

## STEP 2

Bible Learning  
(15-20 minutes)

## Bible Basis:

Jesus prays before choosing the 12 disciples (Mark 3:13-19a; Luke 6:12-16).

**Objective:** That your students will learn that Jesus prayed before choosing His 12 disciples.

## Materials:

- Bible Adventures pp. 2-3
- Bibles
- Bible Adventures p.1
- "Bible Time Line" Teaching Aid

Jesus had many hard decisions to make. One of those decisions involved choosing helpers who would work with Him in His ministry. What does He need in a business partner and what did Jesus do as He went through the process?

## Bible Study

Give your students a copy of Lesson 8 Bible Adventures. Have them open it to pages 2 and 3 and read the introduction to themselves. Ask a volunteer to read the first Scripture Spotlight (Luke 6:12-13) from Bible Adventures.

- ▶ **What did Jesus do before He chose His apostles?** (He prayed so that He could make wise choices. He was about to make some very important decisions and sought God's wisdom in making them.)
- ▶ **How long did Jesus pray?** (All night.) Help your students think through the significance of this. Sometimes we have a hard time praying even for a few minutes, but Jesus spent an entire night seeking His Father's wisdom in the choice He was about to make.

▶ **Why do you think He prayed that long?** (Allow your students to share their opinions.)

▶ **Since Jesus was God in human form on earth, why did He need to pray before making important decisions?** Allow your students to share their opinions. (He wanted to be in communication with His Father, God. He wanted to do His Father's will. He wanted to set an example for His followers.)

▶ **How do you think His praying helped in His choosing the apostles?** (Guide your preteens to understand Jesus had the assurance that He had asked God for direction and was able to make His decisions believing that God was with Him.)

▶ **Why did Jesus choose to be alone with His Father when He prayed before choosing the disciples?** (He didn't want to be distracted or influenced by others who wanted to be His helpers.)

Choose another volunteer to read the next Scripture Spotlight (Luke 6:14-16) from Bible Adventures. Then select another student to read Mark 3:14-15.

Jesus chose the apostles for a special ministry.

▶ **What things did Jesus say the apostles would do?** (They would spend time with Jesus,

BIBLE STUDY FROM MARK 3:13-19; LUKE 6:12-16

# IMPORTANT PRAYERS— IMPORTANT CHOICES

A year had past since Jesus' temptation in the desert. Many people began to follow Jesus as He traveled from town to town. Jesus planned to choose some special disciples to help with His ministry.



LUKE 6:12-16

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

**What did Jesus do before He chose His apostles?  
How long did Jesus pray?  
Why do you think He**

**prayed that long?  
How do you think His praying helped in His choosing the apostles?**

Simon<sup>1</sup> (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew<sup>2</sup>, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon<sup>3</sup> who was called the Zealot, Judas<sup>4</sup> son of James,



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and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

**Jesus chose the apostles for a special ministry. Read Mark 3:14-15. What things did Jesus say the apostles would do?**

Jesus knew what an important decision He had in choosing the apostles. Jesus prayed all night before choosing! We can pray as well when we want to make a wise choice.



He is also called Thaddaeus (THAD-ee-us).



they would preach, and they would perform miracles, specifically driving out demons.)

▶ **How would you have felt if you were one of the 12 people chosen by Jesus?** (Allow for answers. Some possibilities: thrilled, scared, proud, wondering what it would be like, humbled.)

Conclude the study by having the students read the conclusion. Help your students see that, if Jesus needed to pray, how much more we need to.

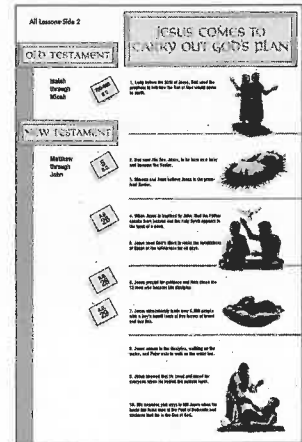
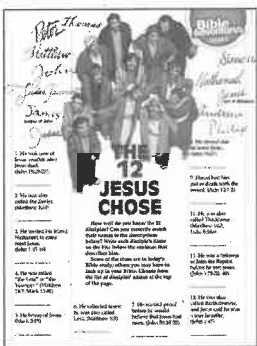
**Bible Review**

Use the "Bible Time Line" Side 2 Teaching Aid "Jesus Comes to Carry Out God's Plan" to find where today's story fits into Jesus' life. Read Paragraph 6 to your students: "Jesus prayed for guidance and then chose the twelve men who became His disciples."

