# Disciples

The story of Jesus choosing his group of disciples is found in Mark 3 14-19. All 12 disciples are named there, but some are rarely mentioned in the Bible afterwards. More is known or believed about the disciples listed below. Each group of pupils can be given some, or all, of the information that relates to the disciple for their group.

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|  |  | Additional information |
| (Simon) Peter | In the gospels | This fisherman was originally called Simon, but Jesus gave him a new name of ‘Peter’ meaning ‘Rock’. There are stories in the Bible where Peter is shown not trusting in Jesus. In the story of Jesus’ arrest, Peter is seen three times denying that he knew Jesus. (Luke 22: 54-62) Peter was among disciples who saw resurrection appearances of Jesus. |
| After | In the book of Acts, after the stories of Jesus’ death and resurrection, Peter is shown telling people about Jesus and encouraging them to follow Jesus. Peter became the head of the church. Many Christians think that he wrote the two letters in the Bible that are called ‘Peter’. He was killed by the Romans for following Jesus. |
| James | In the gospels | This fisherman was the brother of John. He and his brother were called to do special things with Jesus – like pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. James was among disciples who saw resurrection appearances of Jesus. |
| After | James was the first disciple to be killed because he was a believer in Jesus and a member of the church. (Acts 12 1-2) |
| John | In the gospels | This fisherman was the brother of James. He and his brother were called to do special things with Jesus – like pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. The gospel of John records that Jesus asked John to look after Mary, his mother, and that John did so (John 19 26-27) John was among disciples who saw resurrection appearances of Jesus. |
| After | People think that John wrote the Gospel of John, and three letters called ‘John’ as well as the final book included in the Bible – The revelation to St John – when he was arrested and imprisoned for being a follower of Jesus. |
| Matthew | In the gospels | Matthew was a tax collector, who Jesus called to follow him. He then invited Jesus to dinner with other tax collectors, and holy people criticised Jesus for doing this( Mark 9: 9-13). Matthew was among disciples who saw resurrection appearances of Jesus. |
| After | Many people think that he wrote the Gospel of Matthew. There is little evidence, but some Christians think that he travelled to Africa and was killed for being a follower of Jesus. |
| Thoma | In the gospels | Not much is known about Thomas before he was called by Jesus. Thomas was not with the disciples who saw the first resurrection appearances of Jesus. The story in the Gospel of John shows Thomas not believing that Jesus had risen, saying that he would not believe that Jesus was alive, until he had and seen him and had the chance to touch him (John 20: 24-29) |
| After | There are many traditions that Thomas travelled widely afterwards telling people about Jesus and that he even travelled to India. St Thomas is very popular with many Indian Christians, as a result. Some people think that he wrote a gospel “The Gospel according to Thomas” that is not included in the list of books in the current Bible. |