19 – Twelve Ordinary Men

January 6, 2019

1. Jesus had remarkable popularity.

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. Mark 3:7-8 (ESV)

A. The crowds came for healing.

And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him... Mark 3:9 (ESV)

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. Mark 4:1 (ESV)

...for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. Mark 3:10 (ESV)

And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. Mark 6:56 (ESV)

She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." Mark 5:27–28 (ESV)

B. Jesus drove demons out of the possessed.

And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." Mark 3:11 (ESV)

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! James 2:19 (ESV)

C. Jesus didn't allow the demons be in charge of his publicity.

And he strictly ordered them not to make him known. Mark 3:12 (ESV)

2. Jesus chose twelve apostles.

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach... Mark 3:13–14 (ESV)

A. Jesus chose his apostles. They didn't choose him.

B. Jesus chose twelve for a reason.

You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Luke 22:28–30 (ESV)

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three

gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:12–14 (ESV)

C. Jesus chose ordinary men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (ESV)

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13 (ESV)

D. Jesus called them apostles, making them his official representatives.

E. Who were the apostles?

He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Mark 3:16–19 (ESV)

1. **Simon** — called Peter, the rock.
2. **James, son of Zebedee** — brother of John
3. **John, son of Zebedee** — known with his brother as sons of thunder, meaning "The Hot Heads"

And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" Luke 9:54 (ESV)

4. **Andrew** — introduced people to Christ