

## The Life and Ministry of Jesus' 12 Apostles

# The Twelve Apostles



Peter



James



John



Andrew



Philip



Bartholomew



Matthew



Thomas



James



Thaddaeus



Simon



Judas Iscariot

## Peter

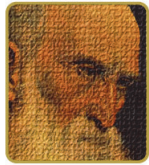


## Peter

Simon, son of Jona  
Cephas ("rock" or stone)

### Encounters with Jesus

- Was called to be a fisher of men. Left everything to follow Jesus. (Mathew 4:19; Luke 5:11)
- One of the three disciples in the core group of disciples.
- Simon said Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. Jesus names him Peter (rock) and said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:16-19)
- Was reprimanded because he refused to accept that Jesus had to die. (Matthew 16:23)



# Peter

Simon, son of Jona  
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

## Encounters with Jesus

- Witnessed Jesus’ Transfiguration (where Jesus’ divinity was revealed). (Mark 9:2-8)
- Was sent to prepare the upper room for the Last Supper. (Luke 22:8)
- Jesus predicted that Peter would deny knowing him three times. (Luke 22:31-34)
- Was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:36-46)
- Jesus instructed Peter after his resurrection. (Jn. 21:15-19)

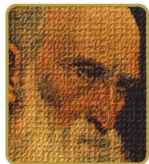


# Peter

Simon, son of Jona  
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

## Stories

- Papias (second-century Christian) recorded that Mark served as Peter’s scribe and wrote the Gospel of Mark based on Peter’s testimony.
- According to some stories, Peter asked to be crucified upside down.
- Peter may have been crucified during the reign of Nero in Rome.
- Symbols for Peter are sometimes keys, representing the keys to the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 16:19)



# Peter

Simon, son of Jona  
Cephas (“rock” or stone)

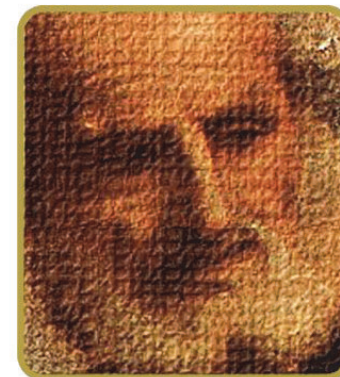
## Key Lesson

God can forgive sins and strengthen the faith of those who love him.



*The Denial of St. Peter*  
Caravaggio (1610)

# James, son of Zebedee



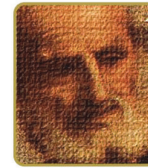


## James, son of Zebedee

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“James the Elder”  
“James the Great”

### Encounters with Jesus

- Was called to be a fisher of men. Left everything to follow Jesus. (Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:11)
- One of the three disciples in the core group of disciples. (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 13:3; 14:33)
- Jesus named him and John “Sons of Thunder.” (Mark 3:17)
- Was rebuked with his brother John for requesting God to rain fire on a Samaritan village. (Luke 9:54, 55)

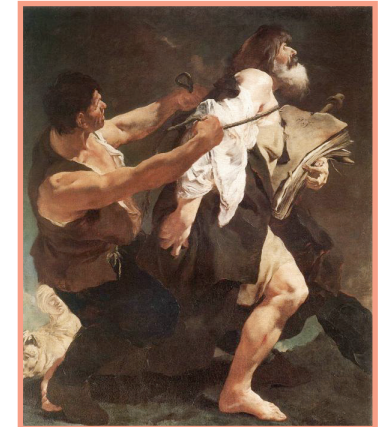


## James, son of Zebedee

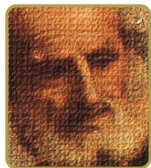
Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“James the Elder”  
“James the Great”

### Key Lesson

Stand firm in the  
face of persecution.



