



Discussion Questions

for *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur

Introduction - Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Calling

- What does MacArthur mean when he says God uses "ordinary" people?

- How does this introduction challenge our view of qualifications for ministry?

- Why do you think God delights in using imperfect vessels for His perfect purposes?

Chapter 1 - Peter: The Apostle with the Foot-Shaped Mouth

- In what ways does Peter's impulsiveness reveal both strength and weakness?

- How did Jesus shape and transform Peter over time?

- What lessons can we learn from Peter's failures and restoration?

Chapter 2 - Andrew: The Apostle of Small Things

- Why is Andrew's willingness to play a background role significant?

- How can we practice faithfulness in the "small things" like Andrew?

- Who in your life plays a quiet but faithful role like Andrew?

Chapter 3 - James: The Apostle of Passion

- How did James's fiery temperament get redirected by Jesus?

- What does James's story teach us about zeal without love or wisdom?

- How can we balance passion for truth with grace and humility?

Chapter 4 - John: The Apostle of Love

- How did John change from a "son of thunder" to the "apostle of love"?

- What does this transformation tell us about spiritual maturity?

- How does John's emphasis on love challenge our interactions with others?

Chapter 5 - Philip: The Bean Counter

- What were Philip's struggles with faith and practicality?

- How did Jesus test Philip's trust in Him?

- Are there areas in your life where you rely more on logic than faith?

Chapter 6 - Nathanael (Bartholomew): The Guileless One

- Why was Jesus impressed with Nathanael's honesty?

- How is being "without deceit" an important trait in following Christ?

- Are you more concerned with appearances or authenticity in your spiritual life?

Chapter 7 - Matthew: The Tax Collector and the Traitor

- Why was Matthew a surprising choice for a disciple?

- What does Matthew's calling show about God's grace?

- How does Matthew's past highlight the power of transformation?

Chapter 8 - Thomas: The Twin Who Doubted

- What can we learn from Thomas's honest questioning?

- How did Jesus respond to Thomas's doubts?

- How do you typically handle spiritual doubts-and how should you?

Chapter 9 - James the Less: The Obscure Apostle

- What do we know (or not know) about James the Less?

- Why is it significant that God uses people who remain largely unknown?

- How can we find joy and purpose in unnoticed faithfulness?

Chapter 10 - Simon the Zealot: The Patriot

- What did it mean to be a Zealot in Jesus' time?

- How did Simon's political background contrast with Jesus' kingdom message?

- What happens when our political or social agendas collide with the gospel?

Chapter 11 - Judas (Not Iscariot): The Apostle with Three Names

- What can we infer about Judas (son of James) despite little being known?

- How do we serve when we aren't in the spotlight?

- What does this Judas teach us about loyalty and humility?

Chapter 12 - Judas Iscariot: The Traitor

- What do you think led Judas to betray Jesus?

- How can someone walk closely with Jesus yet still fall away?

- What warnings and lessons can we learn from Judas's life?
