

# Micah - the Poet, the Preacher, the Prophet

GRADE 6, LESSON 8

Micah's poetic writing shows us an intense 'courtroom scene' between God, Israel, and himself. It features gigantic inanimate witnesses, sarcastic biting tempers, and a shining chance of redemption. Stay tuned to find out more!

## Micah 6:1-8 (NRSV)



<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?



### MEMORY VERSE:

#### Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Funny fact: the rock above the memory verse has flecks of MICA in it!

## Introduction

Micah- what do you know about him? Did you know that he was a native of the land, Moreshath, or that his full name was Miciah, which meant, “Who is like Jehovah?” Micah, much like his name, likes questions. He asks a lot of questions as we read his poetry. It gets a bit more challenging when you remember that Micah is also a Prophet, and spoke in a poetic style as a way to tell us important facts of life! Let’s take a closer look and see what answers we can find.

*Discuss: What did you understand from reading Micah 6:1-8? Who are the different narrators? To whom are the narrators speaking to?*

## Bible Exploration

Micah 6:1-2 begins with the voice of the Prophet Micah asking the people of Israel (his community) to pay attention to God, and to the mistakes they are making in being His Chosen People! He asks that the mountains and foundations of the Earth (creations of God) to be witnesses to the situation, much like a courtroom!

Micah 6:3-5 switches to God’s voice. Here, God lists the many blessings He gave to His people. Freedom from slavery, victory over evil, the blessings of powerful leaders - all of these things, and more! God continued to be kind to His people, and in return, He received nothing - no thanks, no honor, no worship. God asks us the reader just how He has ‘wearied’ us, to make us not show Him the respect and love He deserves. Ouch!

Micah 6:6-7 switches to a nameless person of Israel answering God’s questions. Verse 6 starts off harmlessly enough: the nameless person asks if God would be pleased with sacrifices, like the type that Abraham gave on his journeys. Verse 7, however, becomes exaggerated and mocking! Maybe the nameless person meant to point blame at God. Why? Do you remember— God requested the sacrifice of a famous Old Testament baby as a way to test Abraham’s loyalty. (Can you name him? Check out Gen 22.) Whatever the case, this attitude was totally uncalled for, and Micah immediately puts this person in their place!

In Micah 6:8, the bold prophet answers the questions posed by the nameless person: what does the Lord expect of us? Micah’s answer is clear: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Let’s break it down:

### 1. Act Justly

Jesus is the best example of doing what is right which can be seen in the story where Jesus heals the man with the withered hand. (Mark 3:1-6) During the time of Jesus, the Sabbath was considered the day of ‘rest’, and medical assistance could not be given to anyone- except in matters of life and death.

As Jesus entered the synagogue, He saw a man with a withered hand. Jesus spoke directly to the Pharisees (who were watching Him), saying, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save your life or kill?” Jesus then healed the man’s withered hand, deliberately going against the wishes of the Pharisees, who valued Law above what was right. By healing, Jesus made it clear that doing ‘good’ was more important than any Law!

### 2. Love Kindness

Jesus is again another great example of how to love and appreciate kindness. Remember the story of when a group of friends tried bringing their paralyzed buddy to see Jesus, and were so determined that they lowered him through the roof of a house? (Mark 2:1-12) Well- Jesus was so touched by the faith and kindness of these friends, that He forgave the sins of the paralyzed man! Later, Jesus healed the man physically so that he was able to walk, but because Jesus loved and appreciated the kindness of friends, he was willing to heal this paralyzed man where he needed it most - his soul.

#### Vocabulary

Controversy: A long disagreement, often done in public.

Wearied: Past tense of ‘weary’; tired.

Transgression: something that goes against a rule; a sin.

Justice: Moral rightness; the quality of being fair.

Humble: Modest or meek in spirit; not proud or bold.

### 3. Walk Humbly

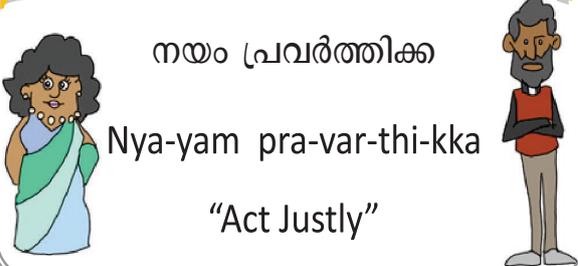
Think of the kind of person Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount as being “blessed.” (Matt 5:3-12). Here’s a hint - it’s commonly referred to as the ‘Beatitudes’. The truly ‘blessed’ person, according to Jesus, includes the “poor in spirit,” “the meek,” “the merciful,” “peacemakers,” “pure in heart,” and so on. Only humble-minded individuals would even think of having these qualities! It’s tough to be humble, especially when we see so many others proudly showing

## Learn Malayalam

നയം പ്രവർത്തിക്ക

Nya-yam pra-var-thi-kka

“Act Justly”



**Fun Fact:** Micah is the prophet that foretold the birthplace of our Savior 500+ years before it happened! See Micah 5:2!

Using the Bible passage as a reference, fill out the chart below

The three characteristics (as listed by Micah), and defined by you!	What would this characteristic look like in real life?	If you were in a situation like what you just wrote in column 2, what would you say to follow Micah's rules?

