

# THE MEN WHO FOLLOWED JESUS

The first Christian witnesses encountered Jesus of Nazareth, heard his teachings, witnessed his healings, and were present as he offered himself as the Savior of the world. The evangelists would record their memories in the Gospels.

| NAME                           | SIGNIFICANCE  | REFERENCE   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| John the Baptist               | Jesus' cousin, he prophesied the reign of God; condemned injustice; offered the baptism of repentance; called Jesus the lamb of God; and was martyred by Herod Antipas.   | Mt 3:1–17; 11:11; Mk 1:6, 14–15; 6:25; Lk 3:1–8; Jn 1:29–36             |
| Simon Peter (Cephas)           | One of the first Apostles and a Galilean fisherman, he was a man of faith, weakness, repentance, and hope. Jesus called him to lead the church. He was the first bishop of Rome.  | Mt 16:17–18; 26:69–74; Mk 8:29; Jn 1:40–42; 21:15–19; Gal 2:9           |
| James, son of Zebedee          | A fisherman called with his brother John to be one of the Twelve. Jesus called them the sons of thunder. He was martyred by Agrippa I.  | Mt 4:21–22; Mk 3:16–19; Lk 5:10–11; Acts 12:1–2                         |
| James, the Younger or the Less | One of the Twelve, he was a member of Jesus' family—the son of Alphaeus (Cleopas) and Mary, the sister of Mary of Nazareth. James was the brother of Jose (Joseph) and Salome.  | Mt 10:3; 27:55–56; Mk 3:18; 15:40; Lk 6:15; Acts 1:13                   |
| James, the Just                | Follower of Jesus honored with the title "brother of the Lord." Although not among the Twelve, he witnessed the resurrected Christ and became the bishop of Jerusalem. He was martyred before the Roman destruction of 70 CE. | Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3; Acts 1:14; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor 15:7; Gal 1:19; 2:1–12 |
| John, son of Zebedee           | The brother of James, he was a fisherman and one known as the beloved disciple, he was a primary church. The Gospel of John is named for him.   | Mt 4:21–22; Mk 3:17; Jn 19:26–27; Gal 2:9                               |
| Andrew                         | A fisherman from Galilee and one of the Twelve, he was the elder brother of Simon Peter who ministered to the Greeks.   | Mt 4:18–19; 10:2; Mk 1:16–17; Jn 1:40–44; 12:20–26                      |
| Philip                         | One of the Twelve, he witnessed that Jesus was foretold by Moses and the prophets and brought Nathanael to the Lord.  | Jn 1:43–45; 14:8–14   |
| Bartholomew                    | Also known as Nathanael, he was the friend of Philip who recognized Jesus as the Son of God and became one of the Twelve.   | Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:14; Jn 1:45–49                                   |
| Matthew (Levi)                 | Son of Alphaeus and brother of James, he was a Galilean tax collector and one of the Twelve. He was present for the descent of the Holy Spirit.   | Mt 9:9–13; Mk 2:14; Lk 6:15; Acts 1:13                                  |
| Thomas, the Twin               | Also called Didymus, he was one of the Twelve. He refused to believe in the Risen Christ until he saw Jesus and touched his wounds.   | Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:15; Jn 11:16; 14:5; 20:24–29                     |
| Simon, the Zealot              | One of the Twelve, he was an insurgent from Cana who worked to defeat the Roman Empire.   | Lk 6:15; Acts 1:13  |
| Judas Iscariot                 | One of the Twelve, he was from Judea. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and then in grief hung himself.   | Mt 26:14–16; 27:3–5; Lk 6:16; Acts 1:16–18                              |
| Jude (Judas) Thaddaeus         | One of the Twelve and a relative of Jesus and James, he was present at Pentecost. He preached with Bartholomew and Thomas.  | Mt 13:55; Lk 6:16; Jn 14:22; Acts 1:13                                  |
| Joseph of Arimathea            | A member of the Sanhedrin and disciple of Jesus, he secured Jesus' body from Pilate and provided Jesus with a tomb.   | Mt 27:57–60; Jn 19:38–42  |
| Nicodemus                      | A Pharisee, leader of the Judean people and Christian convert. He helped Joseph of Arimathea shroud and entomb Jesus.   | Jn 3:1–4,9; 19:39–42  |
| Matthias                       | A disciple who followed Jesus from his baptism to his Ascension. He was elected to replace Judas as one of the Twelve.  | Acts 1:21–26  |

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