



## **BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES**

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# **What You Need to Know About the TWELVE DISCIPLES**

## **A Narrative in First Person**

**“Why God Chooses ‘the weak things of the world’  
(1 Cor. 1:27)”**

### **STUDY NUMBER ONE: JOHN**

What lessons did you learn from John’s life?

LESSON #1: John was changed from temper to tenderness.

LESSON #2: John was changed from selfishness to serving.

LESSON #3: John was changed from intolerance to tolerance.

LESSON #4: What is the Lord trying to change in your life?

**STUDY NUMBER TWO: PETER**

What lessons did you learn from Peter's life?

LESSON #1: God wants us just like we are.

LESSON #2: God is the One who does the changing.

LESSON #3: Pride is usually the biggest problem.

LESSON #4: Keep your eyes on Christ but not on your circumstances.

LESSON #5: The Lord doesn't give up on us when we fail.

LESSON #6: He's alive and waiting to come into your life right now.

**STUDY NUMBER THREE: MATTHEW**

What lessons did you learn from Matthew's life?

LESSON #1: The Lord wants us just as we are.

LESSON #2: The Lord uses our abilities in His service.

LESSON #3: The Lord always sees future potential and not our present failure.

LESSON #4: The Lord was the only One who accepted Matthew.

LESSON #5: Matthew's concept of Christian work was to go where they are. The Lord's message was that He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

LESSON #6: He must have first place or life is empty and meaningless.

LESSON #7: Matthew's life can be described as moving from greed to unselfish service.

## **STUDY NUMBER FOUR: ANDREW**

What lessons did you learn from Andrew's life?

LESSON #1: Andrew was first a home missionary in that he went back to get Peter after meeting and finding Christ; and then a foreign missionary—he went to the Greeks.

LESSON #2: Peter was a commercial fisherman. He went for the masses. Andrew was a sports fisherman—just one at a time. The Lord needs both and uses our gifts and abilities in His service.

LESSON #3: Be happy to serve where the Lord lets you.

LESSON #4: Children and young people are very important to the Lord, too.

LESSON #5: Andrew was just a plain, practical man, a man of decision and courage. There's nothing dramatic about his life that really stands out, but the Lord used him as an instrument in His service just the way he was.

LESSON #6: The Lord has a ministry and a place for everyone.

## **STUDY NUMBER FIVE: NATHANIEL**

What lessons did you learn from Nathaniel's life?

LESSON #1: God delights in honesty.

LESSON #2: Your fellowship with God is the most important thing in your life.

LESSON #3: All things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

LESSON #4: Love makes no distinction.

LESSON #5: Nathaniel was a man whose dreams and visions became a reality.

LESSON #6: Nathaniel was loyal and faithful.

LESSON #7: The Lord knows all about us and He still wants us.

## **STUDY NUMBER SIX: THOMAS**

What lessons did you learn from Thomas' life?

LESSON #1: Thomas never pretended to know something that he didn't.

LESSON #2: Thomas had the courage and the commitment to follow the Lord Jesus even to death.

LESSON #3: We need each other—be faithful to join in that time of observation, sharing, and fellowship.

LESSON #4: Just because you are an introvert lost in a crowd, does not mean you are not important to Him.

LESSON #5: Have you found the way?

LESSON #6: Is your pessimism and doubt keeping you from making a commitment?

## **STUDY NUMBER SEVEN: JUDAS ISCARIOT**

What lessons did you learn from Judas' life?

LESSON #1: Judas put himself ahead of Jesus. He chose himself rather than Jesus. Selfishness is suicide by degrees.

LESSON #2: God cannot make us accept forgiveness.

LESSON #3: High privilege does not rule out the possibility of spiritual ruin.

LESSON #4: Judas had every opportunity to let Christ be his Savior and cleanse him from sin, but he didn't.

LESSON #5: Judas saw Peter in his frailty walking with the Lord, but that wasn't for him.

LESSON #6: You cannot serve God and man.

LESSON #7: Judas played along with God too long. In his life you see the danger of hardening your heart, of toying with sin, of courting it instead of condemning it.

LESSON #8: Judas was a man who let wrong desires dominate, and it ruined his life.

LESSON #9: Judas took his life instead of giving it to Him, and for Him.

LESSON #10: Judas preferred money to the Master, silver to the Savior.

