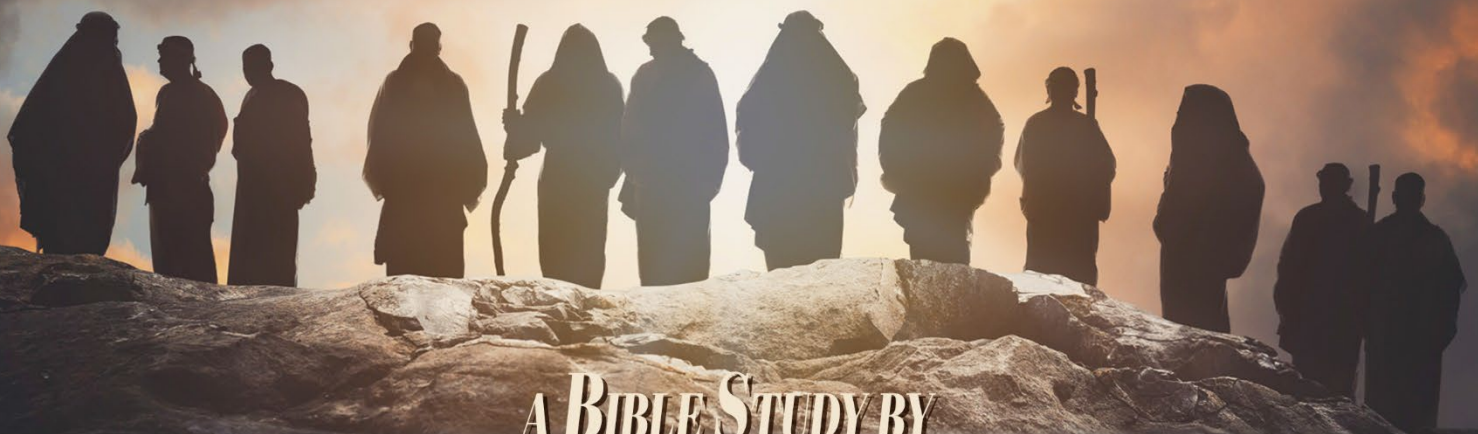


THE TWELVE



A BIBLE STUDY BY
JIM & JENNIFER COWART

MARCH 2025

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WEEK 1 – OVERVIEW AND MATTHEW

WEEK 2 – PHILIP AND NATHANAEAL

WEEK 3 – THOMAS

**WEEK 4 – JAMES THE LESS, SIMON THE ZEALOT,
JUDAS (NOT ISCARIOT)**

WEEK 5 – JUDAS ISCARIOT

WEEK 6 – PETER AND ANDREW

WEEK 7 – JOHN AND JAMES

VIEW EACH WEEK'S VIDEO VIA
THE **HARVEST WEBSITE:**



VIEW EACH WEEK'S VIDEO VIA
THE **HARVEST YOUTUBE PAGE:**



Harvest Church
3322 US Hwy 41N, Byron, GA 31008
478.923.8822 | www.harvestChurch4u.org

WELCOME

...to our study “The 12” - a concentrated look at the 12 Jewish men Jesus invited to apprentice under Him. At the end of three years, Jesus sent 11 of the 12 (Judas Iscariot didn’t make the cut) off with the Great Commission to spread the gospel to the world. No small task.



Who were these men? They spanned the political spectrum of their day - a former zealot intent on seeing Roman rule overthrown, a tax collector, (practically a traitor to the Jewish people). At least four of them knew each other well as they worked side by side as fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. Scripture doesn’t tell us what the others did as an occupation; but most likely they were craftsman. These 12 were simple uneducated men, living in a rural setting – not scholars, or rabbis or teachers. They didn’t even come from Jerusalem, the center of Jewish government and religion. They were 12 ordinary men who were given an extraordinary opportunity. From their lives, we can learn a great deal.

