

Year 3&4 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 3 units of work - Christianity - Jesus' disciples





Lesson 6 Jesus' disciples

The big picture

This lesson looks at the calling of Jesus' disciples. Although Hollywood films make much of the big crowd scenes in Jesus' ministry, the Bible makes it clear that most of his time was spent with individuals, teaching and training them to do God's work. It was 11 of the 12 disciples, rather than Jesus himself, who went on to establish Christianity as a world faith.

This lesson gives information about the disciples and an opportunity for people to learn from these stories, considering what the qualities of friendship are and to what extent they can identify these qualities in themselves and others.

Learning objective

- To understand that Jesus called on his disciples to accompany him in his work and to learn from him.

Success Criteria

Learning about

- Pupils will know the names of the disciples Jesus called to follow him, and the circumstances in which some of them were called.

Learning from

- Pupils will consider the qualities needed in friends and reflect on whether they have those qualities themselves.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2, B2, C1

Resources

- **Resource sheet 7:** 'Jesus chooses his friends'
- Writing materials

Vocabulary

Calling, disciple, follower

Key questions ?

*How and why did Jesus choose his friends?
What might be the reasons for a Christian being a follower of Jesus?*

Introduction

Talk to the class about how they met their friends. Did they just meet them? Did they meet them through their families? Did they start school with them? Discuss how we end up with the friends we have and, in particular, whether we always think our friends are going to be our friends. Give illustrations from your own experience of how you don't always recognise the qualities of others straight away.

Share the learning objective: 'In this lesson, we are going to learn about the friends Jesus chose to help him in his work, and think about why he might have chosen the ones he did.'

Activities

Stimulus

Tell the class that you are going to ask them to take themselves to a brand new situation. Help them to imagine a scenario where they move to a completely new place and leave all their friends behind. Some people might already have been in this position if they have moved to the school or even the country. Ask them to consider, if they were in this position, how would they choose their friends?

Draw a stick figure on the board and ask people to discuss the qualities they would look for in their friends. Ask for feedback from the class and write the desirable qualities around the stick figure. A copy could be made for people to stick into their books later or, if time permits, they could personalise the exercise in their RE books.

Explain that Christians believe that Jesus chose some special friends to help him with the work he believed God had given him. These are known as the disciples. A disciple is more than a friend, it is a learner. A disciple does not only follow someone they think is good, but someone who they think can help them to be good too.

Read through the story of how Jesus' disciples were chosen on resource sheet 7.

Response

After reading and discussing the story, lead the class into a discussion about the qualities that these disciples must have had. Use this discussion as the basis for writing an acrostic for the word, 'disciple', with each line giving a quality of friendship or any other attributes that have been discussed. Model some lines for the beginning and then encourage people to continue the poems for themselves.

Plenary

Pick some letters from the word 'disciple' and ask people to share the lines they came up with for that letter. As they make their suggestions, ask people to comment on whether they exhibit that quality themselves or have a friend who does.

After time to think, people could copy and complete the following sentence:

- 'Looking at this today, I have been thinking about...'

Differentiation

(By modelling) some people could copy and complete the class response with individual responses scribed for them.

(By grouping) a small group could be kept with an adult, generating a group response which could be copied and/or illustrated to make it individual.

Extension

More able people could complete the task in the manner suggested, but increasing the amount of comment or opinion in their work.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Jesus chooses his friends

When he came out of the desert, Jesus knew it was time to start the work that God had given him. He did not want to do this alone and he wanted to share what he knew about God with people who would listen to him.

Jesus met his first two disciples on the Sea of Galilee. They were fishermen called Simon Peter and Andrew, and they were brothers. Jesus asked them to go with him to be his disciples. They set off at once. Later, Simon Peter was to become the leader of the disciples.

James and John were brothers and fishermen too. They were sitting in their boat when Jesus asked them to be disciples. At once, they climbed out of their boat, left their nets behind and went with Jesus.

Matthew was Jesus' next disciple. He collected taxes for the Romans. This made him very rich, but everyone hated him. Many people were surprised when he became a disciple, but Christians believe it is not the kind of person you have been that is important to God, but the kind of person you want to be.

Jesus chose 12 disciples in all. They gave up everything to be with Jesus. They went everywhere with him for the next three years. After Jesus had gone back to Heaven, the disciples told everyone about him and went on to lead the church around the world.

The stories can be found in the Bible, Matthew 4: 18–22; 9: 9–13; 10: 1–4.