## Let's Review!

Closing Prayer:

*Lord God, we thank You for Your gifts that You have given to us. Please help us to use the teachings of Micah and Jesus in our lives, and to positively help those around us by acting justly, with loving kindness, and walking humbly. Amen.*

### Fill in the blanks

- Micah calls the \_\_\_\_\_ and the foundations of the \_\_\_\_\_ to be witnesses to the problems Micah and God see with Israel.
- God lists a sibling trio that helped lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Their names are: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Short Answers

- What are the three characteristics that God requires us to have?
- Is it easy to act like this in real life? Why or why not?

## Values for My Life

Acting justly, while demonstrating kindness and yet remaining humble... sometimes it feels like we need superhero-like skills to be able to maintain all of these attributes! But God gave this assignment to us "mortals". So roll up your sleeves, get out into the world, and start showing others what sort of people Micah is challenging us to be!

## Faith in Action

I will live a life filled with justice, kindness, and humbleness, as stated by Micah and demonstrated by Jesus.

# Judge Deborah

## Fighting bad guys since before 1000 BCE

GRADE 6, LESSON 9

### Judges 4: 1-10, 12-16 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup> So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the

commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup> Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

<sup>6</sup> At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup> She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

<sup>8</sup> She sent and summoned Barak son of Abino-am from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup> I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

<sup>12</sup> Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." <sup>9</sup> And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup> Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

After generations of freedom in the Promised Land, the Israelites have once again managed to get themselves enslaved under an evil king. Who can come and save the day now? Who is brave and noble enough to be the Mouthpiece of God, bringing justice for God's Chosen People? Is it a hardened warrior? Perhaps a gigantic army? No, it's...it's...a woman?!

<sup>12</sup> When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abi-noam had gone up to Mount Tabor, <sup>13</sup> Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon. <sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day on which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. The Lord is indeed going out before you." So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. <sup>15</sup> And the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, <sup>16</sup> while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one was left.

#### MEMORY VERSE:

#### Proverbs 31:30 (NRSV)

*Charm is deceitful,*

*and beauty is vain,*

*but a woman who fears the LORD*

*is to be praised.*

These Israelites—how many times can they fall away from God? We’ve seen them return to their sinful ways before, but this time it has earned them twenty years of oppression under King Jabin. But when God hears His people’s cries, God listens and responds. This time, God uses a woman, Judge Deborah, to impart some wisdom to a warrior named Barak and plan an attack on the king’s army. So how wise was this woman you ask?

## Bible Exploration

**Discuss:** *What does the role of a Judge entail? Why do you think it would be such a big deal to have a female judge or war commander back then (and still possibly today)*

Deborah is the only female Judge listed in the Bible, which should tell us something about her strength of character. Also a prophetess, Deborah settled disputes and spoke wisely to the people under a palm tree located between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands. Barak, on the other hand, was a warrior and in charge of the 10,000 men. It usually would make more sense for God to approach him, right? But it was Deborah who was selected to speak on behalf of God, passing the message to Barak to assemble his army in order to defeat Sisera. And then, when Barak hesitated to take the lead, it was Deborah who obeyed God and stepped up to the plate to become the army leader. Deborah demonstrated a few key elements that we keep seeing in those who follow after God’s heart:

### Vocabulary

**Deceitful**—not honest, making or trying to make someone believe something that is not true.

**Wadi**—a valley or channel that is dry except in the rainy season

**Prophet/Prophetess**—a person who proclaims the will of God

**Judge**—individuals chosen by God to pass judgment and to rescue the Israelites from the enemies

**Oppression**—the act of suppressing by cruelty and force

**Integrity**— the quality of being honest and fair

JUDGE  
DEBORAH

**Fun Fact:** What’s so amazing about 900 chariots of iron, besides them being mentioned 6 times in the Bible portion?

1. **Faith/Trust**—Deborah is a great example of someone with strong faith. Barak was not quite so ready to trust in the word of God. However, he trusted Deborah, and clearly had faith in her presence on the battlefield. Because of Barak’s lack of trust, he was not given the opportunity to defeat Sisera with his own two hands; instead the victory went to Deborah.
2. **Obedience**—Imagine if Deborah didn’t obey God? Perhaps all of Israel’s history, and by extension, the history of the world, would have been altered! Not only did she set a fine example of a woman of faith, but Deborah fulfilled the job that was given to her, and was willing to take up the leadership when others (Barak) panicked.
3. **Honor**—Due to the defeat of King Jabin and army leader Sisera, Deborah was able to restore integrity back into the Israelites’ lives. We should strive to help and serve others the same way and understand God’s calling for us in our lives. We too have opportunities to restore people who have lost hope.

**Not So Fun Fact:** Wanna know what happens to Sisera at the end of our bible reading? It isn’t too pretty - think ‘tent stake through the head’. Read Judges 4:21 for more (Ouch!)

