

FF (Grades 6-8): JANUARY (Session 4)

A Baker's Dozen: 12 PLUS Apostles of Jesus

In our last session we discussed the words **APOSTLE** and **DISCIPLE**. How are they different? How are they the same? Why does it matter? Who are they? Jesus chose 12 Apostles to follow him into His ministry. He taught them how to pray, how to live closer to God, how to witness to others.

It is important to remember that they were not perfect people. Jesus tapped their potential and the gifts each possessed to continue His mission on earth long after he walked with them. As stewards of Jesus' Mission, the Apostles forged the early Church, spreading Christ's message in various regions Baptizing others, claiming them for Christ. Read about it in the book of **ACTS** (Acts of the Apostles) found in the Bible. You may be surprised to know they were blessed with the ability to perform miracles and other marvelous things, spent time in prison, and most were put to death...just like HIM.

Thoughts on Discipleship...

POPE FRANCIS reminds us that *"being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others...this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work (or school), on a journey"* (DOCAT excerpt...Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 2013, 121).

We are created in God's image and likeness and are created to know, to love, and to serve God. These truths about our creation are not meant to be kept under "lock and key" in our hearts only but are meant to be activated by the Spirit so we can share ourselves with others. Like the Apostles, we ARE called to be disciples of Jesus through Baptism. But...some of us may be chosen to serve at Apostles as **PRIESTS!**

Activate YOU, a creation of God, by actively participating in:

- **PRAYER** & Reading **SCRIPTURE**
- All the **SACRAMENTS** (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony)
- Loving acts of **KINDNESS** and **SERVICE** to Others
- Realizing that **YOU ARE CLAIMED** for God through your Baptism. Simply say "Here I am Lord, send ME"...

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES for JANUARY...

- Click on the video buttons to watch a **SHORT** cartoon video about the conversion of **St. Paul the Apostle**. Though he was not one of the original 12, he was called by Jesus to ministry in a dramatic way. Paul went on to write 13 books of the Bible (mostly from prison).
- Browse through **Book of ACTS**...this book in the Bible illustrates for us the origins of the early church!
- Check out the **APOSTLE FUN-FACTS** Button
- Do **YOU** have a favorite Apostle or disciple of Jesus (from Scripture, from Church Tradition, living or deceased)? Maybe it is someone you know...if so, **write about them and the qualities you admire**...then ask them what they do to stay close to Jesus.