



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade | Unit 7**

BIBLE 607

The Followers of Jesus

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The Followers of Jesus

Introduction

The main message of the Bible is God's plan for man's redemption. The Old Testament tells how God promised fallen man a redeemer. That promise was given as early as Genesis 3:15. God promised Abraham that He would give the world the redeemer through Abraham's seed (through his descendants). The line of Abraham was continued through Isaac, Jacob, and Judah. In the line of Judah was King David and the Redeemer Himself, Jesus Christ.

The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell us about the life of Jesus: His birth, early childhood, later life, ministry, death, and Resurrection. You studied the life of Jesus in the previous LIFEPAK®. In this LIFEPAK you will study some followers of Jesus. Recall the words of John in John 20:30 and 31:

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Recall also that Jesus said (John 10:10), "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." These words summarize for us the message of the Bible and state for us the purpose of Jesus' coming. As you study Jesus' relationship to His followers mentioned in the Bible and, more particularly, in this LIFEPAK, notice how He directed both His words and His works toward this purpose: "... that ye [you] might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Jesus wants you not only to have the life He came to give but also to have that life abundantly, full and overflowing.

The followers of Jesus whom you will study in this LIFEPAK are presented in four groups: First, the twelve disciples; second, three friends of Jesus—Lazarus, Martha, and Mary; third, four miracles performed by Jesus for the Roman centurion—the demoniac, the woman who touched His garment, and the ten lepers; and fourth, one message, which Jesus gave to Nicodemus.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Identify the twelve disciples whom Jesus chose to follow Him.
2. Tell about the special friendship that Jesus had with a family in Bethany—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
3. Describe the Roman centurion's faith.
4. Describe the demoniac of Gadara and to tell what Jesus did for him.
5. Tell about the woman who touched Jesus' garment by faith.
6. Explain what happened to ten lepers who met Jesus.
7. State the message Jesus gave to Nicodemus and to explain the meaning of that message.

1. TWELVE DISCIPLES

Jesus chose twelve special men to be His disciples. Those men followed Jesus and listened to His message. They were taught by Jesus. The disciples loved Jesus and obeyed Him.



Section Objective

Review this objective. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify the twelve disciples whom Jesus chose to follow Him.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

disposition (dis' pu zish' un). One's way of acting, or behaving, toward others.

martyr (mar' tur). One who is killed because of his religious beliefs.

pessimist (pes' u mist). One who tends to look on the dark side of things, to see all the difficulties.

Pharisee (far' u sē). A religious party (group) among the Jews.

publican (pub' lu kun). One who collected Roman taxes from his countrymen, the Jews.

skeptical (skep' tu kul). Doubting; not believing easily.

Zealot (zel' ut). A Jewish group who wanted to fight to set their land free.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

Peter, James, and John were the disciples closest to Jesus. They were sometimes called the “inner circle.” Peter, James, and John were with Jesus at the Transfiguration, in the garden of Gethsemane, and when He raised the daughter of Jairus to life.

