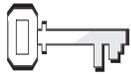


# A New Disciple



### References

Acts 1; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 829-835;  
*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 25-34



### Memory Verse

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

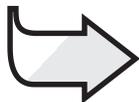


### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that all Christian service begins with love for Jesus.

**Feel** a desire to prepare for a life of service for Jesus.

**Respond** by asking God every day to help them share His love with someone.



### The Message

Jesus' friends know Him well.

### Monthly Theme

God gives us skills for service.

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Jesus ascends to heaven, the disciples and about 120 believers meet together in Jerusalem. They decide to replace Judas. Thinking about the qualifications for Judas's replacement, they decide that the first priority is that the person had to have been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. They nominate two people, pray, draw lots, and choose Matthias.

### *This is a lesson about service.*

The disciples recognized that they were called to ministry, that their role was one of service to others. The first priority in choosing Matthias was that he had been with Jesus. Walking with Jesus is still the primary qualification of Christian service today. When Jesus went to heaven, He left His work for us to carry on. But we are not alone. Jesus promised to be with us always.

### Teacher Enrichment

When people think of a disciple, they usually think of the 12 disciples of Christ. A disciple is a follower, a student, or a learner who follows the teachings of another, especially of a public teacher. (For more, see "Disciple" in *The SDA Bible Dictionary*.)

In the New Testament, the Greek word for *apostle* literally means "one sent forth." It carries with it the idea of mission and representation. In all but one case, the term for apostles in the four Gospels refers only to the 12 disciples of Jesus, but in the rest of the New Testament, Paul, Barnabas, Silvanus, and Timothy are also called apostles. (For more, see "Apostle" in *The SDA Bible Dictionary*.)

Casting lots involved devices used for ascertaining the will of God by the selection of one item from two or more items, or for simply deciding something by chance. The heathen, Hebrews, and Christians used this method in Bible times. When God's people used it, it was with the assumption that God would make His will known through this method. Because casting lots has been used by heathen and unbelievers throughout time, it is only with God's clear directive that this method was valid for believers. The casting of lots is not a recommended means of determining God's will for Christians today. We use the Bible, prayer, guidance of the Holy Spirit, and God-given intelligence to help us make decisions. (For more on this, see "Lots" in *The SDA Bible Dictionary*.)

## Room Decorations

Create a simple indoor scene with table and chairs to represent the room where the disciples met and prayed together.

## Bulletin Board Ideas

Provide a map showing the places mentioned in Acts 2:9-11.

Show simple phrases in different languages.

The Holy Spirit is like . . . (Encourage the children to draw and add pictures of things that may help them understand how the Holy Spirit works, such as fire, different things that produce wind, the effects of wind, the Holy Spirit as a comforter.)

<h2>Program Overview</h2>			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>New Discoveries</i> B. <i>Back to Back</i> C. <i>A Friend Is . . .</i>	none paper, pencil old magazines, paper, scissors, glue, markers
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering  Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> box covered with words/pictures of people serving others <i>He Is Our Song</i> songbook
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse Bible Study	two drinking straws, adult Bible-times costume, adult male 21 pieces of paper, basket, Bibles Bibles
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>100% for Jesus</i>  B. <i>All of Me for Jesus</i>	chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker, list of body parts
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Share God's Love</i>	heart shapes (see p. 140), pencils/markers

**\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

# TEACHING THE LESSON

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### A. New Discoveries

Say: **Find someone wearing the same color as you to be your partner. You have three minutes to discover something you did not know about them. It may be something such as a pet, a hobby, or where their cousins live. Also, find out something they are thankful for this week.** Reverse the process after three minutes. Allow time for the children to share what they have learned.

#### Debriefing

Ask: **How easy was it to think of something to be thankful for? Why? Was it hard to find out something new about your partners? Why? When we have a special friend, we want to know all about them. We want others to get to know our friend as well. Jesus is our best friend, and He wants us to get to know Him better. Today’s message says:**



**JESUS’ FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

Say that with me.

#### You Need:

- paper
- pencil

### B. Back to Back

Give each child paper and pencil and ask them to find a partner. (Adults assist as needed.) Say: **Stand back to back with your partner. I am going to ask some questions about your partner. Don’t look at them while you write your answer.** Allow response time as you ask each question. **What color are your partner’s eyes? What color shoes are they wearing? What color clothing are they wearing today? What is the color of their hair? Now turn around and look at your partner.**

#### Debriefing

Ask: **How many did you get right? What was the hardest thing to remember? We see our friends every day, but sometimes we do not really notice them. Jesus wants to be our best friend. He notices everything about us. Let’s look at Luke 12:7. Allow time to find and read the verse aloud. Jesus even knows how many hairs we have on our head. Today’s message is:**



**JESUS’ FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

Say that with me.