*St James Brought to Martyrdom*  
Giovanni Battista Plazzetta (1722-23)



## James, son of Zebedee

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“James the Elder”  
“James the Great”

### Encounters with Jesus

- Witnessed Jesus’ Transfiguration (where Jesus’ divinity was revealed). (Mark 9:2-8)
- Jesus responded to James’s and John’s request to sit at his right and left in the Kingdom. (Mark 10:35-43)
- Was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:36-46)
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee after Jesus’ resurrection. (John 21:2-7)

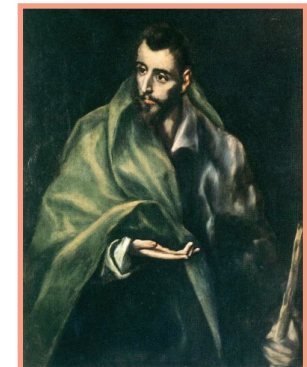


## James, son of Zebedee

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“James the Elder”  
“James the Great”

### Stories

- Some claim he was the first bishop in Spain.
- Symbols of James sometimes include the bishop’s hat and the sword, which is in reference to his martyrdom.



*Apostle St. James the Greater*  
El Greco (1610-1614)

---

# John, son of Zebedee

---



---

## John, son of Zebedee

---

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“The Beloved Disciple”  
“The Evangelist”  
“The Revealer”

### Encounters with Jesus

- Reclined next to Jesus during the Last Supper. (Jn. 13:23)
- Was given the responsibility at the cross to take care of Mary, Jesus’ mother. (John 19:26, 27)
- Ran ahead of Peter to see Jesus’ empty tomb and expressed faith by “seeing and believing.” (John 20:2-8)
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee after Jesus’ resurrection. (John 21:2-7)



---

## John, son of Zebedee

---

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“Beloved Disciple”  
“The Evangelist”  
“The Revealer”

### Encounters with Jesus

- One of the three disciples in the core group of disciples. (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 13:3; 14:33)
- Suggested that driving out demons could only be performed by those who follow Jesus and his disciples. (Mark 9:38)
- Witnessed Jesus’ Transfiguration (where Jesus’ divinity was revealed). (Mark 9:2-8)
- Was sent to prepare the upper room for the Last Supper. (Luke 22:8)



---

## John, son of Zebedee

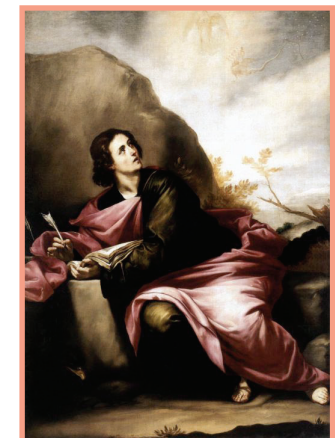
---

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“The Beloved Disciple”  
“The Evangelist”  
“The Revealer”

### Key Lesson

God’s love, evident in Jesus Christ, saves, transforms, and unites all believers.

*St. John the Evangelist on Pathmos*  
Alonso Cano (1646-1650)





---

# John, son of Zebedee

---

Boanerges (Son of Thunder)  
“The Beloved Disciple”  
“The Evangelist”  
“The Revealer”

## Stories

- Some stories suggest that John was released from exile on the island of Patmos and returned to Ephesus (Turkey today).
- Stories suggest that John died in Ephesus around AD 100.
- Symbols of John sometimes include the eagle and a book. (Revelation 4:7)



---

# Andrew

 “Protokletos” (First Called)

---

## Encounters with Jesus

- First to follow Jesus. (John 1:35-40)
- Called to be a fisher of men. (Matthew 4:19)
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (Matthew 10:5-8)
- Informed Jesus that several Greeks wanted to see him. (John 12:20-22)

---

# Andrew

---



---

# Andrew

 “Protokletos” (First Called)

---

## Encounters with Jesus

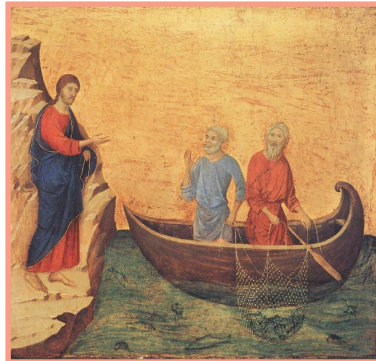
- Told Jesus of the boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. (John 6:8, 9)
- Was present when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. (John 20:19-25)
- Was present for the Great Commission when Jesus sent his disciples to all nations. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- Witnessed Jesus being taken up into heaven. (Acts 1:8, 9)



# Andrew “Protokletos” (First Called)

## Key Lesson

Go out and eagerly share the good news about Jesus Christ.