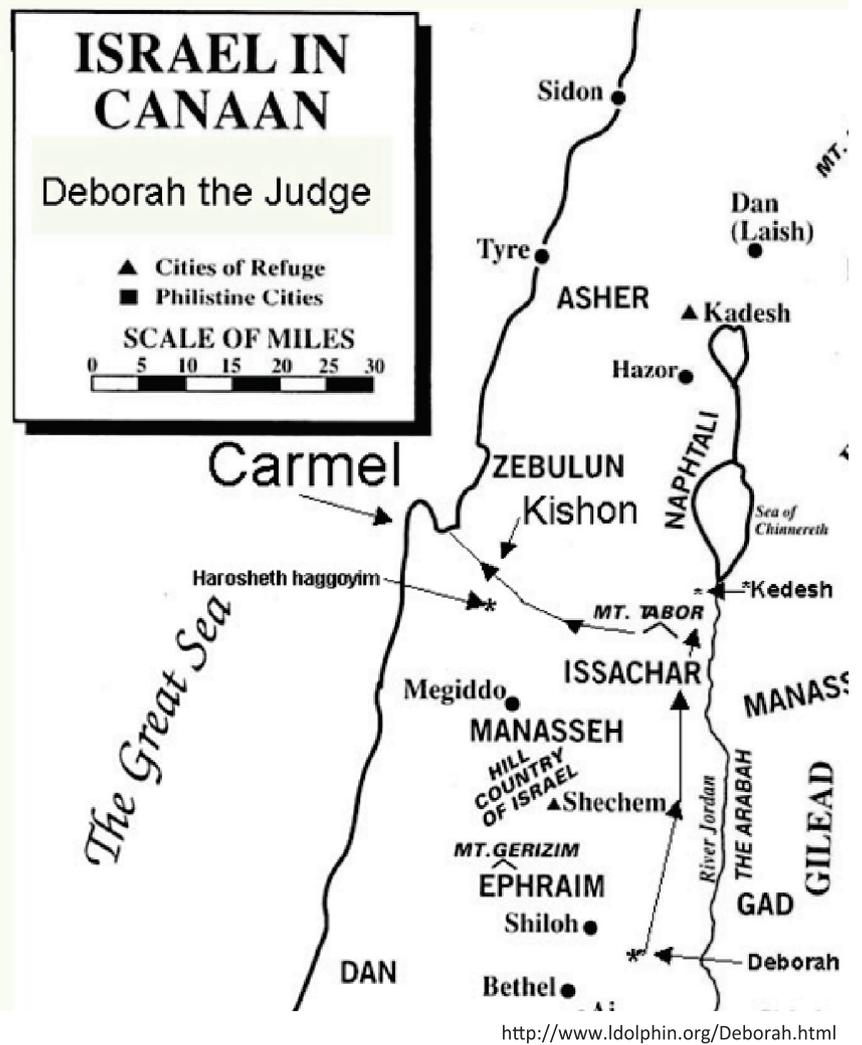
**Map it out!**

This lesson involves a lot of traveling. Let's see how your geographical skills are!

1. In the map to the right, locate each of the places described in the Bible portion. (Highlighting these will help)
2. Use a small ruler and the given scale to measure the distance between each place. Write this information on the space below (Round to the nearest labeled number on the ruler—so if it looks like 13 miles, round up to 15 miles)
3. Use your math skills to calculate how many hours it would take for our Bible characters to travel!

Let's assume that they traveled around 2 miles an hour. (Sure, that might feel mighty slow, but pretend that you were lugging along a caravan, with all of your belongings, enough food and water for you, your fellow travelers, and your animals—that's 1-2 gallons of water per human, per day! Oh, and it's about 100 degrees F in the desert, there are no Fast Food Rest Areas along the way, and no wheels on your luggage).

4. **Bonus**—a caravan probably could travel only 8 hours in a day. If your calculations prove that travel took longer than a day, then list.



<http://www.Idolphin.org/Deborah.html>

Barak traveled from **Kedesh (or Kadesh)** to the **Palm of Deborah** (verse 6)

Miles:   85   Time to Travel:           

Deborah and Barak travel from **Palm of Deborah** to **Kedesh** (verse 9)

Miles:   85   Time to Travel:           

Deborah, Barak, and their Warriors travel from **Kedesh** to **Mount Tabor** (verse 12)

Miles:   50   Time to Travel:           

Sisera and his Chariots and troops travel from **Harosheth-ha-goim** to **Kishon** (verse 13)

Miles:   10   Time to Travel:           

Deborah, Barak, and their warriors travel from **Mount Tabor** to **Kishon** (verse 14)

Miles:   25   Time to Travel:           

Deborah, Barak, and their warriors pursue Sisera from **Kishon** to **Harosheth ha-goim** (verse 16)

Miles:   10   Time to Travel:

## Values for My Life

Today, we can see God responding to us in incredible ways. He's able to use people through the talents they're given. Just like Deborah, our talents can be used in many ways to help others and share God's love. When her people were in need, she listened to God and helped deliver them from oppression. On top of that, Deborah's actions earned Israel another 40 years of peace! We can do good things for others too, with lasting benefits for many. Simply use what talents God has given you and see what amazing things He can do for those in need.

## Faith in Action

I will choose to use my talents for the good of those in need and for the glory of God. God can do amazing things through anyone who listens and obeys.

### Closing Prayer

*Dear Lord, Thank you for hearing us during our times of struggle. Just as Deborah trusted, listened and obeyed, we ask that You help us to follow her lead in all of our life situations. Amen.*

## Let's Review!

### Fill in the blanks

1. The Lord gave the Israelites over to King Jabin of \_\_\_\_\_, who reigned in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Sisera had \_\_\_\_\_ chariots and oppressed Israelites cruelly for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. Sisera's chariots were made of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Short Answer:

1. How did God help Barak and Israelites defeat Sisera and his army?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain how Deborah served God as a prophetess and judge.