### C. A Friend Is . . .

Say: **Look through the magazines and cut out pictures that show something**

about friendship. Glue the pictures on your paper to make a poster. You can write or draw other things on your poster.

### Debriefing

Have the children show their posters to the rest of the class. Ask: **What is good about having a friend? What do you like about your best friend? When you are friends with someone, you spend time getting to know them well. Being friends with Jesus means spending time with Him. Our message for today is:**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

Say that with me.

#### You Need:

- old magazines
- paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers

## Prayer and Praise



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



### Suggested Songs

- "Trust in the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 111)
- "Cross Over the Road" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131)
- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)



### Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize how the people in the story served God first, but also served the people with whom they came in contact.



### Offering

Say: **God asks us to serve Him in many different ways. One way is by bringing our gifts to Him. God is not interested in how much we give; He is interested in our willingness to give and to serve Him.**

#### You Need:

- box covered with words/pictures of people serving others



### Prayer

Ask the children for prayer requests. Then ask them to think of, and pray silently for, someone they can personally help this week. End the prayer by singing "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126).

#### You Need:

- *He Is Our Song* songbook

# 2

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- two straws of different lengths
- adult Bible-times costume
- adult male

### Experiencing the Story

**Character:** Peter

#### Setting the scene:

Invite a man to dress up as Peter and tell the story. As the story is told, have the children do the following:

<b>When they hear:</b>	<b>They do:</b>
<b>Jesus</b>	Point upward.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	Blow outward like the wind.

#### Read or tell the story.

My name is Peter. I am one of **Jesus'** disciples. I was with Him from the beginning when John baptized Him. The past three years with **Jesus** have been exciting, but I want to tell you about the past month and a half.

We came to Jerusalem with **Jesus** to celebrate the Passover. He tried to warn us that He was going to die, but we didn't listen. I can still feel the panic and the fear that made me run away from the garden when the soldiers arrested **Jesus**. If I close my eyes I can almost hear the crowds shouting, "Crucify Him!" Worst of all was the emptiness of the Sabbath after **Jesus** died. I felt awful. I had denied knowing Him. I was so sorry, but I didn't think I would ever be able to tell Him.

Then there was that incredible moment on the Sunday morning when the women came bursting into the upper room shouting, "**Jesus** is alive!" We found it hard to believe them. Then **Jesus** appeared to us.

During the past few weeks we have spent time with **Jesus** learning more about His plans. Again He explained the

prophecies and why He had to go to heaven. This time we listened to Him.

A few days ago we walked with **Jesus** to the Mount of Olives. He told us to wait in Jerusalem for the **Holy Spirit**. When the **Holy Spirit** comes, He will continue to guide us, helping us to understand more of God's Word. As **Jesus** went up to heaven, we watched until we could no longer see Him.

We were sad that **Jesus** was not with us, but this time it was different. We know that one day we will see Him again. The other disciples, other believers, and I have been meeting in a large room. We talk about the things **Jesus** taught us and pray together.

Earlier today there were about 120 in the room. I had been thinking about our special work to tell people about **Jesus'** great love for them, and how He came to save them from their sins. We had to spread the good news here in Jerusalem as well as Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

I said, "Judas is dead. We should choose someone to take his place."

Everyone thought that was a good idea, so I continued. "His replacement should be one of the men who was in our group during the whole time that we traveled about with the Lord."

I wanted to pick someone who had been with **Jesus** from the time John baptized Him until He was taken up into heaven, someone who knew **Jesus** and could tell people about His love and how He died just for them.

Two men were suggested: Joseph and Matthias. We prayed together: "Lord, You know the thoughts of everyone, so show us which of these two You have chosen to serve as an apostle in the place of Judas."

We drew lots [Have two straws of

different lengths. Ask two children to pick a straw to illustrate drawing lots,] and Matthias was chosen to replace Judas.

Now we are waiting for the **Holy Spirit**. When He comes, amazing things will happen. I know that will be soon. We are all eager for that day.

### Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think the disciples felt when they met Jesus after His resurrection?** (happy, excited, glad, joyful) **How well do you think they listened at that time as Jesus explained the prophecies concerning Himself?** (They listened attentively, eager to hear what He said.) **How did they feel when Jesus went to heaven?** (sad, but hopeful that they would see Him again)

**What special work did Jesus give the disciples?** (They were to spread the good news, to tell others about Him.)

**Why did Peter suggest selecting a new disciple?** (to be a witness for Jesus, to replace Judas) **What qualifications did they want the new disciple to have?** (He had to have been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry and know Him well.)