*Calling of Peter and Andrew*  
Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)

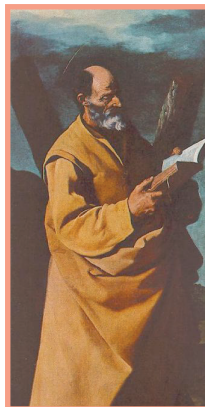
# Philip



# Andrew “Protokletos” (First Called)

## Stories

- Some suggest that Andrew preached in Greece, Asia Minor, and Russia.
- A seventh-century story suggests that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross.
- The symbol for Andrew is sometimes the X-shaped cross.



*Apostle St. Andrew*  
Francisco de Zurbaran (1631)



# Philip

## Encounters with Jesus

- The third disciple Jesus called. (John 1:43)
- Brought Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus. (Jn. 1:45, 46)
- Jesus tested him regarding the feeding of the multitude. (John 6:5-7)
- Informed Jesus that several Greeks wanted to see him. (John 12:20-22)
- Asked Jesus to show him the Father. (John 14:8, 9)
- Was present at the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:20)

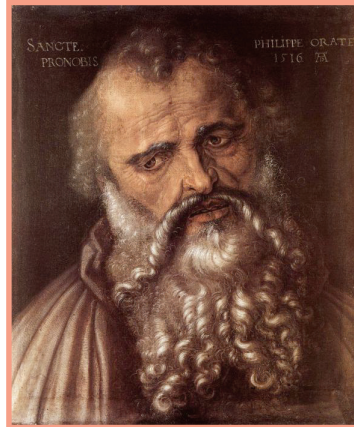


# Philip

## Key Lesson

All the knowledge in the world does not compare to the truth found in Jesus.

*The Apostle Philip*  
Albrecht Durer (1516)



# Bartholomew



# Philip

## Stories

- Tradition suggests that Philip lived and preached in Scythia (Ukraine today).
- Some stories suggest that Philip was crucified on a tall cross at Hierapolis of Phrygia (Turkey today).
- Symbols for Philip sometimes include loaves of bread and a tall cross. (John 6:5-7)



# Bartholomew

(Nathanael)

## Encounters with Jesus

- Jesus told Nathanael that he was an honest Israelite and informed him that he saw him sitting under the fig tree. (John 1:47, 48)
- Nathanael said that Jesus was the “Son of God” and “King of Israel.” (John 1:49)
- Jesus enlightened Nathanael with what to expect (John 1:50, 51)
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish and ate breakfast with Jesus after his resurrection. (Jn 21:2-7)



# Bartholomew

(Nathanael)

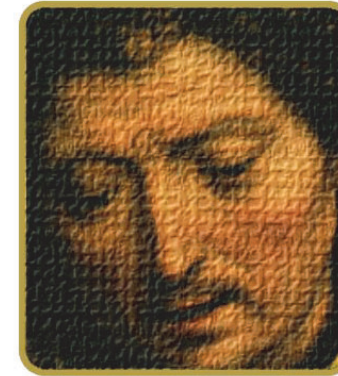
## Key Lesson

Believers are called to test all things with Scripture and remain true to its principles.



*The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew*  
Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1722)

# Matthew

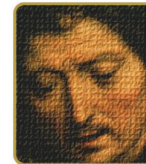


# Bartholomew

(Nathanael)

## Stories

- Some suggest that Bartholomew ministered to Asia Minor and India and the Armenian church claims Bartholomew as their founder.
- Tradition suggests that Bartholomew was flayed alive in Armenia.
- The symbol for Bartholomew is sometimes a blade.



# Matthew

Levi the son  
of Alphaeus

## Encounters with Jesus

- Matthew left his tax collector booth to follow Jesus. (Matthew 9:9)
- Matthew invited Jesus over to dine with him and his corrupt friends. (Matthew 9:10)
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (Matthew 10:5-8)
- Was present at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:20)





# Matthew

Levi the son  
of Alphaeus

## Key Lesson

Jesus Christ is  
for everyone,  
even sinners  
and outcasts.



