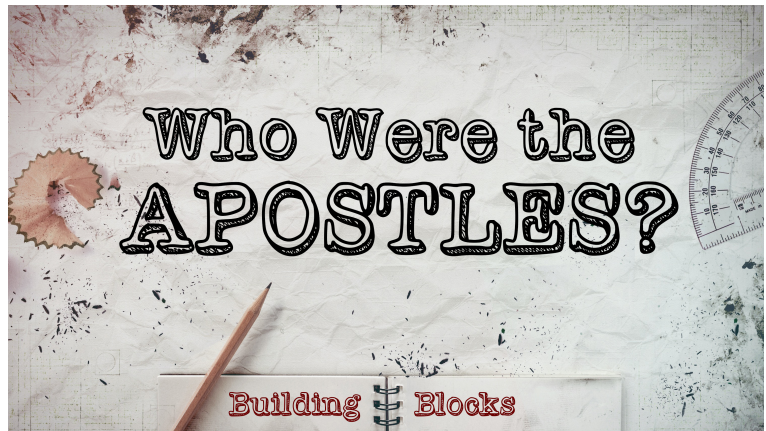


01 • Witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection



In [Luke 6:12-16](#), 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 **disciples** and chose from them twelve, whom he named **apostles**: 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? They were **eyewitnesses** of **Jesus' resurrection** from the dead. He "**presented himself alive to them**" and gave them a mission in [Acts 1](#). At the heart of his instructions:

"...you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
(1:8)

The Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book of the New Testament, documents 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
- 🕒 [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 Cornelius, a Gentile
- 🕒 [Acts 13:29-33](#) - in the Gentile city of Antioch

As 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](#)).

For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is a disciple?
- What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?
- Is there anything we can learn from Jesus spending all night in prayer before choosing the twelve apostles?
- Let's revisit [Acts 1](#) and focus in on [1:15-26](#).
 - Why had the number of apostles shrunk from twelve to eleven?
 - Notice in [1:21-22](#) what someone had to have experienced in order to be an apostle. What does that tell us about the possibility of someone filling the role of an apostle today?
- Can we still be *disciples* today? If so, how? How can we know what it means, what it takes, and what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus if he lived so long ago?
- Let's reread [Acts 1:8](#). Can you find instances in *Acts* where that work was being done?