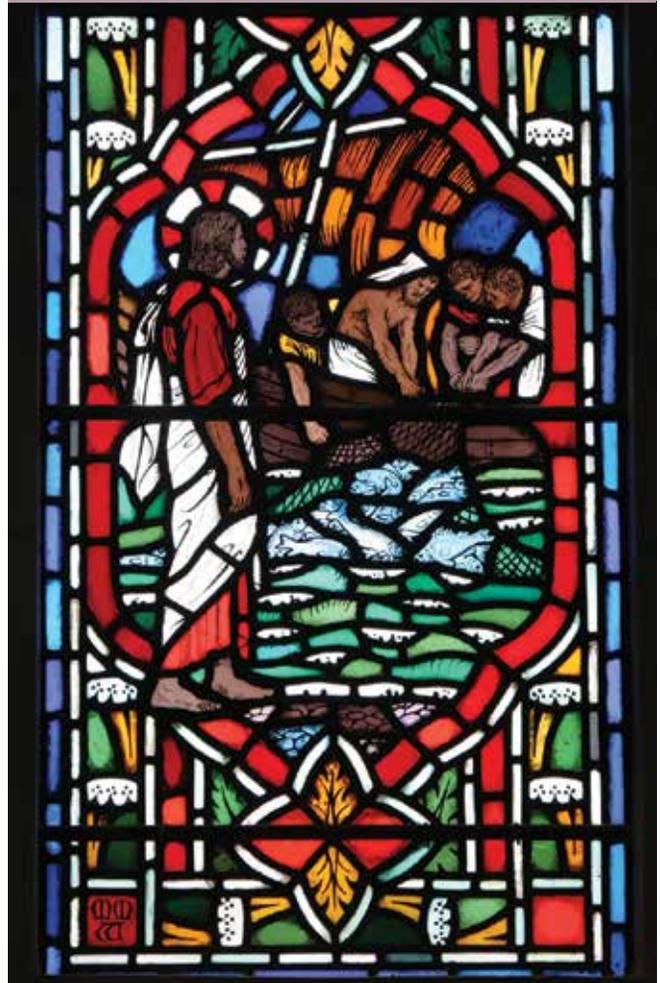
Peter. At the first meeting of Peter and Jesus, Jesus changed Peter’s name from Simon to Cephas, or Peter (John 1:42), which means rock. Peter would be prepared for a future work and ministry. He would be made solid like a rock, a man of boldness and courage. He would be used to help lay the foundation of the church.

Peter was a fisherman, and Jesus said to him and to James and John (Luke 5:10 and 11), “... Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And ... they forsook all, and followed him.” Peter was used by the Holy Spirit later to bring thousands to Jesus Christ. He did indeed become a “catcher of men.”

Peter seems to have had a special place among the disciples. He is named first in all the lists of disciples, and on most occasions, he spoke for the group. Jesus would do a work in Peter’s life to prepare him for the great ministry to which he had been called. Several experiences that Peter had and several conversations that he had with Jesus are given in the four Gospels. Those experiences and conversations show that Jesus was working in Peter’s life to prepare him for his future ministry.

Matthew tells about the disciples seeing Jesus walking on the water. Before they knew that they were seeing Jesus, the disciples were afraid. Jesus told them (Matthew 14:27), “... It is I; be not afraid.” Peter called back to Him (Matthew 14:28), “... Lord, if it be thou [you], bid me come unto thee on the water.” Jesus told Peter to come. Peter began to walk on the water! As he saw the high waves and felt the strong winds, he became frightened and began

Read Luke 5:1–11



| Jesus calls his disciples.

to sink. Peter cried, “Lord, save me.” Jesus put out His hand and caught him. As Jesus joined the disciples in the boat, they said, “Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”

At another time, Jesus asked His disciples who men said that He was. The disciples said that some people said He was John the Baptist, or some said Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Jesus said (Matthew 16:15), “... But whom say ye that I am?” Peter answered (Matthew 16:16), “... Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This statement is often called Peter’s great confession. Jesus blessed Peter for his confession of faith.



| Jesus walking on the water

The Bible gives both the failures, and the successes of people, both the weaknesses and the strengths. Today, God wants believers who study His Word, to follow the good examples given in the Bible and to avoid the bad examples. After Jesus had been arrested by the soldiers and falsely accused by the religious leaders, a young maid of the high priest asked Peter if he had been with Jesus. Peter denied saying (Mark 14:68), "... I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest ...". Three times Peter was asked about Jesus; three times he denied that he knew Him. Twice Peter heard a rooster (male chicken) crow. He remembered

what Jesus had said to him earlier (Mark 14:72), "... Before the cock [rooster] crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice [three times]. And when he thought thereon, he wept." Peter had made a big mistake, but he was deeply sorry.