So, **grab** some family and friends, **gather** to watch and discuss the videos together. And, most importantly, **grow** closer to Jesus and each other. Learn together, pray together, serve together. And let us know how your group is doing. We’d love to hear from you at groups@harvestchurch4u.org.

Blessings
Jim & Jen

WEEK 1: GUYS WITH STORIES - MATTHEW

VIDEO NOTES

*"As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the **tax collector's** booth. 'Follow Me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him."* Matthew 9:9

1. God chooses and uses _____.

2. God values _____.

3. In Christ we have a _____.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17



OPENING QUESTION

Matthew was known as a tax collector. He also went by the name Levi. What nicknames have you had in your past? Did those have any effect on you emotionally?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. As a group, can you list the names of the 12 disciples?
2. God often uses unlikely people. Who has been instrumental in your spiritual journey that may seem an unlikely hero of your story?
3. Matthew met Jesus while at work. How did you meet Jesus personally for the first time?
4. When Matthew left his station as tax collector it would have been shocking! Have you ever made what seemed like a radical decision to others, in order to follow Jesus?

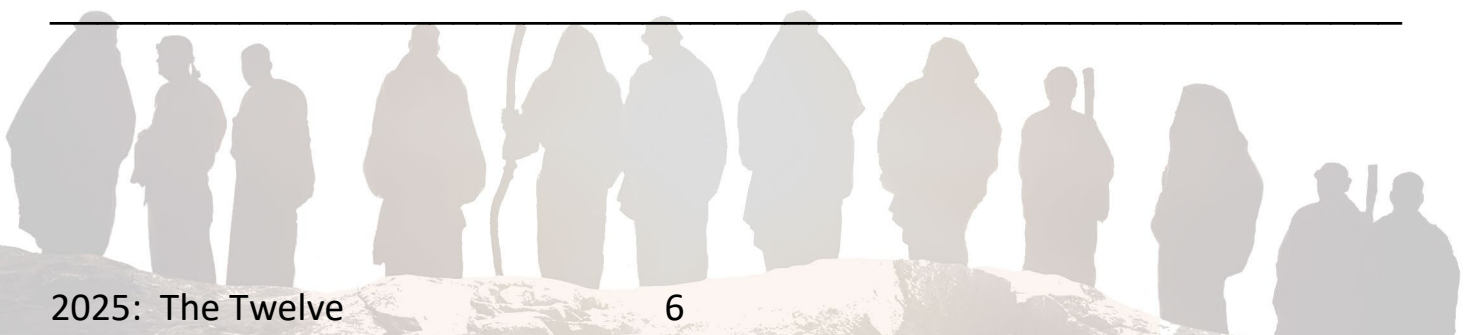


5. Is there an area of your life that Jesus might want you to get up and walk away from - like Matthew did from the tax booth?
(Drinking, gossip, porn, too much tv, too much time in hobbies, relationships that are not Godly for instance).

6. So many people struggle with anxiety today. Perhaps, some of the cause is not fully understanding who we are in Christ. Complete the following sentence.

In Christ I am ...

7. How can we pray for you?



WEEK 2: GUYS WITH STORIES - PHILIP AND NATHANAEL

VIDEO NOTES

4 Fisherman: 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

4 Guys with Stories: 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

4 Other Guys: 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____ (BAD GUY)

*“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.
‘Come and see,’ said Philip.” John 1:46*



OPENING QUESTION:

What would you like to be known for?

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Are you more of an introvert or extrovert? How does that affect your relationships?
2. What do introverts need to do with the challenge of inviting others to “*come and see*” Jesus?
3. Who do you have to thank for introducing you to or helping you grow closer to Jesus?
4. Who has you to thank for inviting them to “*come and see*” or for sharing your faith with them?
5. Who needs you to invite them to “*come and see*”?