*The Calling of St. Matthew*  
Hendrick Terbrugghen (1621)

# Thomas



# Matthew

Levi the son  
of Alphaeus

## Stories

- Some stories suggest that Matthew ministered to Persia, Macedonia, Syria, Parthia, Media, and Ethiopia bringing the good news to kings.
- Some stories suggest that Matthew died a martyr.
- The symbol for Matthew is sometimes a bag of coins in reference to his occupation as a tax collector before he encountered Jesus.



# Thomas

Didymus (Twin)  
Judas Thomas  
“Doubting Thomas”

## Encounters with Jesus

- Courageously encouraged disciples to go to Bethany. (John 11:16)
- Asked Jesus how to know where Jesus was going. (John 14:5)
- Doubted Jesus’ resurrection saying he would have to touch his wounds in order to believe. (John 20:25)
- Affirmed that Jesus was Lord and God. (John 20:28)
- Witnessed the miraculous catch of fish and ate breakfast with Jesus after his resurrection. (John 21:2-7)

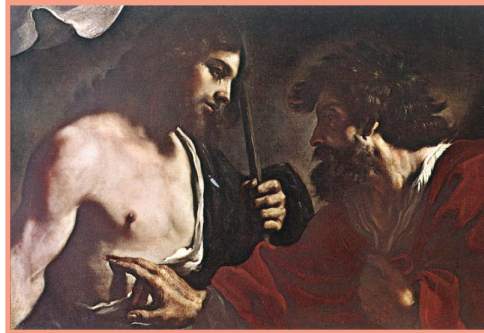


# Thomas

Didymus (Twin)  
Judas Thomas  
“Doubting Thomas”

## Key Lesson

Jesus can overcome doubts and lead believers to faithfulness.



*Doubting Thomas*  
Guercino

# James, son of Alphaeus



# Thomas

Didymus (Twin)  
Judas Thomas  
“Doubting Thomas”

## Stories

- Stories suggest that Thomas traveled to India and founded the Christian church there.
- Some suggest Thomas was killed by a spear for his faith, and was buried in India.
- Some say Thomas was a carpenter.
- Symbols for Thomas include the spearhead and the T-square.



# James

James, son of Alphaeus  
“James the Younger”  
“James the Less”

## Encounters with Jesus

- Selected as one of Christ’s twelve disciples. (Matthew 10:2-4; Luke 6:14-16)
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (Matthew 10:5-8)
- Was present at the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:20)
- Was present when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. (John 20:19-25)



# James

James, son of Alphaeus  
“James the Younger”  
“James the Less”

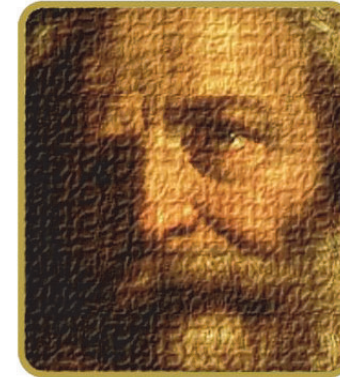
## Key Lessons

All followers of  
Jesus can still  
accomplish the work  
of God without  
being in the  
limelight.

*St. James the Less*  
Georges de la Tour  
(1615-1620)



# Thaddaeus

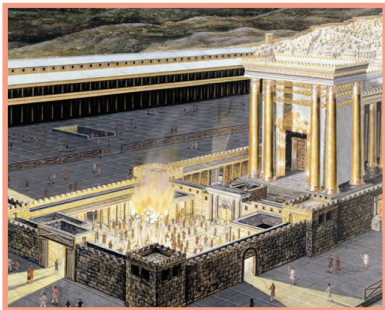


# James

James, son of Alphaeus  
“James the Younger”  
“James the Less”

## Stories

- Some suggest that James, son of Alphaeus, belonged to the revolutionary group known as the Zealots.
- Some say that James was arrested by the Jews, thrown off the Temple, and then beaten to death by a club.