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and that, if we confess our sins, He will forgive us and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9 and 10). Peter was forgiven and cleansed. He became an Apostle to the Jews. Many thousands came to Jesus through his ministry. He also wrote two books of the New Testament, 1 Peter and 2 Peter.



Answer the following questions.

- 1.1 How many men did Jesus choose to be His disciples? _____
- 1.2 What three disciples were closest to Jesus? a. _____ ,
b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.3 What does the name *Peter* mean? _____
- 1.4 Who gave Peter that name? _____
- 1.5 What was Peter before he followed Jesus? _____
- 1.6 What did Jesus tell Peter that he would do after becoming His follower? _____

- 1.7 Who is named first in all the lists of the disciples? _____
- 1.8 When the disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, what was unusual about Jesus as He came to them? _____
- 1.9 Why did Jesus do signs by performing miracles? _____

- 1.10 What was Peter's great confession? _____

John. John was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. Like his brother and his father, John was a fisherman. With James he left his father and his nets to become a follower of Jesus.

John and his brother were called by Jesus the “sons of thunder.” They probably shared similar **dispositions**. They probably had tempers that provided the grace of God through Jesus a wonderful opportunity to minister. In Luke 9:51–56, for example, they were angered at the Samaritans because they did not receive Jesus. John and his brother volunteered to “command

fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias (Elijah) did.” Jesus rebuked them and told them that He had not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.

Staying close to Jesus, John learned tenderness and love. Gradually John became “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” or the “beloved disciple.” From the Cross Jesus assigned to John the care of His mother Mary. A theme often found in John’s writings is love. John wrote five books of the New Testament: the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation.



Answer true or false.

- 1.21 _____ John was the brother of Peter, and they were sons of Zebedee.
- 1.22 _____ A theme often found in John’s writing is love.
- 1.23 _____ John and his brother were called by Jesus the “sons of thunder.”
- 1.24 _____ John is often referred to as the “beloved disciple.”
- 1.25 _____ Because the Samaritans rejected Jesus, John and his brother called down fire to consume them.

Complete the following activities.

- 1.26 Name five books of the New Testament that John wrote (in order).
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
- 1.27 Study the following verses until you can explain what they mean to you, then explain them to your parents or teacher or pastor or another friend:
 - 1 John 4:8
 - John 3:16
 - Romans 5:8.

ANDREW, PHILIP, AND NATHANAEL

Andrew was Peter's brother who brought Peter to Jesus. When Philip was called by Jesus in Galilee, he found Nathanael, who was probably Bartholomew, and brought him to Jesus.

Andrew. Andrew had been a follower of John the Baptist. John the Baptist introduced Jesus as "the Lamb of God," the Messiah. Andrew found his brother Simon (Peter) and brought him to Jesus. Andrew said (John 1:41), "... We have found the Messiah (Messiah), ... the Christ."

Andrew saw some of Jesus' early signs and miracles. He was with Jesus at the synagogue in Capernaum when the man with an unclean spirit was healed. Andrew, Peter, James, and John witnessed the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. When Jesus fed the five thousand

Read John 1:40–49



people, Andrew had told Him about the lad with a lunch of five barley loaves and two small fishes. From that little lunch Jesus fed the multitude.

Andrew was a good example for us. He brought his brother Peter to Jesus. We may not be able to have the kind of ministry Peter had, but we surely can have the kind of ministry Andrew had. We can bring others to Jesus. Those we bring to Jesus will also be used by Him. Among those whom we bring may be great preachers and missionaries of the future. All those who are brought to Jesus will have something Jesus can multiply and use as He did the little lad's lunch. Andrew was Jesus' helper. Will you be Jesus' helper too?



Complete the following statements.

- 1.28** Andrew had been a follower of _____ .
- 1.29** Andrew told Peter that Jesus was the _____ , the Christ.
- 1.30** Andrew was Jesus' _____ .

