

## The 12 Apostles

1. Which apostle do you most relate to? Think Thomas (doubts the resurrection) and Peter (walking on water and then full of fear sinks) and John (the beloved and first to run to the tomb) and the Sons of Thunder - James and John (desiring to sit on the thrones closest to Jesus and are both part of the Transfiguration), and Matthew (the tax collector). Share why you chose that apostle. What makes him so relatable for you?
2. As we see in the Scriptures, God chooses to use humans to reveal his message to other humans. When Jesus calls the 12 Apostles, He calls a very diverse group of ordinary men. What do you think about this? He saw the potential in a tax collector and in fishermen. Why would God do this? What does this reveal to us about God and what does this reveal to us about one another? Read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1575 and 1576. Discuss.
3. What do the stories of the failures of the Apostles make you think about God and his plans? Why would Jesus specially call these 12? What does this tell you about God's unique call for the Church, for every Christian and for you? Give examples.
4. Discuss the courage of the Apostles. Notice how the Apostles act in the Gospel accounts compared to the Acts of the Apostles. How would you characterize the Apostles in each account? What was the major event that occurs in Acts that forever changes the Apostles?
5. Did you know that most of the Apostles died as martyrs? How can you act with the courage of the Apostles? What message do you think God has uniquely entrusted to you and to whom does He want you to minister to? Discuss ideas.

### Activity for the Classroom

1. Create a visual map of the apostles. Divide up your class into groups and assign a certain number of apostles per group (i.e. 24 kids, 12 groups of 2). Using the white board or several poster boards, create a collage of the apostles. Find an image of each of the apostles and have the students use the Bible to look at the stories of each of the apostles. Research their feast days, how they appear in sacred art, and what they are patrons of.

### Activity for Home

1. Create your dream team just like Jesus did with the 12 apostles. Who are the people that you have on your team as you journey through life? Family, friends, coaches, teachers etc. Make a list of these people and discuss (or write an essay) about how these people accompany you and help you to carry forth your mission just like Jesus' apostles carried his mission. Jesus didn't carry His cross all by Himself and we need people around us, just like He had. Make a list of these people and pray for them often.

### Further Resources:

1. Into the Deep Apostle Story Cards (This would be a great resource for the activity in the classroom mentioned above) [https://intothedeepp.co/products/the-apostles-story-cards?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=cd410aeb5&\\_ss=r](https://intothedeepp.co/products/the-apostles-story-cards?_pos=1&_sid=cd410aeb5&_ss=r)
2. Catholic Answers <https://www.catholic.com/qa/were-all-twelve-apostles-martyred>
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church - Holy Orders and the Apostles CCC 1539-1600
4. Fr. Mike Schmitz - On the Pope - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4N0hSMCAIU>