Then ask students to turn to page 1 of *Bible Adventures* and read the instructions for this activity. You could have students work together on the questions so that anyone who might have

difficulty looking up the passages would be teamed with someone who is more familiar with the Bible. The page can also be done individually. If you had any students create a job description as a Pre-session Activity, have the class compare the student-created job description with the criteria Jesus used.

When everyone is finished, go through the answers as a group. The answers are: 1. John; 2. Simon; 3. Philip; 4. James, son of Alphaeus; 5. Judas Iscariot; 6. Matthew; 7. Thomas; 8. Peter; 9. James, brother of John; 10. Judas; 11. Andrew; 12. Nathanael.



**Optional Activity**

If you have a longer class, students could choose one disciple and write a brief diary entry he might have made describing his feelings about having been chosen as one of the disciples of Jesus. Use the descriptions from *Bible Adventures* as research material.

## STEP 3

Bible Application  
(5–10 minutes)



**Objective:** That your students will act out stories in which they decide what happened after someone prayed for guidance.

**Materials:**

☐ “Cliff-Hangers” Teaching Aid—separate before class

Discussion cards, “Cliff-Hangers” Teaching Aid, will help your students see that they can turn to God for guidance in troubling situations. Before class, separate the six cards.

▶ **When have you been in a situation where you had to make a choice between two difficult possibilities? What did you do?** (Allow students to respond.)

We could call such situations cliff-hangers. It feels as though we’re hanging over a cliff with only a thin rope between us and safety.

This activity may be done individually or in groups. Lay the cards, face side up, on the table. Then have each student or group choose a card.

I’m going to give you a few minutes to read the dilemma on the back of your card and think about how God might answer the person’s prayer.

When the time is up, choose someone to go first. Have the card read aloud to the rest of the class. Then have the student or a member of the group tell how they think the story worked out. The rest of the class could also give their opinions.

Each of these kids faced really tough decisions—situations that seemed almost impossible to resolve. However, they knew where to go for help and turned to God for guidance.

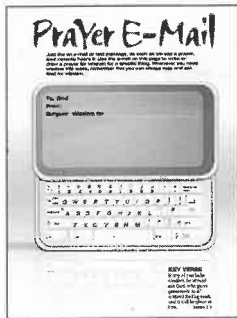
God could have answered in the ways we discussed, or He could resolve the problem in an entirely different manner—one we didn’t even think of. However He answers, turning to God for guidance is always the smartest way to handle any difficult decision.

STEP 4 

Life Response  
(5–10 minutes)

**Bible Truth:**

Jesus' example of prayer before a choice shows that God uses prayer to help us make right choices.



**Objective:** That your students will write their own prayers for guidance in a difficult decision.

**Materials:**

- Bible Adventures p. 4
- Pencils

Have your students turn to page 4 in *Bible Adventures*. **Has anyone ever asked your advice about something? Have your brothers or sisters asked what you think mom or dad might say or do? How did you feel about counseling them?** Because of their age, this may not be the experience of many of your students. Be prepared to tell of a time when you have been in that position. **Most of us are rather flattered to have people ask our advice. It shows they have confidence in us and value our wisdom.**

**Memory Work**

Have students read together the Key Verse, James 1:5, several times.

- ▶ **How does God feel about giving us advice when we ask Him?** (*He is happy when we ask Him for advice, wants to help us, and promises to give advice to us freely.*)

Because God is the source of true wisdom, He is well qualified to give us good advice. We can count on Him to always help us make right choices.

Today, we saw that Jesus prayed before choosing His apostles so that He could make wise choices about who to pick. We can follow Jesus' example by doing the same thing He did: praying for God's help in choosing what's right.

Prayer is instant communication with God. We don't have to write a letter and wait for it to be delivered or wait till we come to church to talk to God. At anytime, including when we need wisdom, we can stop and pray.

- ▶ **What kinds of instant communication do we have today with our friends and family?** (*E-mail, text messaging, instant messaging, phone calls.*)

When we send an e-mail or text message, we don't see it delivered, but we can be fairly certain that it instantly got to the person we sent it to. As with e-mail or text messages, we can't see our prayers delivered to God, but God is more faithful than the Internet, and we know He listens to our prayers right as we say them.

