



# SESSION #1

LUKE 6:12-19

LEADER GUIDE

**BIG IDEA: JOINING OTHERS TO FOLLOW CHRIST**

## Group Time:

- Have people pair up and introduce one another with questions like your name, best memory from the summer, what's been your vocation, what do you do for play, and how long have you been attending The Chapel?
- What are your expectations/hopes for this group?
- Opening questions/comments about the sermon? Any new thoughts? Any lingering questions?

## Bible Time: Begin by reading the text out loud as a group.

- **Read:** 6:12-13—*“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 as apostles.”*
- **Ask:** Why did the disciples follow Jesus? What attracted you to Jesus? (Again, just have a few people share for the sake of time).
- **Leader Note:** This designation by Jesus highlights an important distinction between a disciple and an apostle; this distinction relates to the function of each name. The functions of a disciple are to learn like a student and follow the teachings of a ‘teacher/master.’ On the other hand, the function of an apostle is to serve as one who is sent to proclaim—in essence, to represent. There was special authority and responsibility given by Jesus to the twelve Apostles to authoritatively go forth and proclaim the good news of the Gospel. A similar sort of authority was extended to all of us in Matthew 28:18-20.
- **Ask:** What is the difference between a disciple and apostle? Who is a person that modeled discipleship for you?
- **Read:** 6:14-16—*“Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.”*
- **Leader Note:** Notice the description that follows some of the names; sometimes there is a reference to the character of the apostle, to the interests of an apostle, or merely a family tie. After Simon, there is Peter (meaning Rock), which is the new name that Jesus gave to him that refers to his leadership, and after the other Simon (no relation) there is the description *“who was called the Zealot,”* which refers to his nationalist political leanings. The disciples are a mix of people who have many differences with each other, and yet put those aside to follow Christ.



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- **Ask:** What do you notice from this list of 12 disciples—what sorts of people? What sort of description would you attach to your name? Why?
- **Read:** 6:17—*“He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon,”*
- **Leader Note:** We notice in this verse three distinct groups of people that came to Jesus. First, there were the twelve newly appointed apostles. Second, there was a large group of his disciples. Third, there were many other people from all over the area. The naming of Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon, indicates the wide variety of people drawn to Jesus, as well as the increasing interest and popularity of Jesus. The first two groups are believers, while the third group is merely interested and intrigued in this Jesus figure—they are not necessarily believers. We see the mix again of different people. Try to push your group to see that following Christ entails interacting with those who are different. We are called to live and follow after Christ with people who are different. It is not our differences that matter—whatever they may be—but the similarity we have in Christ.
- **Ask:** What sort of different people were in this crowd following Jesus? What sort of differences are in our group of people following Jesus? What is our stance towards people that are different from us?
- **Read:** 6:18-19—*“who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.”*
- **Ask:** What unifies all the different people? What could unify this group and what unifies us with others that are different from us?
- **Say:** There are two things that unify these different groups and individuals from these verses: Jesus’ teaching and power. We see that people came to Jesus to hear him and to be healed through his power; in fact, *“power was coming from him [Jesus].”* Our differences are not near as important as the similarity we have in Jesus Christ (Read Galatians 3:28 to give them food for thought). I am sure Simon Peter probably had differences with Simon the Zealot. They probably did not see eye-to-eye on many issues. But how did they respond? What was more important to them—their small differences or their huge similarity? Could it just be fact that following Christ entails putting aside our petty differences for the greater cause of Christ?
- **Ask:** How can we put aside our differences for the sake of Christ?



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## Group Time:

- **Closing:** Pray as a group. For the first time, ask for requests (perhaps record them to follow up for next time), and have one person pray for the requests, another pray for the teachings from this session, and another pray for the fellowship and unity of this group, and end praying the Lord's Prayer out loud as a group.