

# BEING A TEAM

## LESSON TEXT

Luke 6:12-16

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Considering the example of Jesus' apostles, the students will explain how people with different personalities can form a unified team.
- The students will define the qualities of an effective team.
- The students will team up with a partner during the week to grow in their unity and friendship.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet of paper

*For the teacher:*

- 1 deck of playing cards for every 4 students
  - 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
  - globe or map of the world
  - 1 box gelatin, any flavor
  - 1 gelatin mold or bowl
  - 1 plate
  - 1 dull knife
  - OPTIONAL: paper plate and plastic spoon for each student (to serve gelatin during snack time)
  - 1 sheet of white paper, 8½" x 11"
  - dictionary
  - 20 small paper clips for every 4 students
  - extra Bibles
- Reproducible Pages:*
- Page A, 1 copy for each student
  - Page B, 1 copy for each student
  - Page C, 1 copy for each student

## LESSON PLAN

### *Getting Ready*

- Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: Building a House of Cards
- Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Victories
- Good News from the Kingdom

### *Getting into God's Word*

- Story: The Gelatin Mold
- Scripture Study
- Activity: Paper Clip Race

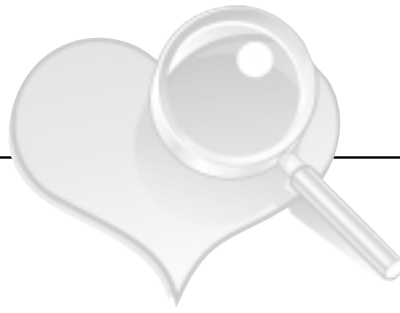
### *Getting It to Others*

- Scripture Memory: Romans 12:5
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

So in Christ we who are many form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

## TEACHER FOCUS

**TEAMWORK!** What does it mean, and how can it be developed? Why is teamwork important in God's kingdom? In this lesson, the students will learn how the twelve apostles overcame their differences and learned to be a team with Jesus as their leader. They will also learn (1) how they, too, can become a team with Jesus as their leader and (2) why unity is so important in maintaining good relationships.

## TEACHER TIPS

Pray before preparing this lesson.

1. Determine how many groups your class will have if the students are divided into teams of three or four. Also, decide how many of the "How the Apostles Built Their Team" scriptures (Reproducible Page B–26 scriptures) each of those teams will have if the list is divided up equally among them.
2. In preparation for the Weekly Challenge, make a list of your students and divide them into teams of two (or one group of three, if you have an odd number of students). Pair girls with girls and boys with boys. Try to pair students who will call each other higher and help the other person to be his or her best. Do not automatically pair best friends or students with like personalities. These pairs will each be a team for the next week as they work on the Weekly Challenge.

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

## BUILDING A HOUSE OF CARDS

In order to practice teamwork and the patience it requires, the students will work together in groups to build houses of cards.

## MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

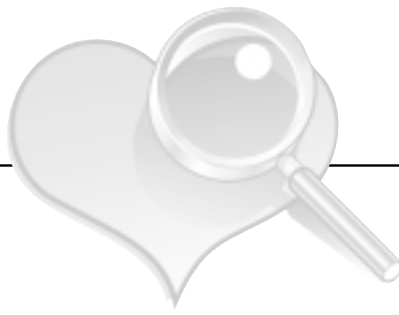
- 1 deck of playing cards for every 4 students

## PREPARATION

1. If you have a large class you may need to borrow several decks of playing cards.
2. Place the decks of playing cards in several places in the room—either on a table or on the floor. Be sure to leave enough room between the decks to prevent groups from bumping into each other.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. As students arrive, direct them in groups of four to one of the areas in the classroom where the cards are placed.
2. Have the students in each team work together to build a house out of the cards.



## STARTING UP

## WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

## OPENING PRAYER

*Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together?* Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, and to be especially thankful for the opportunity to be part of a congregation that supports and encourages great friendships. The students should pray for continued unity in your congregation, as well as within God's kingdom worldwide.

## VICTORIES

Take time to have the students share about the challenge they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete the challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

## MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom."* Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide, and the victories of our brothers and sisters on other continents can inspire us and spur us on.





# GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

## STORY

### THE GELATIN MOLD

The students will learn more about the strength that comes from being molded together.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 box gelatin, any flavor
- 1 gelatin mold or bowl
- 1 plate
- 1 dull knife
- OPTIONAL: paper plate and plastic spoon for each student (to serve gelatin during snack time)

#### PREPARATION

1. Prior to the class (at least 24 hours) prepare the gelatin according to package directions. Pour it into a mold or bowl and put it in the refrigerator to gel. (Save the box and bring it to class.)
2. The mold used can be any style, even just a round bowl.
3. Just before class, loosen the gelatin around the edges of the mold with the knife so that it will easily slide out of the mold when needed. You may wish to bring paper dishes and spoons to allow the students to share this treat during snack time.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Hold up the empty gelatin box for the students to see, and say: *Who knows how to make gelatin?* (If none of the students know, read aloud the instructions on the gelatin box.)
2. Ask the students: *What would happen if I made the gelatin and just poured it out on the floor? Why do we always put gelatin into some kind of bowl or mold?*
3. Tell the students: *When we make gelatin, we pour the hot liquid into a mold, like this one.* (Show the class the prepared gelatin in the mold.) *The mold supports and holds the hot liquid until it has cooled and become firm. Once the gelatin is hard, it can stand on its own without the support of the mold.*

4. Place a plate on top of the gelatin mold, turn both upside down, and dump the gelatin out of the mold.
5. Tell the students: *Friendship is like this gelatin mold. When we support our friends and stick together as a team, we help each other bear up under the pressures of life. When we are hurting or having a hard time, friends support us and keep us strong.*

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

By getting to know more about the different personalities among the twelve apostles, the students will be encouraged to work together to form a team.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet of paper

*For the teacher:*

- 1 sheet of white paper, 8½" X 11"
- dictionary
- extra Bibles

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student

#### PREPARATION

Write the word "TEAM" in large, capital letters on the piece of white paper.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tell the students: *Today we are going to talk about what it means to be a team. What is a team?* After several students have given answers, read the dictionary definition of "team" to the class.
2. Hold up the paper with the word "TEAM" written on it. Make note that the word "team" does not have the letter "I" in it. This means that in a team, everyone works together.

*Today we are going to discuss the twelve apostles. These are twelve men that Jesus chose to be his closest friends and helpers.* Have the students open their Bibles to Luke 6, and select a volunteer to read verses 12-16. *The apostles were a team with Jesus as their leader. Even though they all came from different backgrounds, they learned to honor and respect each other and work together to do God's work.*



# GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

Give a copy of Reproducible Page A (Team Apostle) to each student. Briefly discuss the different types of natural personalities that made up some of the twelve apostles. (e.g. fiery Simon the Zealot; quick-reacting fisherman Peter, greedy tax collector Matthew, hot-tempered James)

Optional: If time permits, have a student stand in front of the class and act out the personality of an apostle after you give the description.

*Which one of the apostles do you think you are the most like? Which one of the apostles would you have a hard time getting along with and why?*

*Look at the type of people Jesus picked for his team: common fishermen, a despised tax collector, a violent terrorist, quiet men, skeptical men, hot-tempered men. They were all very different, yet they learned to work together as a team and have a powerful, eternal impact on the world. Let's find out what qualities they had in their relationships with each other that enabled them to become a great team.*

Have the students break into small groups of three or four people. Give each group paper, pens or pencils, Bibles (if needed), and its share of the "How the Apostles Built Their Team" scriptures (Reproducible Page B—26 scriptures). Allow 5-10 minutes for the class to research the scriptures and determine what qualities of teamwork those scriptures describe. Then have each group report their findings to the class. Afterward, lead a class discussion, using the following questions:

- *What did all the apostles have in common?*
- *Considering their differences, what kind of problems do you think the apostles had to work through on a daily basis?*
- *Which apostles do you think had a hard time getting along with each other? Why?*
- *In what ways is our preteen class already operating as a team?*
- *In what ways does our class need to grow in its teamwork?*
- *What could you do to help make our preteens a great team?*

At the end of the discussion, give each student a copy of Reproducible Page B (How the Apostles Built Their Team) to help them remember the qualities needed to build a great team.