- ▶ **Have you ever prayed for wisdom?** (*Ask for individuals to share examples of how God answered prayers for wisdom.*) Share a story of your own.

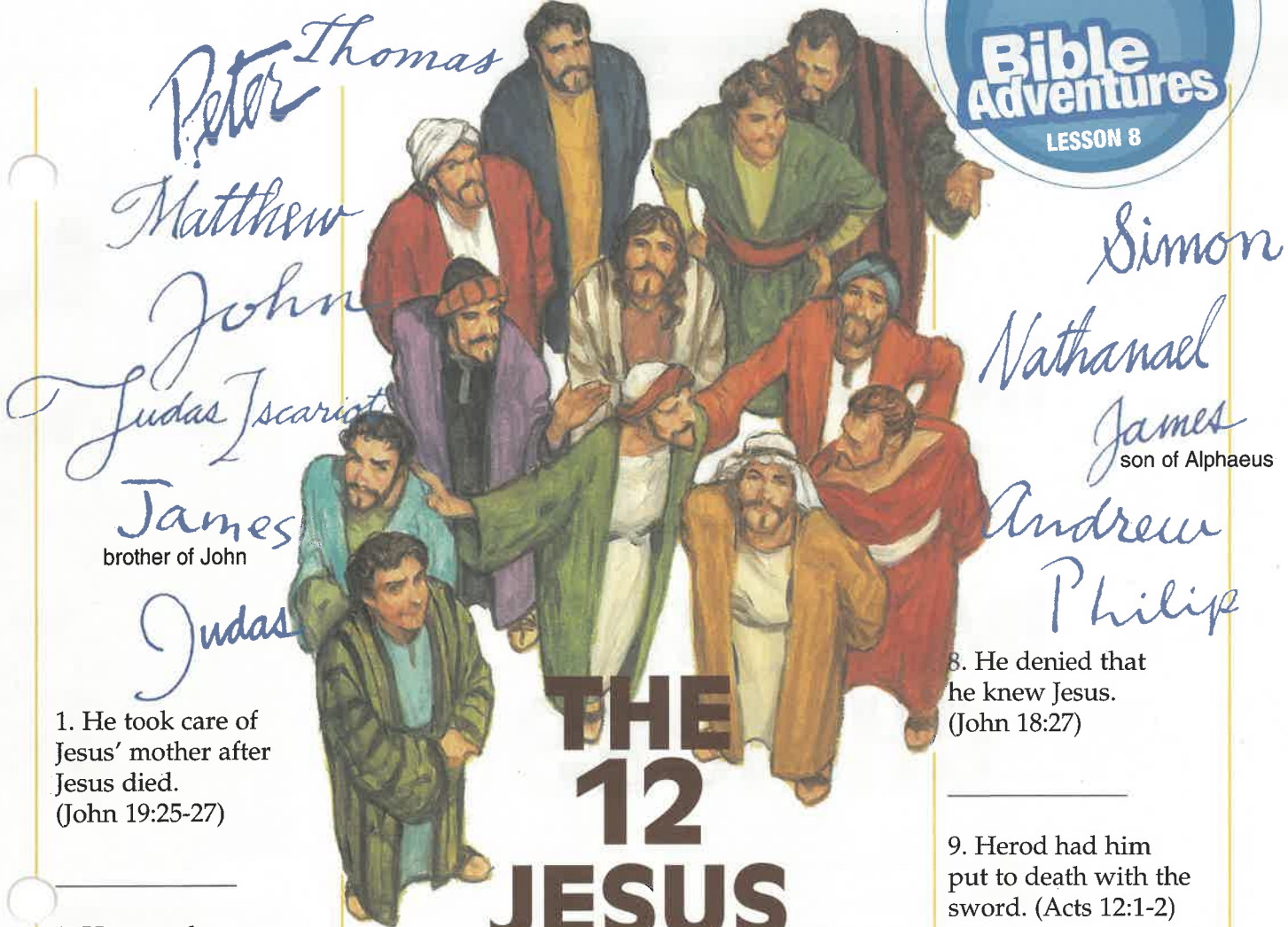
Have your students turn to page 4 in *Bible Adventures* and read the instructions on the page. Students are to write a prayer, particularly one for wisdom in a given situation, in the space provided. For those students who prefer not to write, they could draw a symbol or picture to represent their request.

