

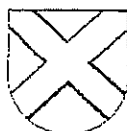
## Can You Name All Twelve Apostles?

Learning more about Jesus' closest followers can help you to remember all 12.



**Peter:** His parents named him Simon, but Jesus called him *Peter*, the word for

"rock." Jesus chose that name to show he was building his Church on a person as solid and strong as rock.



**Andrew:** He was Peter's brother and a partner in their fishing business. Andrew, whose name means "manly," was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Greece.

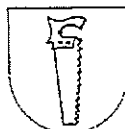


**James:** He was the brother of the apostle John and also his partner in the fishing business. Both James and John were the sons of Zebedee. They may have been difficult to control since Jesus referred to them as "sons of thunder." James was probably a big man because he was called James the Greater to distinguish him from another apostle called (you guessed it) James the Lesser. Or, it could be that James the Greater was older than James the Lesser.

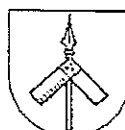


**John:** The brother of James the Greater, John was so loyal to Jesus that he stood by his cross with Jesus' mother, Mary. He was known as "the beloved disciple." He was also credited as the writer of the Fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation, and three epistles. He

took care of Jesus' mother until she fell asleep in the Lord. Tradition tells us he was the only apostle who did not die a martyr. Remember, this John is not John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin and not one of the apostles.



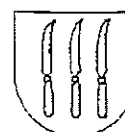
**James the Lesser:** The brother of Jude Thaddeus, James was stoned and beaten to death in Jerusalem by enemies of the infant Church.



**Thomas:** This man was known as "Doubting Thomas" because he insisted on touching Jesus' wounds before he would believe that Jesus had truly risen. According to tradition he carried the gospel of Jesus to India.



**Philip:** He was probably a good friend of Andrew, Peter's brother. Both he and Andrew were prominent in the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Like many other apostles, he went out to preach the gospel in foreign lands.



**Bartholomew (Nathaniel):** Most often we call this apostle by his last name, *bar*

*Tolmai*, which means "Son of Tolmai," referring to the name of his hometown. This is like calling someone "Houston" or "Boston" today. Nathaniel was his first name and it means "God has given." He was martyred in Armenia.



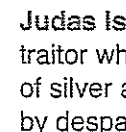
**Matthew:** Also called Levi, Matthew was a tax collector—which meant he worked for the hated Romans. His name means "gift of God." When Jesus called him, Matthew became a devoted follower and died spreading the gospel.



**Simon the Zealot:** He is identified as "the Zealot" to distinguish him from Simon Peter. A zealot is someone who believes strongly in a cause. Maybe he was zealous about Jewish law, or maybe he belonged to an anti-Roman political party whose members were called zealots. He spread Jesus' gospel to Egypt and then Persia, where he was martyred.



**Jude Thaddeus:** Sometimes he is called Jude the Obscure because there's not much written about him. He's also known as the saint of desperate situations—the one to pray to when all else fails. *Thaddeus* means "courageous," and tradition tells us he died bravely, maybe with Simon the Zealot.



**Judas Iscariot:** This was the traitor who sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and then was so overcome by despair that he killed himself. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the remaining apostles decided they needed someone to take the place of Judas. By casting lots they chose **Matthias**, so there were once again twelve apostles. (See Acts 1:21-26.)

