

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
The Disciples
from Matthew 4:12-23, 9:9-13, 10:1-4.

Jesus calls his disciples and begins teaching among unpopular people.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Repent
- Cast
- Mercy
- Sacrifice
- Summon
- Unclean spirit
- Authority

Having 12 disciples symbolically refers back to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 258-263

Spark NRSV Bible pages 1061, 1068-1069

Family Prayer

Dear Lord, pull us onto your path and free us from doubt and fear. We want to do your will among those who most need your love. In Jesus' name we pray for help. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

1 As his disciple, what would Jesus like you to do today?

2 The Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors. Who would you be criticized for eating lunch with? Why?

3 What groups of people are disliked, feared, and/or singled out today?

4 Act out the calling of the disciples. One person takes Jesus' role and walks along. Everyone else picks a spot and pantomimes some kind of work. When you are called, stop immediately and follow. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.



Eye Spark

Watch for fish this week. Each time you see one, remember that Jesus' disciples were called to fish for people.



Ear Spark

Listen for God in the sounds of nature this week. How many ways can God call you?

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Play a game of Follow the Leader—either through the house or through the neighborhood. The leader gets to be Jesus, and the followers are the disciples. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.

For younger kids

For the next week, every time your parent calls you, immediately drop what you are doing and go find out how you can help.

For older kids

Choose someone who really appears to be living his or her life as a disciple of Jesus. Read up about that person's life or interview that person if possible. What has she or he done to follow Jesus?