WEEK 3: GUYS WITH STORIES - THOMAS

VIDEO NOTES

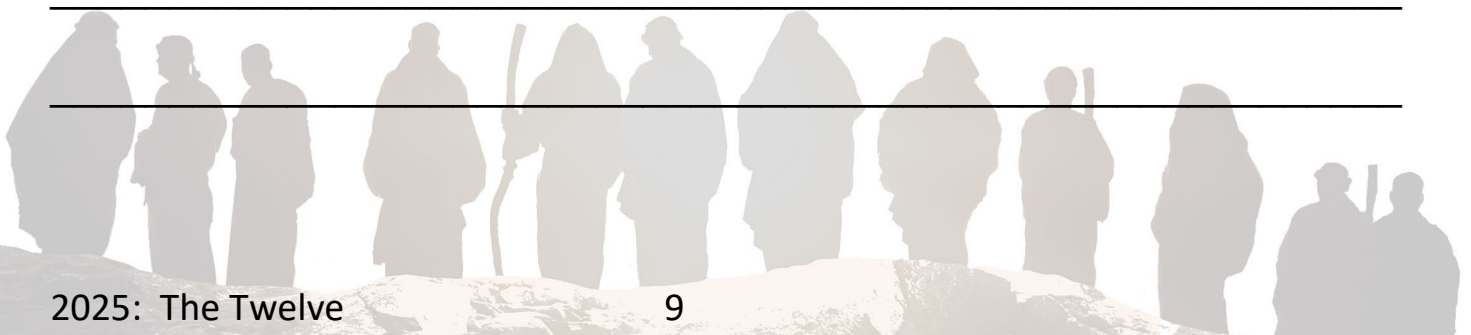
NICKNAMES FOR THOMAS:

- 1) _____ the twin,
- 2) _____ Thomas
- 3) Thomas the _____,
- 4) Thomas the _____
- 5) Thomas the _____

BECOMING A TRUTH SEEKER (A 3-FOLD APPROACH)

1. _____ from other mature believers.
2. _____ so that doubts don't take control.
3. Sincerely _____. Put our questions boldly before Him. Seek Him and you will find Him.

[God] "You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with your whole heart."
Jeremiah 29:13



OPENING QUESTION:

What movie genre is your favorite? Action, romance, mystery, comedy. Do you have a go-to feel good movie?

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. One more time, as a group, can you name the 12?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

11) _____

12) _____ (BAD GUY)

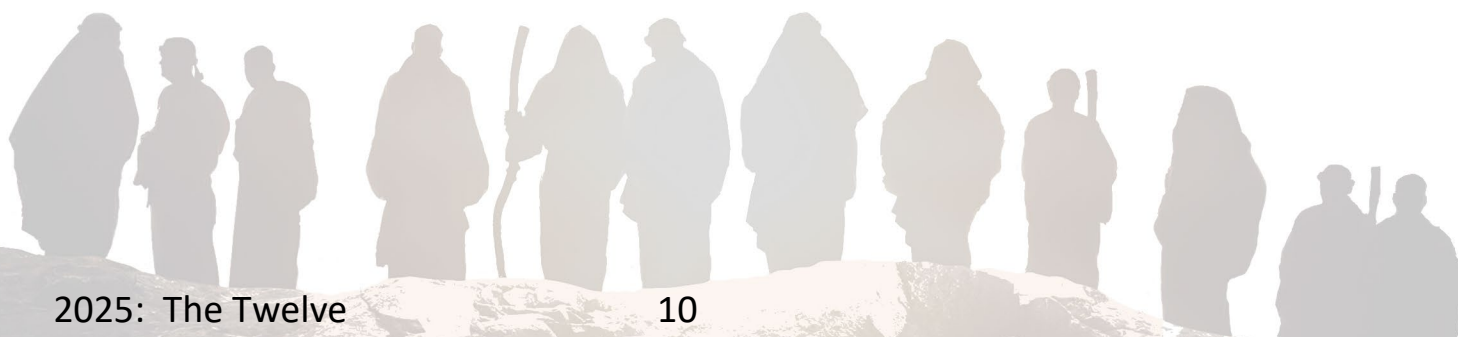
2. What might courage and loyalty to Jesus look like today? What might it look like in your own life?