**Today Jesus' friends need to know Him well so they can tell others about Him. How do we get to know Him well?** Allow discussion time. This will be considered more carefully in the Bible Study section of this lesson. **Let's say today's message together:**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

### Memory Verse

In advance, write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece of paper and put the papers in a basket.

#### You Need:

- 21 pieces of paper
- basket
- Bibles

Have the children choose a piece of paper and, using the Bible, put the words in the right order. Repeat until the children know the verse. If you have a small group, the children may pick more than one piece of paper.

The memory verse is: **"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).**

### Bible Study

Have the children find and read aloud the text that follows each question. Adults assist as needed. Ask: **Why did Peter suggest that the disciples need a replacement for Judas?** Acts 1:18-20. **What qualifications were needed to be a disciple?** Acts 1:21, 22.

Form three groups. Give each group one of the following texts and ask them to read it and think of a way to illustrate it to the rest of the group. Say: **Let's discover what the Bible says about being a disciple.** Have adults help as needed. Allow time for reporting.

2 Timothy 2:15, 22-24

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Acts 2:38, 39

### Debriefing

Ask: **What do we need to do to be a disciple of Jesus?** Acts 2:38, 39. (Repent.)

**How can we get to know Jesus better?** 2 Timothy 2:15, 22-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (study our Bibles, pray, find out what is right and do it). **As we learn to know Jesus better, we will want to share the good news about Him. Let's say today's message together.**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

#### You Need:

- Bibles

# 3

## Applying the Lesson

**You Need:**

- chalkboard/whiteboard
- chalk/marker

### A. 100% for Jesus

Say: **Matthias was chosen to serve Jesus in a special way because he was already a friend of Jesus. He had followed Jesus since the beginning. We can follow Jesus too, and be His disciples and serve Him.** Ask the children to stand up. Teach them the following words and actions to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down” or another well-known tune.

**Words:**

Head and shoulders  
 knees and toes,  
 knees and toes,  
 knees and toes;  
 head and shoulders,  
 knees and toes;  
 all

**Actions:**

Point to parts of body.  
 Spread arms in a big circle.  
 Point to yourself.  
 Place wrists about an inch apart and touch the palm of your right hand with the middle finger of your left hand, then touch the palm of your left hand with the middle finger of your right hand.

of me  
 for Jesus.

**Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **Is it enough to give only part of yourself to Jesus? Why?** (Jesus gave everything for us.)

**How can we use our bodies to serve Jesus?** Allow discussion time.

Ask the children to think of and tell you ways they can use different body parts to serve Jesus (examples: head, hands, feet, mouth, etc.). As they tell you, make a list to use in the Sharing the Lesson activity.

**There are many ways we can serve Jesus. When we get to know Him well, we want to serve Him and help others to learn to know Him. Let's say our message together:**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

### B. All of Me for Jesus

List some body parts where all may see (hands, feet, arms, eyes, mouth, ears, brain, knees, etc.).

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group the name of a body part. Ask them to think of ways children can serve Jesus with the body part they were given.

Allow time for each group to report to the whole group. List all the ways they can serve Jesus. Save the list for the next activity.

**Debriefing**

Say: **We serve Jesus when we are kind and helpful to the people around us. When Jesus is our best friend, we want to serve Him and help others to get to know Him too. Let's say today's message together again:**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

**You Need:**

- chalkboard/whiteboard
- chalk/marker
- list of body parts

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### Share God's Love

Give each child a heart shape (see p. 140). Review the list of suggestions for serving God made during Applying the Lesson.

Ask: **What was so special about being a disciple?** (A disciple was someone who knew Jesus and could tell others about Him.) **Can we be Jesus' disciples today? How?** (by following Jesus' example)

**How did Jesus treat people when He lived on the earth?** (He served them and met their needs.)

**On one side of your paper heart, write: "God loves you." Then think of someone you can help. On the other side of the heart, write something you can do for that person. For example: weed the garden, look after little sister/brother.** Allow time.

Say: **Divide into pairs. Share with**

**your partner. Tell them whom you will give your heart to, and how you are going to serve that person.**

### Debriefing

Ask for volunteers to tell the group to whom they will give their heart, and how they can serve that person.

Say: **When we do things with our friends, we get to know them better. When we follow Jesus' example and serve others, we get to know Jesus better and can help others learn to know Him too. Let's say today's message:**



**JESUS' FRIENDS KNOW HIM WELL.**

### Closing

Ask the children to stand in a circle and hold their hearts out in front of them. Pray that God will bless the children as they serve others this week.

#### You Need:

- heart shapes (see p. 140)
- pencils/markers

## A New Disciple

### References

Acts 1; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 829-835;  
*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 25-34

### Memory Verse

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

### The Message

Jesus' friends know Him well.

