

Can you find Luke 6 in your Bible? In Luke 6:12-16, this is what we read:

In these days he went out to the mountain to **pray**, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his <u>disciples</u> and chose from them twelve, whom he named <u>apostles</u>: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Who WERE these apostles? The apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection from the

dead. Acts I tells us that Jesus "presented himself <u>alive</u> to them" and gave them a mission. Listen carefully to what he said in Acts I:8:

"...you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book of the New Testament in our Bibles, shows us these men serving as witnesses over and over again:

- Acts 2:32 to thousands of Jews on the Day of Pentecost
- Acts 3:14-15 at the temple in Jerusalem
- \bigcirc Acts 4:33 after being threatened and told to stop by the Jewish council
- Acts 5:30-32 after being arrested
- Acts 10:39-41 in the house of a man named Cornelius, a Gentile
- Sets 13:29-33 in the far-away city of Antioch

Just like God the Father sent his Son into the world, Jesus sent his apostles (John 17:18). Through their faithful work as witnesses, WE can know and believe the truth about Jesus today (John 17:20). Let's thank God for the apostles!



FOUNDATION STONES

We heard Mr. Jason talk about **disciples** and **apostles**. What's the **difference**? A **disciple** is... (and **who** can be a disciple?)



An **apostle** is... (and **who** can be an apostle?)

Did you notice that Jesus spent lots of time praying in Luke 6 before he chose his 12 apostles? What can we learn from that? What sort of things should we pray about? Matthew 4:19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."



Let's think about the sorts of things these men saw in The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. What AMAZING things did they see Jesus do?

When Jesus refers to them as "witnesses," what does he mean? What does a witness do?

Can you find any books of the Bible written by any of these apostles?