

# The Disciples



Welcome to the story of The Disciples! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

## Small Group Builders

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Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Following Fun**

Jesus asked the disciples to drop all they were doing and follow him. Play a following game. One kid is "It." The rest of the group spreads out and starts moving (jumping jacks, dancing, etc.). "It" will move through the room and tap people on the shoulder. They will immediately stop their action and follow. Only the kid who is It may tap shoulders. When everyone is following, choose a new It.

- **Who Calls You?**

Jesus spoke to the disciples face to face when he asked them to follow him. Talk about whom group members talk with face to face each day. Try to talk with each other face to face for the rest of your time together.

- **Matthew and Mercy**

Jesus told Matthew that he demanded mercy or compassion. Matthew and mercy both begin with "M." Think about the first letter of your name. Share one thing Jesus wants us to do that begins with the same letter. The group can help each other with ideas.

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- How do you think it felt to leave their families and become disciples?
- Why did Jesus say the disciples would catch people?
- Why did Jesus ask sinners to be disciples?
- How do you think that Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna provided resources for the disciples?
- Why did Jesus give the 12 disciples the authority to heal and cure?
- Can you name all 12 disciples?

## Transition Tips

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As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Stop and Turn**

Jesus asked the disciples to immediately stop what they were doing and follow. As you move along, wait for the leader to yell, "Stop!" At that exact moment, turn around and go the other way. It may take awhile to get anywhere using this stop-and-turn transition!

- **Boat Balance**

When Simon threw nets from his boat, they were heavy! Simon had to stand in the boat. The boat probably swayed back and forth. Move to your next place trying to balance in your pretend boat. Don't sink the boat!

- **Walking by the Sea**

Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee. The shore would have been curved. Walk in a curved line to the next activity. Try not to get your feet wet in the water!

- **Name the 12**

Jesus called 12 disciples. Chant their names as a group as you move to your next location. Simon, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas. You could also say the names of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.

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- **Siblings Together**

Jesus called brothers James and John to join him. Share some good stories about things you do with your brothers and/or sisters. The only kids in the group can talk about how they do things with a cousin or best friend.

- **Imagine That**

Imagine that Jesus called you as one of the original 12 disciples. Share with your group how it would feel to have the authority to cure diseases and sicknesses. What disease would you want to cure first?

- **Build a Boat**

Jesus taught from Simon Peter's boat. Use your bodies to build a boat. Who will be the front of the boat? Who will be the bottom of the boat? Try moving your boat along in the water.

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Do you think the brothers (James and John, Simon and Andrew) ever fought when they were with Jesus?
- How is the kingdom in heaven different from the kingdom on earth?
- Would you leave your family to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that women were called to be disciples, too?
- How does Jesus call you to be a disciple?
- Name the 12 disciples.

## Transition Tips

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As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Tax Collector Tap**

Matthew was a tax collector. He was telling people to give him tax money. He might have tapped his palm with his pointer finger and said, "You owe money to the Romans. Put it right here." Tap your palms and ask for money from everyone you pass.

- **Press and Pass**

At the lake of Gennesaret, the crowds pressed against Jesus. Move as a group to the next place, pressing together. Think about how it feels to be pressed together when you are trying to move.

- **Mend Your Net**

John and James were mending nets when Jesus called to them. Mending nets takes time and is done by hand sewing and tying. Pretend you are mending a fishnet as you move along.

- **Sink or Swim**

Simon's boat filled with so many fish it almost sank. Swim hard to your next activity. Keep swimming so you won't sink.

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- **Human Fishing**

Jesus told the disciples they would fish for people. Have older kids become a human net by connecting hands and feet. Younger kids try to get through the human net. Remember the net doesn't change. It is always the same.

- **Fears and Tears**

Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid. Share times in your life when you were afraid like the disciples. Open your heart and share your experiences. Remember that Jesus said, "Do not be afraid." Even when we are afraid, Jesus is with us!

- **People Catcher**

Jesus used the fishing net to explain that the disciples would catch people like fish. If you were going to catch people today, where and how would you catch them? Invent a people catcher as a group to catch people in today's world.

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Do you think Judas knew he would betray Jesus when he was asked to be a disciple?
- Why did Jesus ask brothers to follow him?
- What did Simon do with all those fish?
- Why did Susanna, Joanna, and Mary Magdalene help Jesus with resources?
- What do you think the disciples thought and felt when Jesus asked them to fish for people?
- Why did Jesus want to eat dinner with sinners?

## Transition Tips

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As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Throw the Net**  
Practice throwing a big heavy net out just like Simon. Remember you are in a boat. Throw the net as you walk along to your next activity.
- **Catching Disciples**  
Jesus called 12 disciples. The 12 disciples brought more people to Jesus. As you relocate, hold hands and catch some others as you go along your way.
- **Wave Good-bye**  
The 12 disciples left their families behind when they followed Jesus. Wave good-bye to all you pass as you move to the next location and say, "Good-bye! I'm going to follow Jesus!"
- **Cities, Villages, Towns, and the Sea**  
Jesus brought his message to cities, villages, towns, and the sea. As you march to your next place, say this chant together. "Cities, villages, towns, and the sea, Jesus brings his message to me."