## ACTIVITY

### PAPER CLIP RACE

Students will discover a radical need for teamwork as they endeavor to make paper clip necklaces with their team.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 20 small paper clips for every 4 students

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Now we are going to play a game to see how well we work together as a team.*
2. Divide the students into teams of four.
3. Have each team sit in a circle on the floor or across from each other at a table.
4. Put 20 paper clips in the middle of each team.
5. Instruct the students to keep one hand behind their backs at all times during the race.
6. When the teacher says "Go!", each team must work together to connect the paper clips into a strand, using only one hand each.
7. The first team to complete their paper clip strand and stand up is the winner.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

### MATERIALS USED

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Group the students in teams of two to four, and have them all turn in their Bibles to Romans 12:5.
2. Select a volunteer to read the passage.
3. Discuss what the verse means.
4. Give each team 5-10 minutes to learn the scripture by creating a tune for it.
5. Have each team present its musical rendition of the scripture to the rest of the class.
6. Praise them for successfully working together as a team.
7. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page C (Memory Verse) to use to practice during the week.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Let the students know that you are proud of the teamwork they displayed during the class. Remind the students that, despite the fact that the apostles were of many different backgrounds and characters, they were able to work as a unified team under Jesus'

leadership. Because of this leadership and their unity, most of these men grew in character and conviction to become the leaders of the first century church.

The challenge this week is for the students to team up with a partner to grow in unity, faith and friendship. Each pair will work toward accomplishing certain goals during the week. These are the some of the same goals that were characteristic of the first century team of Jesus' apostles:

- pray together
- worship and praise God together
- share their faith together
- do chores or serve together
- relax and have fun together
- seek advice from each other

These things can be accomplished by sitting together during church service, helping each other with homework and quiet times, praying over the phone, encouraging, serving together and spending time on one day to share their faith and have fun together. They are to achieve as many as possible of these goals during the week. This will help the students to grow stronger and more consistent in their faith with the strength and encouragement of their teammates.

Let the students know who their partners will be, and remind them that they are teammates for the next week. Have the students be ready to share next week about how they have grown with their partner's help during the week.

## CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

### WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Figure out ways to achieve as many as possible of the following goals during the week with your partner:

- pray together
- worship and praise God together
- share your faith together
- do chores and serve together
- relax and have fun together
- seek advice from each other

# BEING A TEAM

## LESSON TEXT

Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 15:5

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Considering the building of the tower of Babel, the students will explain that teamwork accomplishes great things.
- The students will define the qualities of an effective team.
- The students will team up with a partner during the week to grow in their unity and friendship.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil

*For the teacher:*

- 3 brightly colored 9" balloons
- 10-foot piece of yarn, ribbon or rope
- extra Bibles
- small prizes for winners of the "Who's Got It?" Hunt (i.e., candy, pencils, erasers, etc.)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

## LESSON PLAN

### *Getting Ready*

Faithful Instruction  
 Teacher Focus  
 Teacher Tips  
 Preclass Activity: Balloon Volleyball  
 Starting Up  
 Welcome and Singing  
 Opening Prayer and Review  
 Great News Sharing

### *Getting into God's Word*

Scripture Study  
 Activity: "Who's Got It?"

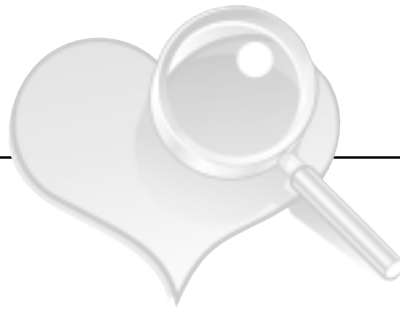
### *Getting It to Others*

Scripture Memory: Romans 12:5  
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time  
 Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

## TEACHER FOCUS

In John 17:23 Jesus prayed that his followers would be “brought to complete unity” in order to prove God’s love and purpose to the world. The focus of this lesson is to teach the students how powerful and necessary unity is in building a friendship.