Philip. Philip told Nathanael about Jesus. Philip lived in the same town in Galilee as Andrew and Peter. They lived in Bethsaida. When Philip was called by Jesus, he immediately wanted to tell Nathanael. Philip told Nathanael that Jesus was the One about whom Moses and the prophets wrote.

Recall what you have studied earlier in this course. The Bible is the history of God's plan for man's redemption. The Old Testament contains both the promise and the line of the Redeemer, the Messiah, the Christ. The New Testament contains the history of His birth, life, death, and Resurrection. Philip knew that Jesus was that Redeemer and Messiah, the Christ.



| Bethsaida: Home of Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael

Nathanael. Nathanael came to Jesus at Philip's invitation. Nathanael is believed to be the same disciple as Bartholomew. When Philip told Nathanael that Jesus was the One about whom Moses and the prophets had written, Nathanael was **skeptical**. He asked (John 1:46), "... Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip answered, "Come and see." These words of Philip are the invitation of the New Testament to everyone: "Come and see." The Psalmist wrote (Psalm 34:8), "O taste and see that the LORD is good ..." Those who come to Jesus by faith will find Him a wonderful Saviour. Nathanael's words of faith in Jesus were these (John 1:49), "... Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."



Match each statement with the correct name.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p>1.31 _____ He was called by Jesus.</p> <p>1.32 _____ He was called by Jesus.</p> <p>1.33 _____ He was skeptical.</p> <p>1.34 _____ He said Jesus was the One about whom Moses and the prophets wrote.</p> <p>1.35 _____ He said to Jesus, "Thou art the Son of God, the King of Israel."</p> | <p>a. Philip</p> <p>b. Nathanael</p> |
|---|--------------------------------------|

Put these events in the correct order by using the numbers 1 to 5.

- 1.36 _____ Andrew brought his brother Simon (Peter) to Jesus.
- 1.37 _____ Jesus found Philip.
- 1.38 _____ Nathanael believed on Jesus.
- 1.39 _____ Andrew followed Jesus.
- 1.40 _____ Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus.

SELF TEST 1

Choose the correct name and write it on the line (each answer, 2 points).

Peter	Andrew	Matthias	Philip
Thomas	Simon	James	Alphaeus
Judas	Jude	Matthew	Bartholomew
John			

- 1.01 _____ Went to tell his brother about Jesus.
- 1.02 _____ His name was changed, and it means “rock.”
- 1.03 _____ Son of Zebedee and the “beloved disciple.”
- 1.04 _____ From Bethsaida; went to tell his friend about Jesus.
- 1.05 _____ Also called Nathanael, a friend of Philip.
- 1.06 _____ John’s brother who left his fishing to become a fisher of men.
- 1.07 _____ A tax collector, a publican.
- 1.08 _____ The father of a second disciple named James.
- 1.09 _____ Expected the worst to happen.
- 1.010 _____ Was referred to twice by Luke as the brother of James.
- 1.011 _____ A traitor.
- 1.012 _____ A Zealot.

- 1.030** Jesus told his critics that he had come to call _____ .
 a. righteous b. sinners c. publicans

Complete the following statements (each answer, 3 points).