## **STUDY NUMBER EIGHT: PHILIP**

What lessons did you learn from Philip's life?

LESSON #1: Is the Lord searching for you today? Adam, where are you? He longs for a relationship. He came to seek and to save that which was lost.

LESSON #2: Majoring in the menial! Utility man!

LESSON #3: Little is a lot when God is in it.

LESSON #4: Philip failed to take Jesus into account as he was considering his resources. Business, marriage, problems, future, family.

LESSON #5: The Lord took Philip just as he was and used him for His glory. He was able to bear fruit through him!



## **STUDY NUMBER NINE: JAMES, THE SON OF ZEBEDEE**

What lessons did you learn from James' life?

LESSON #1: James died like his Master—as a lamb—“before his shearers is dumb, so opened He not His mouth.”

LESSON #2: It's not how long but how much we live.

LESSON #3: James was a man without jealousy, living in the shadow of John.

LESSON #4: He was a man great in works, rather than in words.

LESSON #5: He knew that deep and sweet joy of a personal relationship.

LESSON #6: He was remembered more for the power of his life rather than his lips.

LESSON #7: As the Spirit of God took over in his life, he became a man of love and devotion, rather than a man of anger and selfishness.

LESSON #8: He proved his commitment and courage when his convictions were tested.

LESSON #9: His anger turned to compassion as the Spirit of the Lord had His way in his life.

LESSON #10: He was just a quiet guy who you could always count on being there, and would be loyal clear through the end.

LESSON #11: His love and devotion for the Lord increased as time passed by and he had the privilege of serving with Him.

## **STUDY NUMBER TEN: JUDAS THADDAEUS LEBBAEUS**

What lessons did you learn from Judas Thaddaeus Lebbaeus' life?

LESSON #1: The secret of success is a constancy of purpose: staying with it, hanging in there. This constant spirit made up for a lack of age and experience in his case.

LESSON #2: He was obscure and yet obedient.

LESSON #3: Although he was young, he could still be of service to the Lord.

LESSON #4: Although he was unknown, he was not unfaithful.

LESSON #5: God does not expect us to be something we are not.

## **STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN: JAMES, THE SON OF ALPHEAUS**

What lessons did you learn from James Alphaeus' life?

LESSON #1: He was counted up to render faithful, yet unsung, unheralded service for the Lord.

LESSON #2: The Lord has a place for the one-talent man.

LESSON #3: Background discipleship was the Lord's will for my life.

LESSON #4: He did his job with no thought of applause. The Lord sees whether man does or not. Man looks on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

LESSON #5: He is an example of the common-place person with no exceptional gifts, inconspicuous, ordinary, simple, a model of mediocrity.

LESSON #6: He was faithful in that which was least.

LESSON #7: Although he was little and behind the scenes, he was important to Him.

LESSON #8: The unrecognized saints and heroes of the earth are a vast host.

LESSON #9: He did his best, although no one ever noticed.

LESSON #10: His life shows the important role of the quiet, little forgotten people in life. He may be unknown on earth, but known in Heaven.

LESSON #11: The foundation of the matter is whether I am true or false, faithful or faithless, virtuous or a villain, whether I live or die. It is not whether I am famous or unknown.

LESSON #12: His name is in the Lamb's Book of life, and his name will be engraved on one of the Twelve Pillars of the Eternal City.

LESSON #13: His main mission in life is to attract people to Christ and not to himself.

LESSON #14: His well done will be for the well known as well as for the unknown.

LESSON #15: He was like several others, just an unknown brother of a man who is better known. He was little in stature and introvert in temperament, but the Lord took all of these to show him that he had a contribution to make, that He could use him just like he was.

## **STUDY NUMBER TWELVE: SIMON THE ZEALOT**

What lessons did you learn from John's life?

LESSON #1: The Lord Jesus used Simon's background for His glory.

LESSON #2: A revolution took place in Simon's life when he met Jesus Christ.

LESSON #3: He was a man whose hatred turned to love.

LESSON #4: His main concern was the cause and glory of Christ, not what happened to Simon the Zealot.

LESSON #5: His relationship with Matthew changed from hatred to one of love because of what Christ did in both of their lives.

LESSON #6: He was able to be courageous and bold in the face of opposition.

LESSON #7: He was just an ex-military man that was used to serving among the rank and file.