## TEACHER TIPS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Meditate on Genesis 11:1-9 and Romans 15:5. Are you totally unified with the students in your class? What can you do in your role as a teacher to build more unity in your class? As well, how do you promote unity in your congregation and in the kingdom? Are you one who can be relied upon as part of God’s team?

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

## BALLOON VOLLEYBALL

Teamwork is stressed by playing balloon volleyball together.

## MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 3 brightly colored 9" balloons
- 10-foot piece of yarn, ribbon or rope

## PREPARATION

1. Blow up one balloon before class,
2. Have two back-up balloons ready to blow up if needed.

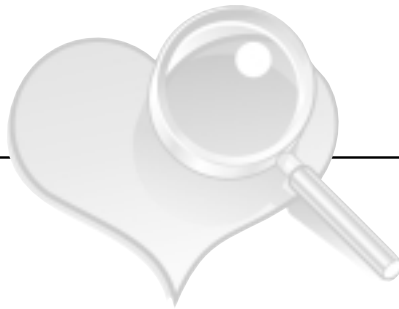
## INSTRUCTIONS

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to clear enough space for the game to be played safely.

1. Have two teachers make a “net” by each holding one end of the yarn and stretching it across the middle of the classroom (or some open area). Hold the yarn at a height suitable for a volleyball net.
2. To play, the students form two teams and stand in volleyball team formation on each side of the net.
3. The balloon is batted back and forth over the net. Play according to traditional volleyball rules, adapting as necessary.
4. Begin play as soon as two students have entered the classroom. As other students come in, let them join the game.







## STARTING UP

## WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

## OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for preteens to be united as a class and to have great friendships within the class.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson (Romans 12:5).
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

## GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so that as many as possible can share.



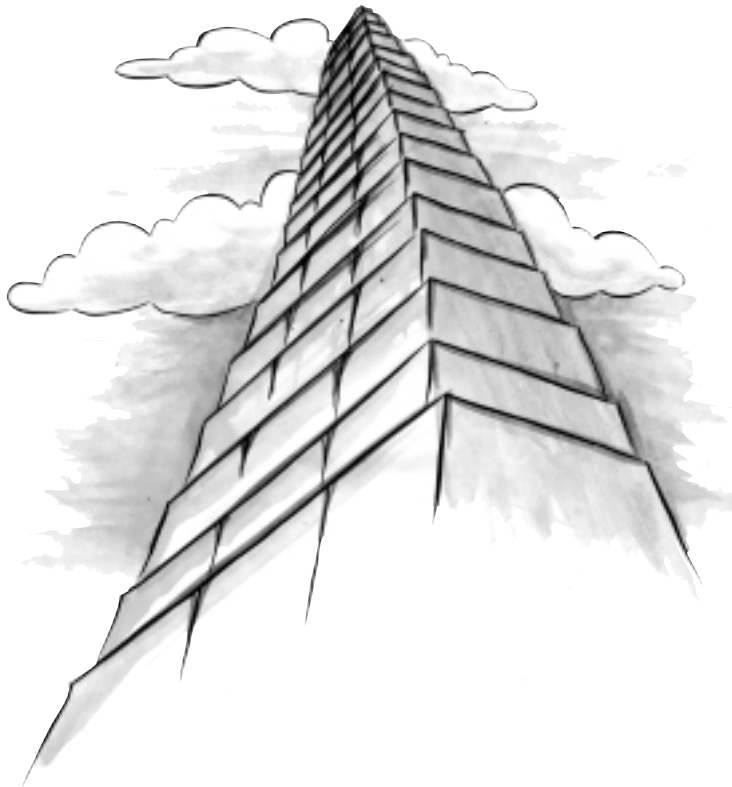
## SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have the students turn to Genesis 11 in their Bibles. Select a volunteer to read verses 1–9.

