



Can you find **Luke 6** again in your Bible? Listen to what we find in **Luke 6:13-16**:

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?** Let's look into the background of just a few of them to see what we can learn...

🔑 **Peter, Andrew, James, and John** were \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 4:18-22**).

🔑 **Matthew** [also known as Levi] was a \_\_\_\_\_ collector who was working for the Roman Empire (**Matthew 9:9-13**).

🔑 **Simon** was called "the \_\_\_\_\_." Zealots hated the Roman Empire and people who worked for the Empire (like tax collectors).



These men would **NOT** have been best friends! They didn't have much in common. They came from different places, with different backgrounds; they had different friends and different ways of looking at the world. But what did they have in common? \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus called them to follow him. Jesus started teaching and changing their lives. They were **VERY** different, but they grew to be united around Jesus as the Son of God.

What Jesus did in the lives of these men was just the beginning of what he would eventually do in the life of his church (**Ephesians 2:15-22**). The church is made up of **VERY** different people with different backgrounds from different parts of the world, but we can all be united around Jesus.

**Let's thank God for what he showed us in the lives of the apostles!**

# FOUNDATION STONES



Our God is **AMAZINGLY** creative! There are **LOTS** of things that make people different from each other. Can you think of any examples? What makes us different but **VERY** special to our Father in heaven?

We may look different from each other, come from different families, and have different interests, but we have the **GREATEST** things in common. What sort of things?

Being a part of a church family is a great reminder that people who come from different places, with different backgrounds, different friends, and different interests can be united by Jesus. Can you think of anyone in our church family who has a connection to you because of their connection to Jesus?

Let's open our Bibles to **John 1** and learn how a couple of the other apostles started following Jesus. What can we learn from...

 **Philip** (John 1:44-45)?

 **Nathanael** (John 1:46-51)?

**Matthew 4:20**  
At once they left their nets and followed him.