**Closing Activity**

Have students get in small groups of two or three to pray together about things they need wisdom for. Remind students that whenever they need wisdom, they can stop and pray to God.

**Optional Activity**

Look up 1 Kings 3:7-9 and 2 Chronicles 1:8-10 in your Bible. This Scripture talks about Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. Write down some decisions you have to make and each day pray that God gives you wisdom to make good decisions.



# THE 12 JESUS CHOSE

How well do you know the 12 disciples? Can you correctly match their names to the descriptions below? Write each disciple's name on the line below the sentence that describes him.

Some of the clues are in today's Bible study; others you may have to look up in your Bible. Choose from the list of disciples' names at the top of the page.

1. He took care of Jesus' mother after Jesus died. (John 19:25-27)

2. He was also called the Zealot. (Matthew 10:4)

3. He invited his friend Nathanael to come meet Jesus. (John 1:45-46)

4. He was called "the Less" or "the Younger." (Matthew 10:3; Mark 15:40)

5. He betrayed Jesus. (Mark 3:19)

6. He collected taxes; he was also called Levi. (Matthew 9:9)

7. He wanted proof before he would believe that Jesus had risen. (John 20:24-25)

8. He denied that he knew Jesus. (John 18:27)

9. Herod had him put to death with the sword. (Acts 12:1-2)

10. He was also called Thaddaeus. (Matthew 10:3; Luke 6:16a)

11. He was a follower of John the Baptist before he met Jesus. (John 1:35-36, 40)

12. He was also called Bartholomew, and Jesus said he was a true Israelite. (John 1:47)



# IMPORTANT PRAYERS— IMPORTANT CHOICES



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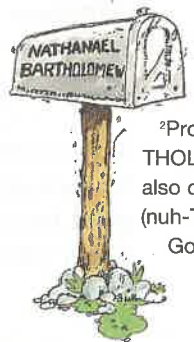


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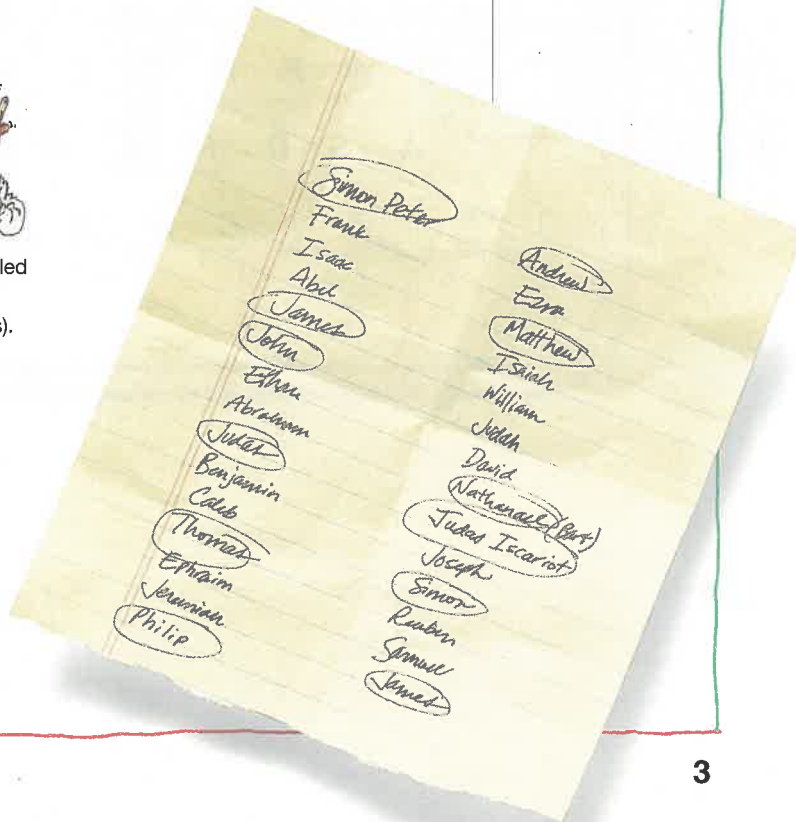
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# Prayer E-Mail

Just like an e-mail or text message, as soon as we say a prayer, God instantly hears it. Use the e-mail on this page to write or draw a prayer for wisdom for a specific thing. Whenever you need wisdom this week, remember that you can always stop and ask God for wisdom.

To: God

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Wisdom for \_\_\_\_\_

## KEY VERSE

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5