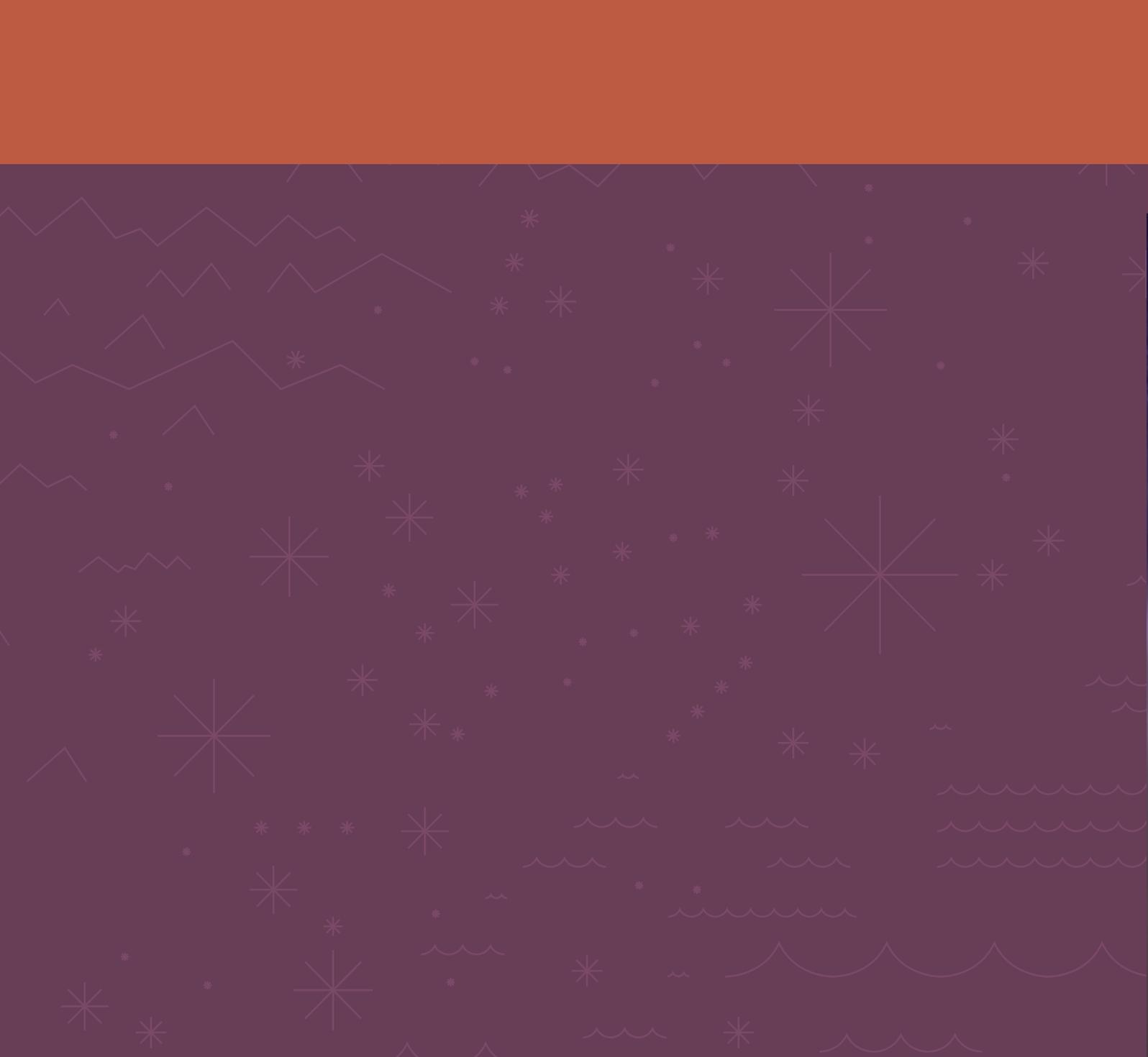
- 1.031** The first book of the New Testament was written by _____ .
- 1.032** The last book of the Bible is a. _____ ; this book was written by b. _____ .
- 1.033** The writer of the last book of the Bible also wrote a. _____ other books for a total of b. _____ .
- 1.034** Jesus chose _____ men to be His disciples.
- 1.035** The main message of the Bible is God's plan for man's _____ .
- 1.036** Jesus said (John 10:10), "... I am come that they might have a. _____ , and that they might have it more b. _____ ."
- 1.037** Judas was called a _____ by Luke.

Answer the following questions (each answer, 5 points).

- 1.038** Why did Jesus give signs by performing miracles? _____

- 1.039** What was Peter's great confession? _____

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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