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# King Solomon the Wise

GRADE 6, LESSON 10

## 1 Kings 3: 3-15 (NRSV)

<sup>3</sup> Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. <sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the

LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

<sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup> I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. <sup>14</sup> If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

<sup>15</sup> Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

Let's say you spent your entire morning and afternoon, traveling through dusty, dirt-ridden country, to get to the best temple of worship. Exhausted, you gladly make your offering to God, and shortly after, fall asleep. In your dreams, you are visited by God, whom you had traveled all this way to pay respects to.

Let's say God asks you, "What would you want, more than anything in the world?" Take a moment, and think about that one... then take a look at what Solomon decided to do, when the same question was posed to him!

MEMORY VERSE:

**James 1: 5 (NRSV)**

*If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.*

**Introduction**

Most people would jump at the chance to change their life, and become a King (or Queen). Solomon was just a kid when his father, David, passed away, leaving the crown to the growing prince. It might sound like a dream come true, but think about it: his own father, gone. Entire lives of people will now depend on the rules you make. That’s a tough responsibility for anyone, especially someone without any mentors to guide them! But, Solomon isn’t a dumb kid... unlike most others, like in our fictional story below.

**Discuss:**  
*Why do you think Solomon’s response to God in 1 Kings 3:10 pleased him?*

*What do you think Solomon’s answer could have been had it been focused on Himself?*

**Bible Exploration**

What do you think wisdom means? There are two kinds of wisdom, a human wisdom and God’s wisdom. We think wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_.

God’s wisdom is to know God and to lead a life in accordance to His Word.

King David knew that his son Solomon would be Israel’s next king. Before he died, David told Solomon what to do when he became king. [Read 1 Chronicles 28:109]

Being King is not an easy job, in fact, it’s a huge responsibility. Making decisions to make people happy needs some serious wisdom. We all know that everyone will not be happy with decisions that are made on our behalf.

You and I will most likely never be a king as Solomon was, however, as a believer, the work Jesus has called us to do is just as important.

We need wisdom to live a life that pleases God so we can lead others to Jesus.

**Vocabulary**

**Statutes**—Law that is followed by a governing body. In this lesson, the laws that were created by King David, Solomon’s father.

**Commandment**—a rule that God expects us to follow

**Ark**—a chest containing the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were inscribed

**Activity: MAD LIBS!**

**Instruction #1:** As a class, randomly select words that match each description. (No reading ahead through the story!)

Food 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Noun : \_\_\_\_\_ Noun : \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Verb : \_\_\_\_\_ Food 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Food 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Place : \_\_\_\_\_

Verb (“Ing”): \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Noun Plural 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Animal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fun Fact:** Solomon is renowned for his wisdom in the Old Testament. Check out Proverbs for some of his secrets. Maybe, like Solomon’s friends were hoping, some of his wisdom will rub off on you.

**Instruction #2:** Solomon has just finished giving his offering to God in verse 15, and is preparing the feast for his servants and friends. His closest childhood buddies stop by, and are curious what the festivities are about. Your job: fill in Solomon’s story correctly, and fill in the “buddies” responses, as you listed them in Instruction #1!

Friend 1: Hey, what’s going on King Solomon?

Friend 2: Yeah, what’s literally cooking? ::Sniff Sniff:: Is that \_\_\_\_\_ I see grilling over there?

**FOOD 1**

Solomon: Friends! Listen, guys--

Friends 3 and 4: Heyyy...

Solomon: Sorry, and ladies! You won’t believe what happened last night!

Friend 2: Oh yes, we can. You clearly didn’t sleep well. Was it the \_\_\_\_\_ moon that kept you awake?

**COLOR**

Solomon: No, no, it wa-

Friend 1: Or maybe it was some indigestion from eating that \_\_\_\_\_. Sorry for daring you, it must’ve made you feel like \_\_\_\_\_.

**FOOD 2**

**VERB (ING)**

Solomon: A dream! I had a dream!

Friend 4: Oooh! I love dreams! Tell me, was there a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_? Those always pop up in my dreams!

**SIZE**

**COLOR**

**ANIMAL 1**

Solomon: No, what type of King would I be if I dreamed of something like that?

Friend 2: A \_\_\_\_\_ king.

**ADJECTIVE**

Solomon: ANYWAY, I was sleeping at Gibeon, because I wanted to offer a sacrifice to God. When I fell asleep, God spoke to me in my dreams, saying, “Ask what I shall give you?”

Friend 1: You had a chance to ask for anything?! I hope you asked for a \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOUN**

Friend 3: What’s that? No, no, you should have asked for the ability to \_\_\_\_\_.

**VERB**

Friend 2: Of course, what any young ruler would ask for: a trip to \_\_\_\_\_! That, or a ton of wealth.

**PLACE**

Friend 1: Yeah, money, definitely the way to go. Wait! What about a long life? Live another \_\_\_\_\_ years or so.

**NUMBER**

Friend 2: That, and power over your enemies! There are tons of those \_\_\_\_\_ around.

**NOUN PLURAL 2**

Friend 4: I would have asked for a pet \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANIMAL 2**

Friend 3: Wait, everyone... King Solomon, what DID you say to God in response?