3. How have you dealt with spiritual doubts in your own life?

4. How have your doubts affected your relationship with God?

5. Of the three steps that Jen shared for dealing with doubt (1-seek wise counsel from mature believers; 2-control your thought life; 3-run to God and put your questions boldly before Him), which of these have you tried in the past? How was it helpful?

6. Do you have a mature, trusted believer to talk to in times of doubt or hardship? How has that friendship helped you in the past?



WEEK 4: THE OTHER GUYS:

JAMES THE LESS, SIMON THE ZEALOT, JUDAS - NOT ISCARIOT

VIDEO NOTES

Jesus chose simple people to do extraordinary things...and He still does.

SO MANY JAMES'...

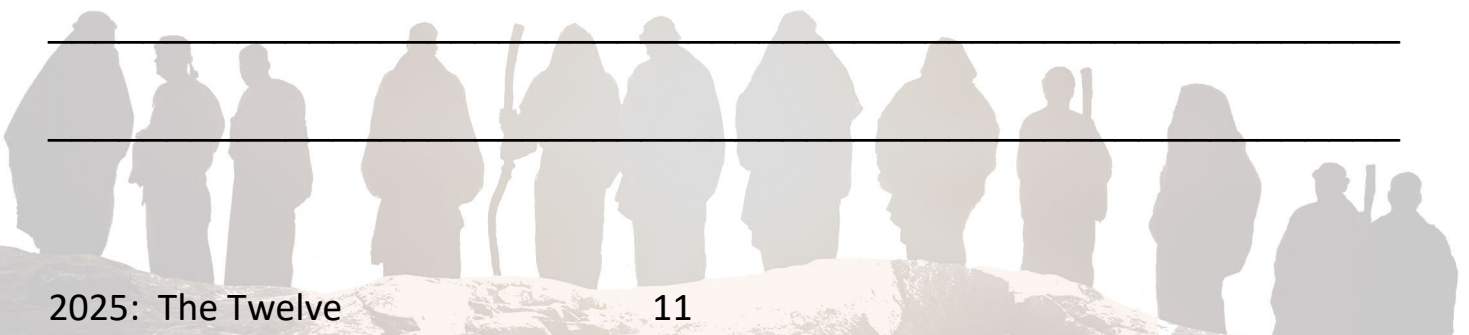
- ❖ James, the _____, brother of John
- ❖ James, son of Mary & Joseph, Jesus' _____
- ❖ James _____, one of the 12 disciples
- ❖ James, the _____, another of the 12 disciples

SIMON THE ZEALOT

- ❖ _____ strict keepers of the Law (not fair you see)
- ❖ _____ religious liberals (no resurrection – sad you see)
- ❖ _____ celibate, scripture students (monks) in the desert
- ❖ _____ political and religious extremists who hated Rome

JUDAS THADDEUS (THE GOOD JUDAS)

[Jesus] “Those who accept My commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me...And I will love them and reveal Myself to each of them.” Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to Him, ‘Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?’ Jesus replied, ‘All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and We will come and make Our home with each of them.’” John 14:21-23



OPENING QUESTION:

What's one of your all-time favorite movies? What do you love about it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Grab a sheet of paper – can you list the 12 disciples yet?
2. James the less, Simon the zealot, and Judas Thaddeus served quietly. Where do you serve in the local church?
3. When you think of those who serve behind the scenes, what character traits do they tend to have in common?
4. What motivates people to serve in ways that aren't visible or acknowledged by others?
5. Who do you know that serves in a quiet way? How can you show them appreciation this week?
6. How do you stay encouraged when your efforts go unnoticed?
7. How do serving (without recognition) and faith coincide? What dangers are there for those who get lots of praise for their service?
8. How can we pray for one another today?



