

---

PREPARED FOR THE PRESSURE

---

WEEK 7





# Week 7 - Prepared for the Pressure

## Research

This is our final week. I am so excited you're still with us. Today, we look at the calling of the disciples and take a deep dive into each disciple in the rest of the Research section. To help you see the differences between the lists, here are the names in the order they appear in each passage.

### Matthew 10:2-4

Simon (Peter)  
Andrew (Peter's brother)  
James son of Zebedee  
John (James' brother)  
Philip  
Bartholomew  
Thomas  
Matthew the tax collector  
James son of Alphaeus  
Thaddeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Judas Iscariot

### Mark 3:16-19

Simon (Peter)  
James son of Zebedee  
John (James' brother)  
Andrew  
Philip  
Bartholomew  
Matthew  
Thomas  
James son of Alphaeus  
Thaddeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Judas Iscariot

### Luke 6:13-16

Simon (Peter)  
Andrew (Peter's brother)  
James son of Zebedee  
John  
Philip  
Bartholomew  
Matthew  
Thomas  
James son of Alphaeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Judas of James  
Judas Iscariot

### Acts 1:13

Peter  
John  
James  
Andrew  
Philip  
Thomas  
Bartholomew  
Matthew  
James son of Alphaeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Judas of James  
[Matthias]

Here are the names matched up by passage.

### Matthew 10:2-4

Simon (Peter)  
Andrew (Peter's brother)  
James son of Zebedee  
John (James' brother)  
Philip  
Matthew the tax collector  
Thomas  
Bartholomew  
James son of Alphaeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Thaddeus  
Judas Iscariot

### Mark 3:16-19

Simon (Peter)  
Andrew  
James son of Zebedee  
John (James' brother)  
Philip  
Matthew  
Thomas  
Bartholomew  
James son of Alphaeus  
Simon the Zealot  
Thaddeus

Judas Iscariot

### Luke 6:13-16

Simon (Peter)  
Andrew (Peter's brother)  
James son of Zebedee  
John  
Philip  
Matthew  
Thomas  
Bartholomew  
James son of Alphaeus  
Simon the Zealot

Judas of James

Judas Iscariot

### Acts 1:13

Peter  
Andrew  
James  
John  
Philip  
Matthew  
Thomas  
Bartholomew  
James son of Alphaeus





Simon the Zealot  
Judas of James  
[Matthias replacing Judas]





## **Inner Circle: Peter, James, John**

Three inner circle only events:

- The time Jesus raised a girl from the dead (Mark 5:35-43)
- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)
- Jesus' moment of weakness in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

## **Simon Peter**

In the gospels, Peter is portrayed as impetuous, always speaking his mind and acting on impulse. In the Book of Acts, Peter's decisiveness transformed him into someone the early Christians constantly relied on and turned to. In the New Testament, Peter is most known for:

- Walking on water (Matthew 14:28-33)
- Disowning Jesus to avoid persecution (Luke 22:54-62)
- Addressing the crowd at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41)
- Envisioning a church that included Jews and Gentiles together (Acts 10:9-48)
- Being a "pillar" of the church (Galatians 2:9)

How did Peter die? According to tradition, Peter was crucified by Emperor Nero around 64 AD, around the time of the Great Fire of Rome, which Nero blamed on Christians.

## **James**

James son of Zebedee (also known as James the Greater) was another one of Jesus' three main disciples, along with his brother John and Peter. Like many of the disciples, James was a fisherman before Jesus called him. In the Bible, James son of Zebedee is most known for:

- Asking Jesus if he and John should call down fire from heaven to destroy a village which failed to show them hospitality (Luke 9:54)
- Asking Jesus if he and John can sit on either side of Jesus' throne in heaven, and unwittingly promising to follow Jesus into martyrdom (Mark 10:35-40)

How did James die? James is the only disciple whose martyrdom is recorded in the Bible (Acts 12:2). Herod had him killed by sword, and he was likely beheaded.

## **John**

John, son of Zebedee (not to be confused with John the Baptist) was the third disciple considered to be part of Jesus' "inner circle" with his brother James and Peter. Like James, Peter, and several other disciples, John was a fisherman. In the Bible, John is most known for:

- Asking Jesus if he and James should call down fire from heaven to destroy a village which failed to show them hospitality (Luke 9:54)
- Taking care of Jesus' mother, Mary (John 19:26-27)
- Beating Peter in a race to Jesus' empty tomb (John 20:2-9)
- Being a "pillar" of the church (Galatians 2:9)

How did John die? According to tradition, John died of old age: a rare (and possibly unique) feat among the apostles. Tradition holds that he preached in Ephesus, was exiled to the island of Patmos (where he wrote Revelation), returned to Ephesus, and died of old age after 98 AD.



## Andrew

Andrew was Simon Peter's brother. Like his brother, he was a fisherman. According to the Gospel of John, Andrew was the first disciple Jesus called, and while Peter gets all the credit for recognizing Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:13–20), Andrew not only brought Peter to Jesus, but he *told him Jesus was the Messiah*.