**Solomon:** Well... I first thanked God for taking care of my Dad, David , while he was King. And now that I'm King, even though I'm only a kid, I have been given a responsibility to govern the people of Israel. So, in the end, I asked for wisdom, which would help me discern between Good and Evil.

**Friend 4:** Wow... obviously this is why God appeared to you, and offered you this magnificent gift! But asking for that, as opposed to other options... that's pretty crazy for someone as young as us to be thinking that way!

**Friend 3:** King Solomon, was God pleased with your wish? Did He grant it?

**Solomon:** God told me that because I did not ask for long life or riches, or for the life of my enemies, God would bless me with a wise mind.

**Friend 4:** SEE? Solomon was wise to not ask for those other ideas! It shows that Solomon wasn't selfish, or thinking about himself. Instead, his first thought was for the responsibility towards his people!

**Friend 2:** Wish I were as selfless as you. I don't know if I could make that decision! Was there anything else to the dream?

**Solomon:** God also blessed me with both riches and honor all my life. And, that if I followed God's commandments, then my life would also be lengthened

**Friend 1:** Wow. Solomon, we--

**Friend 3:** Your friends—

**Friend 2:** Could not think of a better leader to receive this gift.

**Friend 4:** God deserves all glory, for giving our best friend and best leader with such a gift. Its good you didn't ask for a

\_\_\_\_\_.

**ADJECTIVE 2**

**NOUN**

**Friend 1:** Maybe some of those blessings will rub off on us, like the wealth, long life--

**Friend 3:** Or maybe the selflessness...

**Friend 2:** C'mon, let's go help out with the feast and the offerings. I think I smell roasting \_\_\_\_\_!

**FOOD 3**

**Friend 4:** What?!?

## Values for My Life

In reality, Solomon was setting quite an amazing example for us kids today. Think about it - if you were King of Israel, and you were granted a wish, what would it be? For Solomon, it was a no brainer; his responsibility was about the Israelites, and he wasn't afraid of using any gifts given to him to help his people out.

In today's life, when we are offered a choice, do we always select wisely? The easiest way to navigate ourselves through the various temptations and lures is to have a personal coach, one that will live within you always: God! Solomon chose his words and choices wisely when he communicated with God; one thing we should learn from him is the humility, or the humbleness, with which he asked God for granting him Wisdom and nothing else. It's not easy, but with the Bible in our head and God in our hearts, we are sure to go far!

## Faith in Action

I will choose to seek from God an understanding mind, just like the choice of Solomon, so that I can always aid my family and friends and do what is good in the sight of Lord.

## Let's Review!

### Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ loved the Lord walking in the statutes of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Lord appeared to Solomon in the place called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. King Solomon asked God to give him \_\_\_\_\_.

### Short Answers

1. Explain the reason why King Solomon asked God to grant him wisdom.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are the other gifts/things that God showered upon Solomon? Why did he do this?

### Closing Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for teaching us about humbleness and restraint through Solomon. Grant us the wisdom to learn Your will in everything that we do, and to make every day choices that are acceptable in Your sight. In Your name we ask, Amen.*

# Into the DEN

GRADE 6, LESSON 11

## Daniel 6: 10-24 (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup> The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup> Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.”

<sup>14</sup> When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his pal-

Daniel’s dependability and high spirits helped him rise through the ranks from an officer to soon oversee the kingdom for the king. However, before that arrangement came to be, his jealous co-officers hatched a plan: knowing that Daniel was faithful in praying to the one true God; they wanted to catch him in the act for the law said whoever prays to any other god but the king will be thrown into the lion’s den. Not even the king could’ve stopped Daniel from being tossed into a pit with the lions. But there is one person who stopped the lions from harming Daniel and that was God himself!

ace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

<sup>19</sup> Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup> Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” <sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup> The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.



MEMORY VERSE:

**Daniel 6: 26 (NRSV)**

*For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end.*

**Introduction**

Imagine one day your life was going well and you're expecting a promotion, but the next moment your faith has put you in danger because the law says you can't worship God, only the king deserves your prayers. That's exactly what's happened to Daniel. All Daniel did was pray to God, and that too in his home, but his co-officers were plotting against him. Although they succeeded in throwing Daniel into the lion's den, God was faithful to Daniel and saved him from a gruesome death. That's the power of God. He can come to your rescue during the most troubled times of your life.

**Discuss:** What is character? What are some character traits that people can have?

**Fun Fact:**

Daniel means "God is my Judge" but that wasn't the only name he was known by. Look up Daniel 2: 26 to find out.

**Bible Exploration**

**Background:**

To better understand Daniel's life, it helps to know a bit of background. In his early life, Daniel was taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar among the first captives taken from Judah. Like Ezekiel, Daniel became a Prophet of the Exile. Because Daniel wanted to be faithful to God, he requested officials to assign him and the other captives to a test period of ten days on just vegetable and water diet. During those ten days, Daniel and his friends thrived and were found to be wiser than any of the king's advisors. Daniel and his friends quickly rose in ranks under Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:48), and he ranked third in the kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar's successor Belshazzar [a Chaldean king] (Daniel 5:29).

When Belshazzar died, Darius the Mede the first Medo-Persian ruler, appointed Daniel one of three presidents over all 120 satraps in the Kingdom.

In **Daniel 6**, we see that Daniel's peers were really starting to become overcome with jealousy and they planned to bring him down. This was a hard task because Daniel was an honest and faithful man of God [Daniel 6:4b]. His only fault in the eyes of his peers was that he was faithful to God.