Explain: *This story takes place 101 years after the time of Noah and the Flood. The tower was located in Babylon, the mightiest city of the ancient world. Imagine everyone in the whole world speaking the same language! This story shows us how powerful teamwork is.*

Lead a discussion with the following questions:

- *What qualities did the tower builders have that helped them be a team? Why do those qualities build teamwork?*
- *What was the people's motivation for building the tower? (NOTE: Be sure the class understands the sin behind the tower building:*
  - (1) "to make a name for ourselves" – idolatry and the worship of man
  - (2) to "not be scattered over the face of the whole earth" – direct disobedience to God's command to "be fruitful" and "fill the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28).
  - (3) The tower builders had a prideful, rebellious spirit.
- *What would have happened if God had not confused the language of the tower builders?*
- *What things can cause disunity in this class?*
- *What could you personally do to develop more unity in this class?*





## ACTIVITY

### "WHO'S GOT IT?"

This game of hunt will help the students to get to know each other better and therefore be more able to build unity as a group.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil

*For the teacher:*

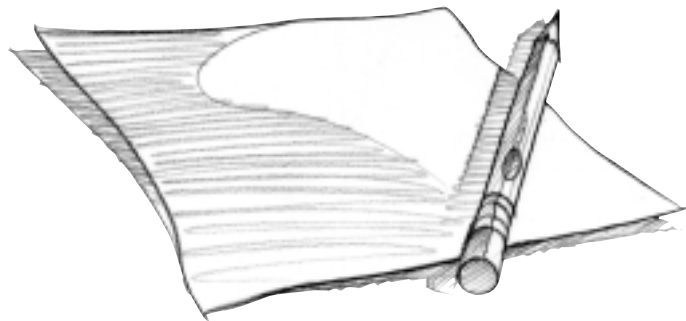
- small prizes for winners of the "Who's Got It?" Hunt (i.e., candy, pencils, erasers, etc.)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Now we are going to play a game that will help us get to know one another better so that we can be a stronger team.*
2. Give each student a pen or pencil and a copy of Reproducible Page D (Who's Got It?). Give the students 5-10 minutes to complete the chart by finding someone in the class who fits the description on each line and having that person sign his/her name in the corresponding blank.
3. Names of teachers may be used as well as students. No names can be used more than once.
4. When the time is up, have students share their results.
5. Award a prize to the students with the most blanks completed.



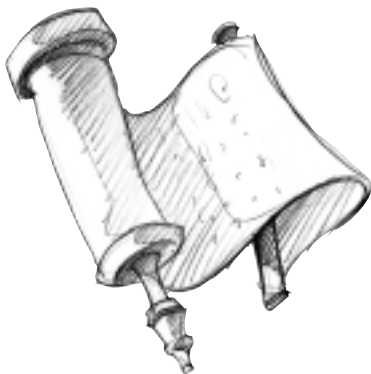
## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson.
2. Practice the verse together as a group, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.



## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

(The students were paired to help each other grow in unity, faith and friendship). Ask the teams how the week is going. Are the students finding that they are growing or changing in any way because of the help of their teammate? (Are they bolder in sharing with friends at school? Are they having more consistent quiet times and prayer times? Are they serving more joyfully?) Encourage the students in their efforts, and offer suggestions for those who are struggling with the assignment. If any of the pairs have not been doing well, remind them that today is the first day of the rest of the week, and let them know that you believe in them.

## CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Figure out ways to achieve as many as possible of the following goals during the week with your partner:

- pray together
- worship and praise God together
- share your faith together
- do chores and serve together
- relax and have fun together
- seek advice from each other