How did Andrew die? Tradition claims Andrew was crucified in the Greek city of Patras around 60 AD.

### Fun fact:

Andrew's name is *Andreas* in Greek, and it's most often translated as "manly." It comes from the root word *aner* or *andros*, meaning "man."

## Philip

Philip the Apostle is only mentioned eight times in the New Testament, four of which are the lists of apostles. However, there are three *other* people named Philip in the New Testament, too. Two are sons of King Herod, and the other is Philip the Evangelist (Acts 6), who was often mistaken for Philip the Apostle even early on. One of the few details the Bible gives us about Philip the Apostle is that like Peter and Andrew, he comes from Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44). The only other mentions of Philip in the Bible occur in John:

- Jesus tests Philip by asking him where they should buy bread to feed the crowd of 5,000 people (John 6:5–7).
- Philip asks Jesus to show them God the Father, and Jesus responds by saying "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:6–10).

How did Philip die? We are not sure but Philip likely died in the first century, possibly around 80 AD.

## Bartholomew

Bartholomew is one of the most obscure apostles. His name *only* appears in the four lists of Jesus' 12 main disciples, and he's never listed with any titles or descriptions. Is Bartholomew the same person as Nathanael? Bartholomew's name most likely comes from the Aramaic name, *Bar-Talmi*, meaning "son of Talmi." In this case, most would argue that this other name is Nathanael, since Nathanael appears to be an apostle in the Gospel of John, is closely associated with Philip (Philip calls him to meet Jesus, after all), and Bartholomew doesn't appear in John.

How did Bartholomew die? Like most of the apostles, Bartholomew was probably martyred.





## Matthew

Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector—one of the most reviled professions in first-century Judaism. As a tax collector (or publican), Matthew collected taxes *for Rome from* his fellow Jews in Capernaum. Despite the fact that Matthew is one of the better-known disciples mostly because of his gospel account, he’s actually only mentioned seven times in the Bible. By including Matthew among his disciples, Jesus showed that no one—not even those society considered irredeemable—would be excluded from God’s table.

How did Matthew die? Traditions disagree on how and where Matthew died. Various accounts say he was beheaded, stoned, burned, or stabbed.

## Thomas

Thomas, perhaps better-known as “Doubting Thomas,” famously doubted the resurrection of Jesus and told the other disciples, “[Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe](#)” (John 20:25). Jesus then appeared and offered to let him do just that. **One other thing you should know about Thomas: the Bible didn’t give him a real name.** Thomas wasn’t actually given a name in the original manuscripts. “Thomas” comes from the Aramaic word *tē’omâ*, which means “twin.” To help clarify who we’re talking about though, most manuscripts include the description, “called Didymus” or “called the Twin.”

*Didymus* is a Greek word which means . . . the twin. And while *tē’omâ* is only used as a description, not a name, *Didymus* can be used as a description *or* a name. So a literal translation of [John 11:16](#), [John 20:24](#), and [John 21:2](#) would say “the twin, called the twin . . .” But you can still call him Thomas.

How did Thomas die? For such a minor apostle, church tradition is remarkably consistent about his death. An early church calendar reads: “3 July, *St. Thomas who was pierced with a lance in ‘India’.*”

## James son of Alphaeus

James son of Alphaeus is *only* mentioned in the four lists of apostles. So, all we can say for sure about him is that he had a really common name and he was the son of someone named Alphaeus. Pretty much everything else we “know” about him is speculation, and there are a number of details that can’t be proven one way or the other. And it’s always safer *not* to make assumptions. One more thing about James son of Alphaeus. There’s another son of Alphaeus mentioned in the New Testament: Levi the tax collector ([Mark 2:14](#)). This has led some to assume Matthew and James are brothers. But the Bible doesn’t say this.

How did James son of Alphaeus die? Since the early church often assumed James son of Alphaeus was the same person as Jesus’ brother James and James the Less, the details of his death and ministry are impossible to separate from the other Jameses. Tradition says James the Just (Jesus’ brother) was shoved from the pinnacle of a temple, beaten with a fuller’s club, and then stoned to death.





## **Jude**

Jude the apostle is also known as Jude of James, Judas of James, Thaddeus, Judas Thaddeus, and Lebbaeus. Some identify him with Jesus' brother Jude, the traditional author of the Epistle of Jude, but the Bible doesn't tell us these Judes are the same people. As with James son of Alphaeus, there's not much we can say about [Jude of James](#) without assuming he's the same person as another Jude. It's true that Jesus had a brother named Jude ([Matthew 13:55](#), [Mark 6:3](#)). In two of the lists of apostles, Jude appears to be referred to as Thaddeus ([Matthew 10:2-4](#), [Mark 3:16-19](#)). Since these two names appear in about the same place in the lists, and the other names are consistent, church tradition (and most modern scholars) have always assumed Thaddeus was a nickname for Jude of James. Since the name Judas had such strong negative associations in the early church, it wouldn't be surprising if Jude preferred to go by another name, or if Matthew and Mark used the nickname to avoid confusion.