These men were so blinded by jealousy that they began to negatively influence all the other leaders. Bad company ruins good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33).

**Let's stop here for a moment. Write three character traits each of Daniel, his enemies, and King Darius in the boxes below.**

**Vocabulary**

Ordinance—an official order given by a person of authority such as the one King Darius proclaimed over his kingdom. Similar to decree

Interdict—an authoritative action of forbidding something by law/rule

Annul—the cancelation of a law, for example, when the law was enforced, it could not be removed or taken back.

Satrap—a provincial governor of high authority in the ancient Persian empire

Law of Medes and Persians—Persian law that states that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.

DANIEL	DANIEL'S ENEMIES	KING DARIUS
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**The Plot:** Imagine how King Darius felt on the day his appointed leaders came before him and showered him with flattery. The leaders were so convincing in their flattery that they got King Darius to make an **ordinance** and **interdict** that said that if anyone prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, other than the king, they will be thrown into a den of lions. It sounded like a good idea so he wrote out the law and signed it, making it unchangeable.

As a high ranking official of the kingdom, Daniel was fully aware of the new ordinance and interdict. In spite of the pressures he was faced with by his peers, Daniel continued to stay strong and pray to God three times a day just as before (Daniel 6:10).

When Daniel’s enemies came to capture him, they must have been so excited to catch Daniel doing something he wasn’t supposed to be. They didn’t want to wait a moment, so they hurried to tell the king of Daniel’s disobedience. Even though Daniel’s enemies were happy, the King was devastated. The king could not help Daniel because by signing the interdict, he was bound by the law of Medes and Persians. King Darius spent the entire night without eating or sleeping. He hoped that the God of Daniel would save him from the lions.

What a relief it was for Darius when in the morning, Daniel was alive! Daniel had been protected because he was faithful to God. An angel of God came and sealed the mouths of the lions and kept Daniel safe. The king was so happy that he got Daniel out of the den and ordered his enemies and their families to be thrown into the lion’s den. You can only imagine how tragic the result was considering how hungry these lions were! Read Daniel 6: 26-28 to find out what King Darius then did to acknowledge his faith in Daniel’s God.

### Activity 1

We read that when Daniel was tossed into the den with the lions, he was face-to-face with death. But God protected him because Daniel was faithful and just.

**In the lines provided below, list all the righteous acts done by Daniel that pleased God and helped save him from the dangerous lions.**

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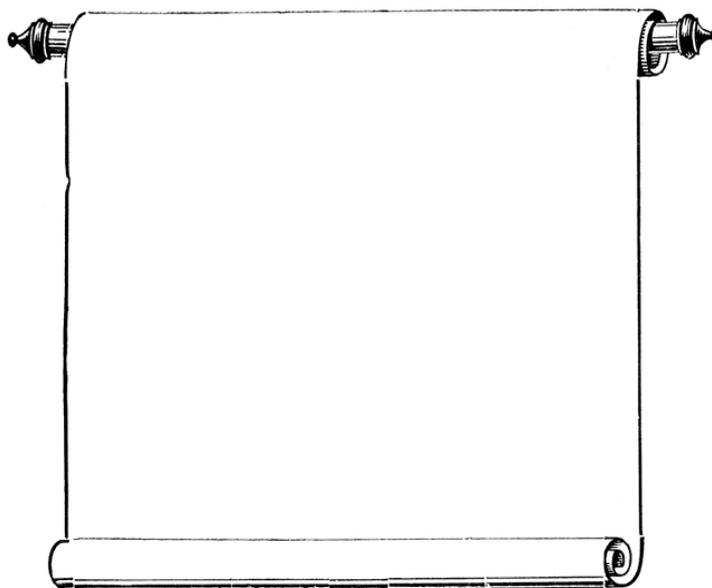
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### Activity 2

Think about what a decree or ordinance is defined as. King Darius wrote an ordinance that all should worship him and no one else or else... If you could write an ordinance to change something in your church, what would it be? **Write an ordinance for your church on the scroll on the right and discuss.** Keep it real!



**Fun Fact:** Did you know that Daniel was friends with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were also tested in their faith when they were thrown into the fiery furnace for not bowing before King Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image? (Explore Daniel 3)

## Values for My Life

Daniel was a man with king-sized courage. He was faithful and obedient to God despite knowing that he would be thrown into a pit and come face to face with hungry lions and certain death. God didn't forget Daniel and honored his obedience by saving him from death. Everyone was able to witness the power and love of Daniel's God because he stood up for what he believed in despite the consequences.

Are you willing to be obedient and faithful to God despite what others say? Do you have King-Sized courage?

God knows what we're up to. He knows when we do good and when we're suffering. We must continue to be faithful and trust God to keep us safe. It takes daily discipline to be faithful to God. We must spend time each day praying to Him and reading His Word if we are going to be strong in our faith like Daniel was.

## Faith in Action

I will choose to be faithful and pray to God during my times of trouble, so others can see me as a follower of the one true God.

## Let's Review!

### Fill in the blanks.

1. Under Darius, Daniel was appointed one of three \_\_\_\_\_ over all 120 \_\_\_\_\_ in the Kingdom.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was King Nebuchadnezzar's successor.
3. Daniel's conspirators quoted the \_\_\_\_\_ to King Darius to remind him of the \_\_\_\_\_, that states that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to the king will be thrown into a den of lions.