*Have you ever lost a friend? Perhaps this was a close friend who decided to be mean and hurtful. A long time ago one of Jesus' disciples chose to betray Jesus. Because of that choice, Jesus' other disciples and friends chose someone to take that disciple's place. Let's find out who was chosen.*

So much had happened in the past six weeks. The disciples could still feel the panic and taste the fear. They had run away from the garden when the soldiers arrested Jesus. And they had seen Him die. When they closed their eyes they could almost hear the crowds shouting, "Crucify Him!"

They would never forget the emptiness after Jesus died. Visitors to Jerusalem came looking for Jesus only to be told that He had been crucified. Everyone felt numb.

On Sunday morning, the light of hope had begun to shine again. The women came bursting into the upper room and shouted, "Jesus is alive!" It



seemed so incredible. At first they could not believe the good news. Then Jesus had appeared to them.

During the past few weeks they had spent time together listening and learning more about the Master. A few days ago they had walked with Jesus to the Mount of Olives. There He gave them another promise. "Wait in Jerusalem until I send the Holy Spirit to you. He will guide you and comfort you."

Then they had watched Jesus rise up into the air. They had stared into the sky, trying to see Him one last time.

Every day after that the disciples and other believers met in a large room. They talked about the things Jesus had taught them and prayed together.

One day about 120 believers were gathered there. Peter stood up. Everyone was quiet as he began to speak. He reminded them about the work Jesus had given them. "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem," Jesus had said, "and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV). "Tell the people that I love them. Tell them that I came to save them from their sins." Yes, it was time to spread the good news throughout the world.

"Judas is no longer with us," continued Peter. "We should choose someone to take his place."

Peter went on. "The person we choose must be one who traveled with Jesus the whole time He was with us."

Peter wanted someone who had followed Jesus since John had baptized Him, someone who knew that Jesus had been taken up again into heaven. Someone who could tell people about Jesus' love, and how He died just for them.

The others in the room agreed. Soon two suggestions were made: a man called Joseph and another called Matthias. It was a difficult decision. They prayed together: "Lord, You know the thoughts of every-

one. Show us which of these two You have chosen. Who will serve in place of Judas?"

In those days it was the custom to draw lots. One way was to use two sticks, one long and one short, to decide how to go forward. We do not know which method they used, but Matthias was chosen to replace Judas. From that day on, Matthias would serve with the other disciples. He would tell the world about Jesus and His love for all.

Today, Jesus still needs disciples to follow Him—people who know Him and will serve Him. People who will tell others about His love, and how He came to save them.

Will you tell others about Jesus?

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- Jesus walked to a small hill with His disciples before He ascended to heaven. If possible, go for a walk with your family up a small hill. Look at the different cloud formations. Do the shapes remind you of anything?
- Write each word of the memory verse on a piece of paper. Put the paper in a container and shake well. Tip out the words and put them in the right order. If necessary, use your Bible. Thank God that we have the promise of going to heaven to live with Him.

### Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Acts 1:1-11. Find Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria on a Bible map. Where else did Jesus tell the disciples to witness about Him?
- Draw 11 circles. (Draw around a coin.) Draw the faces of the disciples as they watched Jesus going to heaven.
- The Mount of Olives is 2,700 feet high (about 820 meters). Can you find a place near you that is about the same height?
- Thank God that He sent Jesus, and that Jesus is coming back soon.
- Review your memory verse every day.

### Monday

- During family worship today, read and discuss Acts 1:12-26.
- Read Matthew 27:7, 8 to discover what happened to the money the priests paid to Judas. Judas chose not to serve God. What have you decided?
- Ask God to help you find ways to serve Him.

### Tuesday

- Read and discuss Matthew 4:18, 19 with your family. What did Jesus tell His new friends they would do? Talk about ideas for a family project to serve others. Start planning how to put it into action. Ask God to bless your project.
- Sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 135) before prayer.

### Wednesday

- For family worship today read and discuss Luke 24:36-53. The disciples praised God. Ask your family: How many blessings can you think of?
- Ask an adult to tell you about a way they serve God.
- Thank God for His blessings.

### Thursday

- With your family read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What should we do as friends of Jesus?
- A disciple is one who follows a leader. Play "Follow the Leader" and think what it means to be a follower. Whom do you choose to follow?
- Make a plan for a "Secret Service" project. Do something nice for someone in your family. Don't tell anyone, but leave a note that says, "Jesus loves you, and so do I." Ask God to bless your secret service project.

### Friday

- For worship today, review and discuss Acts 1 with your family. Act out the different parts of the story.
- Help your family get ready for Sabbath.
- Sing some praise songs, say your memory verse for your family, then ask God to be with you on His special day tomorrow.