## **Simon the Zealot**

Simon the Zealot is only mentioned by name in lists of the apostles ([Matthew 10:2-4](#), [Mark 3:16-19](#), [Luke 6:14-16](#), [Acts 1:1-13](#)). So, we know almost nothing about him. Even his moniker, "the Zealot" is ambiguous enough that we can't be sure what it means—though there are several strong possibilities. Simon the Zealot may have belonged to a Jewish sect known as the Zealots, who were bent on revolution and looking for a Messiah to violently overthrow Rome. Or he may have simply been zealous for the Mosaic Law. Or zealous for Jesus and his teachings. The Bible doesn't tell us what "the Zealot" signified, so no one can say for sure.

## **Judas Iscariot**

Judas Iscariot is one of the most widely known disciples. He infamously betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, which led to Jesus' death on the cross. Today, "Judas" is virtually synonymous with "traitor." Judas appears in several New Testament stories, and while the Gospel writers are in unanimous agreement that he betrayed Jesus, they present various takes on his motives and the circumstances surrounding his death. Judas Iscariot may have been considered "good with money" or trustworthy, because somehow, he wound up being the designated treasurer for Jesus and his disciples. Ironically, the first passage that tells that he was in charge of the group's money also tells us that he was completely *untrustworthy*.

For more study visit <https://overviewbible.com/12-apostles/#peter>







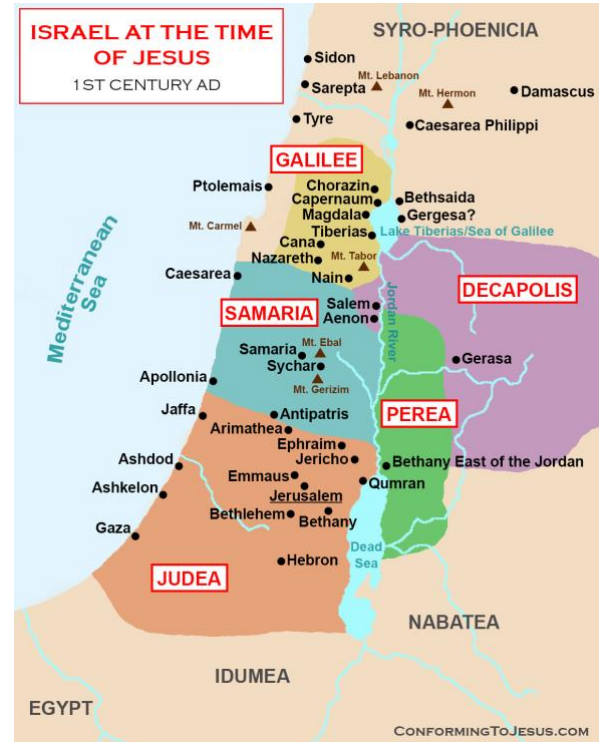
## Making a Plan

Read the passage below to get us started on our Bible study for this week.

### Mark 3:7–21

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea [8] 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. [9] And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, [10] for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. [11] And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” [12] And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

Draw on the map connecting the areas mentioned in the passage above showing the crowds travel area.



We have studied the disciples one by one in our Research section. Here is the list again specifically in Mark.

[13] And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. [14] And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach [15] and have authority to cast out demons. [16] He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); [17] James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); [18] Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, [19] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Which disciple have you learned the most about so far?

---

---

---







As Jesus prepared to launch into the next phase of His ministries, He faced resistance.

*Mark 3:20-21 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. [21] And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."*

Who was resisting against Jesus' ministry?

---

Have you ever had trouble with your family not liking your life decisions? Explain.

---

---

---

How do these verses encourage you when you face resistance?

- James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

---

---

---

- Psalm 118:5-6 Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

---

---

---





## Checking the List

### Serving Jesus means leaving the old life behind

What does it mean to leave the past behind?

- **Isaiah 43:18** *Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past*

Why is it hard to let go of the past?

### Anyone can be used by God

Do you ever feel unusable to God?

- **1 Corinthians 1:27** *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;*

### When you live for Jesus, others will oppose you

How do we face those who oppose us in a manner that glorifies God?

- **Titus 2:7-8** *Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*



## Packing Up

This is our final time together. Take a minute to look into your adventure bag and list the items (the 2 choices) you picked from each week and write them below.

### Our Adventure Backpack

Week 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Week 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Week 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Week 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Week 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Week 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these items is most important to help you grow in Jesus throughout our time in the book of Mark this fall? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now that we are all packed up and prepared for the path ahead of us, what now?  
It is time to start our adventure following Jesus! Good luck. Jesus is walking with  
you!