### Short Answers

1. How did Daniel's conspirators get Daniel in trouble?
2. How did King Darius acknowledge his faith in Daniel's God?
3. God saved Daniel because he did not do anything wrong. What did he do that was right?

### Closing Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for delivering us during our greatest hours of need. Guide us to be an example for others so You can be a light for them as well. Amen.*

# Jesus' 12 Apostles

GRADE 6, LESSON 14

## Mark 1:16-20 (NRSV)

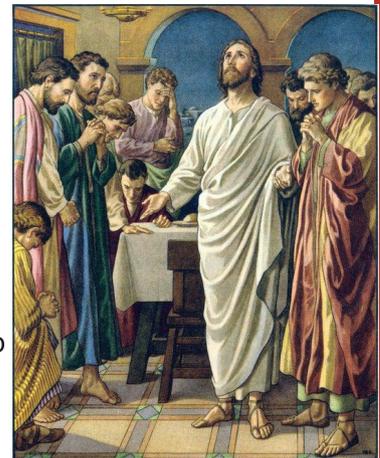
### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him...

## Matthew 10:1-10 (NRSV)

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. <sup>9</sup> Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.



### MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 4:19 NRSV)

*And Jesus said to them,  
“Follow me, and I will make  
you fish for people.”*

## Introduction

Jesus is a very popular man during His time. His ability to perform miracles and the authority with which He speaks attract large crowds. Jesus decides to pick 12 people to be the ones who will not only experience Jesus' missionary work, up close but also carry on this work after Jesus' death. Jesus is constantly with His Apostles, teaching and guiding them. He spends a lot of time telling them about God and about the Kingdom of Heaven. Then He sends them out to share what they have learned and in fact, He gives them power and authority to perform miracles in His name. (Mathew 10:8) He asks them to go first to the Israelites, who are God's chosen people, and share the Good News that they have experienced.

The twelve Apostles go on to become the founders of the early Church and were critical to the foundation of our own churches today. We see the apostles of Jesus give up their different day jobs and dedicate their lives to full-time ministry.

## Bible Exploration

### Discussion:

*Why do you think these men were willing to give up their jobs to follow Jesus?*

*What is our responsibility in living a life following Jesus?*

*Do you think you could make the same choice to go into full-time ministry that the disciples did?*

JESUS' 12  
APOSTLES

The 12 disciples who followed Jesus were,

**1. ANDREW:** Andrew was the brother of Peter, and a son of Jonas who lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum and was a fisherman before Jesus called him. Originally he was a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:16-18). Andrew introduced others to Jesus, including his brother, Peter. (John 1:40,41).

**2. BARTHOLOMEW:** Bartholomew Nathanael, son of Talmai, who was a missionary lived in Cana of Galilee. Many believe that he was the only disciple who came from royal blood. He preached with Philip in Phrygia and Hierapolis. Bartholomew died as a martyr.

**3. JAMES, THE ELDER:** James, the Elder, Boanerges, son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of John the Apostle. He was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida, Capernaum and Jerusalem. In AD 44, Herod beheaded him. (Acts 12:1,2). He was a man of courage and forgiveness, a man without jealousy, living in the shadow of John; a man of extraordinary faith. James was the first of the twelve disciples to become a martyr.

**4. JAMES, THE YOUNGER:** James, the Younger, son of Alpheus and Mary, lived in Galilee. He was the brother of the Apostle Jude. This James wrote the Epistle of James, preached in Palestine and Egypt and was crucified in Egypt.

**5. JOHN:** John Boanerges, son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of James. He was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida, Capernaum and Jerusalem and was the beloved Disciple of Jesus Christ. John was very ambitious and a man of action with an explosive temper and an intolerant heart. His second name was Boanerges, which means son of Thunder.

**6. JUDAS:** Judas Iscariot, the traitor, was the son of Simon who lived in Kerioth of Judah. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and later hung himself (Matthew 26:14,16; 27:3-5). It is so hard to see how someone who was so close to Jesus, who saw so many miracles and heard so much of the Master's teaching, could ever betray Him into the hands of his enemies. There is no obvious reason as to why Judas betrayed Jesus; but it is not his betrayal that put Jesus on the cross - it was God's divine plan to redeem us from our sins.

**7. JUDE:** Jude, Thaddeus, son of Alpheus and Mary. He was a brother of James the Younger. Jude lived in Galilee and preached in Assyria and Persia and died a martyr in Persia. In Mark 3:18 he is called Thaddeus. Matthew 10:3. In Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13 he is called Judas the brother of James. Judas Thaddeus also was called Judas the Zealot. He was an intense disciple with the dream of world power and domination by the Chosen People—the Jews. In John 14:22, Jude asked Jesus at the Last Supper, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” He healed many and converted many. He was killed with arrows at Ararat.

**8. MATTHEW:** Matthew, or Levi, son of Alpheus, lived in Capernaum. He was a tax collector who wrote the Gospel that bears his name. He died a martyr in Ethiopia. The call of Matthew is mentioned in Mark 2:14, Matthew 9:9; and Luke 5:27-28. Matthew’s names mean “a gift of God.” The name Levi could have been given to him by Jesus. Matthew was unlike the other Apostles, who were all fishermen. The average man would have thought it impossible to reform Matthew, but to God all things are possible. Matthew became the first man to write down the teachings of Jesus. He was a missionary of the Gospel who laid down his life for the faith.