# Thaddaeus

Jude  
Judas  
Lebbaeus

## Encounters with Jesus

- Selected as one of Christ’s twelve disciples.  
(Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:13)
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (Matthew 10:5-8)
- Asked Jesus how he would reveal himself to his followers and not to the world. (John 14:22)
- Was present at the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:20)



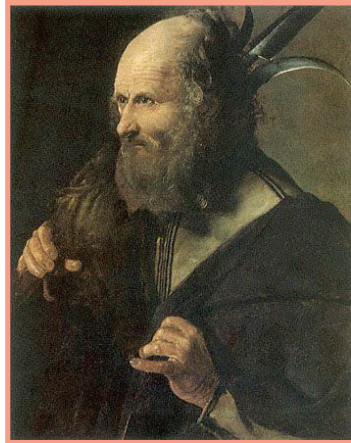
# Thaddaeus

Jude  
Judas  
Lebbaeus

## Key Lesson

Jesus will  
reveal his truths  
to believers  
who follow him.

*St. Jude*  
Georges de la Tour  
(1615-1620)



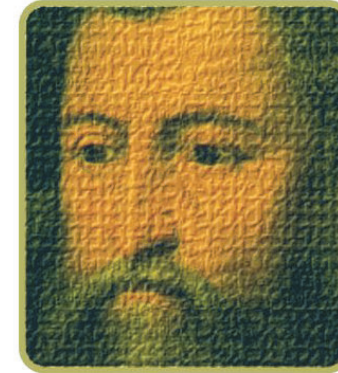
# Thaddaeus

Jude  
Judas  
Lebbaeus

## Stories

- Some suggest that Thaddaeus belonged to the revolutionary group, the Zealots.
- Some scholars believe that Thaddaeus authored the book of Jude, although most believe the author is Judas, the brother of Jesus.
- The symbol for Thaddaeus is sometimes a gold ship with silver sails before a red horizon, which is a reference to the ship he took on missionary journeys.

# Simon the Zealot



# Simon

Simon the Zealot  
Simon the Cananaean

## Encounters with Jesus

- Selected as one of Christ's twelve disciples. (Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:13)
- Sent out on a mission to the Jews to preach "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (Matthew 10:5-8)
- Was present at the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:20)
- Was present for the Great Commission and Jesus' Ascension into heaven. (Matthew 28:16)



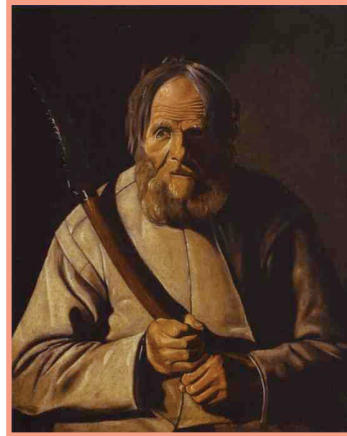
# Simon

Simon the Zealot  
Simon the Cananaean

## Key Lesson

One should be willing to sacrifice his or her politics to follow Jesus.

*St. Simon* Georges de la Tour (1615-1620)



# Simon

Simon the Zealot  
Simon the Cananaean

## Stories

- One story suggests that Simon was the bridegroom at the wedding in Cana.
- Some stories suggest that Simon was a missionary to Persia.
- The symbol for Simon is sometimes a book resting on a fish, which is a reference to Simon fishing for people.

# Judas Iscariot



# Judas

Judas Iscariot  
“Judas the Betrayer”  
Judas the son of Simon

## Encounters with Jesus

- Selected as one of Christ’s twelve disciples. (Matthew 10:4; Luke 6:15)
- Jesus referred to Judas as the devil. (John 6:70, 71)
- Criticized Mary for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. (John 12:4-8)
- Conversated with Jesus during the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:23-25; John 13:27, 28)
- The devil entered his heart at the Last Supper. (John 13:2)
- Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. (Mt. 26:14-51)



# Judas

Judas Iscariot  
“Judas the Betrayer”  
Judas the son of Simon

## Key Lesson

Not all who claim to follow Jesus are faithful to him and his goals.



*Taking of Christ*  
Caravaggio (c. 1598)



# Judas

Judas Iscariot  
“Judas the Betrayer”  
Judas the son of Simon

## Stories

- Judas was possibly from Kerioth in Judea.
- Some scholars suggest that Judas was a member of the Zealot sect known as the Sicarii, who were dagger-bearing assassins.



Email: [gohsengfong@hotmail.com](mailto:gohsengfong@hotmail.com)

WhatsApp: +65-98207783

Website: [www.faithatworkfellowship.org](http://www.faithatworkfellowship.org)