



MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

The Twelve Disciples

**MATTHEW 4:18-22, 9:9-10,
10:2-4; JOHN 1:43-49**

BIBLE WORDS

"Love each other in the same way I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NLT

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible and "Story Pictures" Activity Pages copied on cardstock

WHAT YOU DO: Fold the "Story Pictures" where indicated.

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) begins with the disciples. (*Hold up the picture of the disciples with Jesus folded behind.*) They were friends of Jesus. (*Unfold the paper to show Jesus.*)

"Peter and Andrew were friends with Jesus. (*Hold up the picture of Peter and Andrew.*) They were brothers and fishermen. James and John were friends with Jesus too. (*Hold up the picture of James and John.*) They were brothers and fishermen too! Jesus had another friend named James. (*Hold up the picture of the other James.*) Matthew was a friend of Jesus. (*Hold up the picture of Matthew.*) He was a tax collector. Phillip and Nathanael were friends with Jesus. (*Hold up the picture of Phillip and Nathanael.*) And Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon were friends with Jesus. (*Hold up the picture of Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon.*) The disciples were from different places. They had different families and different jobs. Jesus loved every one of them (*hold up the picture of the heart*) because **Jesus loves everyone.**"



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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus Loves Car Tag" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads in a variety of colors, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Jesus Loves Car Tag" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to fill the bus with fingerprints in different colors. Clean hands as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at this cool bus! Let's decorate it with our fingerprints. (Help children press their fingertips on the ink pad, then on their paper.) Great job! Now you can add different color fingerprints all over! (Pause.) Super-duper! You can hang your bus in your car, and while you're riding here and there, you can look for all the people Jesus loves because **Jesus loves everyone.**"