**9. PETER:** Simon Peter, son of Jonas, was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum. He did evangelistic and missionary work among the Jews, going as far as Babylon. His Greek name was Simon (Mark 1:16; John 1:40, 41) and Jesus gave him the Hebrew name Cephas (1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:22; 9:5 and Galatians 2:9). The Greek meaning of Simon is “Listen”. The Arabic meaning of Cephas is also the rock. Among the twelve, Peter was the leader. He stood out as a spokesman for all the Apostles. It was he who first confessed and declared Jesus as the Son of the Living God. It was Peter who was at the Mount of Transfiguration. It was he who saw Jairus’ daughter raised to life. Yet, it was he who, out of fear, denied Christ three times near the hour of Christ’s death. Peter was martyred on a cross. Peter requested that he might be crucified head downward so that he could kiss the feet of his Lord in death.

**10. PHILIP:** Philip came from Bethsaida, the town from which Peter and Andrew came (John 1:44). In Acts 6:5; 5 we have Philip as one of the seven ordained deacons. He had a successful campaign in Samaria. He led the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ (Acts 8:26). He also stayed with Paul in Caesarea (Acts 21:8) The Gospel of John shows Philip as one of the first of many to whom Jesus addressed the words, “Follow Me.” When Philip met Christ, he immediately found Nathanael and told him “we have found him”. His approach is skeptic with simple faith in Christ and had a missionary instinct. Philip was a man with a warm heart and a pessimistic head.

**Vocabulary**

**Disciple:** A personal follower of Jesus during his life.

**Apostle:** One who is sent by God. (Jesus designated the 12 disciples to become the 12 apostles.)

**Missionary:** A person sent by a church into an area to carry on evangelism or other activities.

**Martyr:** A person who is killed because of his/her religious or other beliefs.

**Faith:** believing without seeing proof

**Zeal:** Eager desire or enthusiasm

**Sacrifice:** To surrender or give up something

**Fun Fact**

Thomas, one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus brought his testimony to India and formed the very first church in India. The Mar Thoma church is named after him! Mar Thoma means “St. Thomas”!

The sign of the fish became very important to the early church. The Greek word for fish is “ichthys.” Christians made an acrostic from this word: *I ēsous Ch ristos th eou hy ios s ōtēr*, i.e. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. When persecuted by Romans, Christians used the fish symbol to mark meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes. If a stranger also drew a fish symbol in the dirt, both believers knew they were in good company.

**11. SIMON:** Simon, the Zealot, called the Canaanite or Zealots who lived in Galilee. Zealot was a man with bitter hatred for anyone who dared to compromise with Rome. Yet, Simon clearly emerged as a man of faith. He abandoned all his hatred for the faith that he showed toward his Master and the love that he was willing to share with the rest of the disciples and especially Matthew, the Roman tax collector.

**12. THOMAS:** Thomas Didymus lived in Galilee. He travelled to Parthia, Persia, and India, suffering martyrdom in at Mt. St. Thomas, Madras, Tamil Nadu India. Thomas was his Hebrew name and Didymus was the Greek for his other name ‘The Twin’. Thomas appeared in the raising of Lazarus (John 11:2-16). In John 20:25, we see him saying unless he sees the nail prints in Jesus’ hand and the gash of the spear in His side he will not believe. That’s why Thomas became known as “Doubting Thomas.” Jesus invited Thomas to put his finger in the nail prints in his hands and in his side. Here, we see Thomas making the greatest confession of faith, “My Lord and my God.” Thomas’ doubts were transformed into belief after touching Jesus. Jesus asks these ordinary men to be ready to suffer for the Kingdom of God. Read Mathew 10: 17-20 and see what Jesus promises. (Hint: They will never be alone!)

## Values for My Life

Like the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ - when we listen to God's calling and follow Him we show the act of discipleship. Being a disciple is not easy work! Instead, it requires commitment to follow the teachings of God even when others do not. Through our actions and words, we teach others in society about how they can also follow Jesus.

Like the disciples, we must be able to sacrifice our time and need to possess qualities like zeal and courage in order to be effective disciples of Christ. "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord." (Romans 12: 11)

God chose very ordinary people to witness the glory of Jesus' limited time on Earth. These disciples were so convinced of what they had experienced that they not only spread Christianity to all the corners of the earth—many were willing to die for their beliefs. If God has powerfully used ordinary people in the past, He yearns to use us too.

### Faith in Action

I will choose to follow Jesus every day, even when it is difficult by leading a selfless life, ready to make sacrifices for God's ministry.

I will keep all my senses open for His calling at all times.

### Closing Prayer:

*Dear Lord, Thank You for teaching the basic values of discipleship through the story of the life of the twelve disciples. Help us to look for Your calling and give us a selfless heart to help our fellow brothers. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.*

I) Fill in the blanks:

Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, "\_\_\_\_\_ and I will make you \_\_\_\_\_."

James the elder, son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Son of Jonas, was a fisherman who lived in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

II) Short answers:

Name the twelve disciples of Jesus and list at least one characteristic for each one of them.

What was the job of the 12 Apostles? For what purpose did Jesus call them?

**Let's Review!**