## TEAM APOSTLE

- SIMON:** a fisherman; renamed "Peter" by Jesus; one of Jesus' closest friends; a leader of the apostles and the group spokesman; enthusiastic, energetic, positive, impulsive, bold, a natural leader; wrote two books in New Testament
- ANDREW:** a fisherman; Simon's brother; followed John the Baptist before he met Jesus; the first of the apostles to be called by Jesus; less flamboyant personality than his brother but still a leader; known for always introducing people to Jesus, including his brother (John 1:40-42) and for being solution-oriented (brought the boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus, John 6:8); could have become jealous and resentful of his brother's greater role in the church but remained positive and content with his own role
- JAMES:** a fisherman; brother of John; one of Jesus' closest friends; first apostle to die a martyr's death (killed by Herod); he and his brother nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus; they once asked Jesus if they could send down fire from heaven to destroy an unfriendly Samaritan village (Luke 9:51-54)
- JOHN:** a fisherman; brother of James; his family's fishing business was prosperous enough to afford "hired servants" (Mark 1:19-20); one of Jesus' closest friends; a leader among the apostles; a former disciple of John the Baptist; a personal acquaintance of the high priest (John 18:15-16); dubbed "Son of Thunder" by Jesus; called himself "the disciple Jesus loved" (John 13:23, 20:2); wrote the gospel of John plus three New Testament letters and the book of Revelation; Jesus must have considered John very trustworthy and responsible because while he was on the cross, Jesus entrusted John with the care of his mother, Mary
- PHILIP:** brought his good friend Nathanael to Jesus (John 1:45); a man of deep convictions, persevering; kept reaching out to Nathanael even though his friend's first response to Jesus was unfavorable (John 1:46); a practical man who saw life realistically (John 6: 5-7)
- BARTHOLOMEW:** also known as "Nathanael"; not much is known about him; many scholars believe he was of noble birth because his name means "Son of Tolmai" or "Talmi" (Talmi was king of Geshur and the father of one of King David's wives, 2 Samuel 3:3); a sincere, honest person; Jesus described him as a man "in whom there is nothing false" (John 1:47)
- MATTHEW:** also called "Levi"; a tax collector for the Roman government and, therefore, considered a traitor by his fellow Jews; invited his friends to a banquet to meet Jesus (Luke 5:27-29); the gospel he wrote shows that he knew much about Jewish law and tradition, even though he evidently was not living what he knew at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple
- THOMAS:** a fisherman; cautious, skeptical but also capable of great courage and loyalty; eager to follow Jesus to his death (John 11:16); wanted physical proof of the resurrection before he would accept it as fact (John 20:24-25)
- JAMES:** not much is known about him; may have been Matthew's brother since both are called a "son of Alphaeus"
- SIMON:** known as the "Zealot" because he was a member of a fanatic sect of Jewish nationalists that used violence to fight against the Roman government; today, we would call him a terrorist
- JUDAS:** also known as "Thaddaeus," not much is known about this player on Jesus' team
- JUDAS ISCARIOT:** The only apostle not from Galilee; elected by the other apostles to be the group's treasurer; for some reason, his heart changed and led him to betray the man he once followed as Lord; felt great remorse for his sin but committed suicide instead of seeking forgiveness for it



HOW THE APOSTLES BUILT THEIR TEAM

**Scripture**

**Spiritual Characteristic of the Apostles' Team**

Acts 1:14, 3:1

prayed together

Luke 24:50-53

worshiped/praised God together

Matthew 21:1-3, 6-7

served Jesus together

Mark 6:6b-13

shared their faith together

Acts 5:42

Luke 9:12-15

helped Jesus organize events that met the needs of people

John 6:12-13

did chores together

Matthew 17:19, 18:1

Luke 11:1; John 9:1-3

sought the answers to spiritual questions together

Mark 6:30-32

relaxed together

Act 4:1-4, 33

preached together

Acts 2:45

met each other's physical needs

Acts 4:32, 34-35

Mark 1:29-34

helped Jesus meet other people's needs

John 12:20-22

sought advice from each other

Mark 6:1

spent time with Jesus and each other

Mark 2:23, 3:7

Mark 4:35-36, 5:40

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY



So we who are many form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others.

ROMANS 12:5

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Figure out ways to achieve as many as possible of the following goals during the week with your partner:

- pray together
- worship and praise God together
- share your faith together
- do chores and serve together
- relax and have fun together
- seek advice from each other

---

This page intentionally left blank



## WHO'S GOT IT?

Someone who is wearing the same color shirt as you \_\_\_\_\_

Someone whose first name begins with the letter "J" \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who is older than you \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who is taller than you \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who has a birthday this month \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who knows how to say "hello" in another language \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who has hair the same color as yours \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who loves baseball \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who likes to swim \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who is wearing jeans and sneakers \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who owns a skateboard \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who likes pepperoni on his/her pizza \_\_\_\_\_

Someone whose last name has the same number of letters as your last name \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who lives near you \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who plays a musical instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who has a pet \_\_\_\_\_