

# THE PEOPLE OF JESUS

## Jesus and the Kingdom of God

- Jesus' central theme – God's reign
- God will draw close to his people – hope
- God will protect his people and bring them prosperity
- the Kingdom is here and now (immanent)



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## Jesus and His Disciples

- Disciple means “learner” or “follower.”
- Jesus’ disciples are almost a constant presence in the Gospels
- Gathering (calling) disciples was one of the first things that Jesus did in his public ministry. (it was common practice for rabbis to gather disciples).
- Jesus called disciples into relationship that never ceases (usually, disciples moved on after a period of time)
- Jesus’ disciples are called to share in his ministry.
- Jesus sent out 72 disciples (Luke 10) to spread his message.
- We are all called to be disciples of Jesus



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## Jesus' Apostles

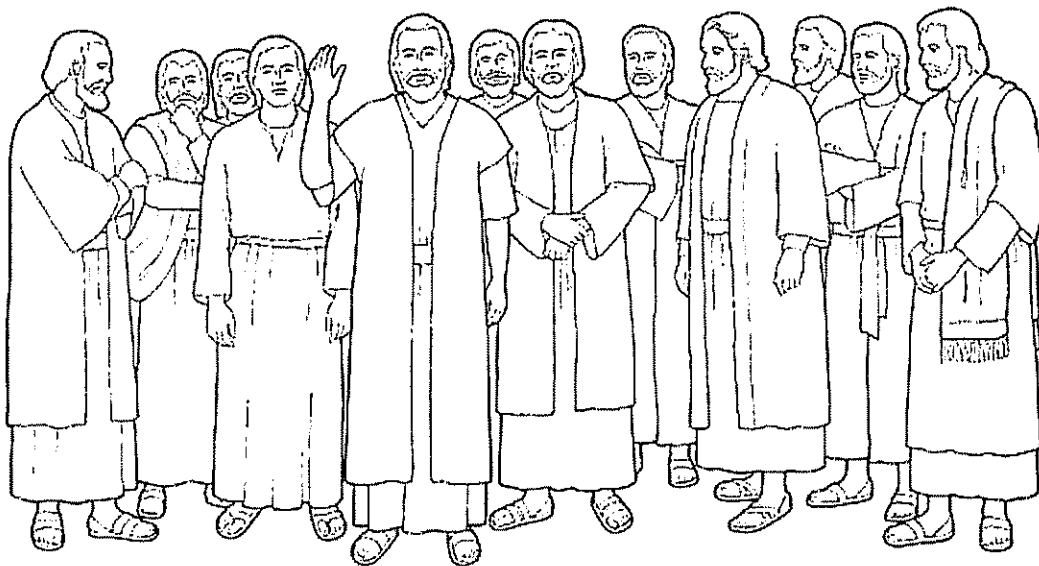
- Apostle means “one who is sent.”
- Peter emerges as the leader among the disciples
- The Apostles are not portrayed as heroes but as normal people with flaws.
- In the end, the disciples fail Jesus and flee when he needs them most.
- The Risen Christ reconciles with his disciples, “Peace be with you.”
- Peter, James, and John seem to be the closest to Jesus (they are with him at the Transfiguration, at the raising of Jairus' daughter, and in the Garden of Gethsemane)



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## The Twelve

- Simon (who is called Peter);
- Andrew (Simon Peter's brother);
- James, son of Zebedee; (James the Greater)
- John (brother of James);
- Philip;
- Bartholomew (Nathaniel);
- Thomas;
- Matthew, the tax collector (Levi);
- James, son of Alphaeus (James the Less),
- Thaddaeus (Jude, son of James);
- Simon the Zealot;
- Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus



# THE PEOPLE OF JESUS

## Jesus and the Outcasts

- Jesus freely associated with those who were the outcasts of society:
  - the poor
  - known sinners
  - tax collectors and prostitutes
  - Samaritans
  - lepers
  - Gentiles (non-Jews)



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## Jesus and Women

- In Jesus' time, women were restricted to domestic circles, considered property of men, and seen as inferior to men. In contrast, Jesus' dealings with women show respect and dignity:

- Mary, Mother of Jesus
- Jesus heals many women
- Martha and Mary (sisters of Lazarus)
- The Samaritan woman
- Women accompanied the disciples and supported the mission
- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna
- Women are present at the Crucifixion and at the tomb on Easter morning
- The Risen Christ appears to Mary Magdalene



Jesus and the woman of Samaria