WEEK 5: THE OTHER GUYS:

JUDAS ISCARIOT, THE BETRAYER

VIDEO NOTES

Judas, the Bad Guy - even though he was physically in the Lord's presence, it did not change his heart.

JUDAS' CHARACTER



John 12: 3-4



Matthew 26:14-16



Matthew 26:47-49

People can be in church, attend Bible studies, even know scripture, but **not know Jesus personally**. It's all about a **personal relationship** that leads to a **changed heart** and way of doing life.

TAKE-AWAYS FROM JUDAS



Judas didn't become a betrayer _____.



Just listening and hanging with Jesus doesn't make you _____.



OPENING QUESTION:

If you could meet any Biblical character, other than Jesus, who would it be and what might you ask them?

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Jesus was betrayed by someone close to him. Has that ever happened to you? If so, (without sharing details) how did it affect you? Do you find it hard to trust as a result of that betrayal?
2. Judas prioritized money over faithfulness. What are some things in your life that occasionally take precedence over your relationship with God?
3. What practices help you deepen your relationship with God and not just go through “church motions”?
4. Judas struggled with greed and selfishness. What are some areas in your life where you feel vulnerable to temptation?
5. After betraying Jesus, the scriptures say that Judas felt remorse, or guilt, that led to despair. How is that different from feeling conviction that leads to repentance?
6. What lessons do you take away from the life of Judas, the betrayer?

NOTE: Did you pray the Prayer of Salvation with Jim? **Way to go!**

Please contact the church office at 478.923.8822 or group@harvestchurch4u.org so we can celebrate with you and send you some helpful information!

WEEK 6 : FISHERMEN - (SIMON) PETER AND HIS BROTHER, ANDREW

VIDEO NOTES

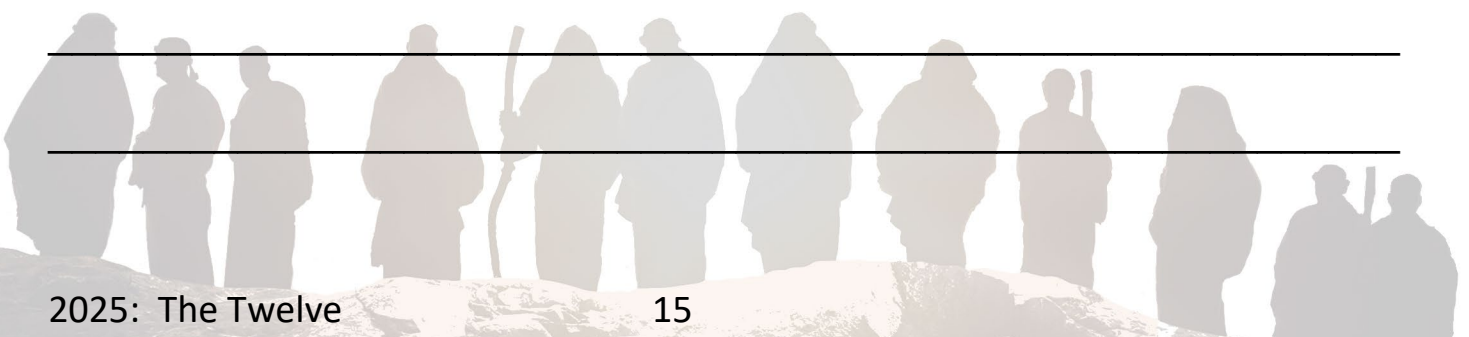
Jesus doesn't just see who we are; He sees who we can become.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT PETER

- ❖ Vocation _____ (son of Jonah - family business)
- ❖ Lived and worked in _____, Galilee (N Israel)
- ❖ _____
- ❖ Friends with _____, fellow fishermen
- ❖ Among _____ disciples called by Jesus
- ❖ Jesus gave Simon the nickname _____ (Cephas/Petros/Rock)
- ❖ Peter was _____
- ❖ Peter didn't _____.
- ❖ Peter wrote _____ of the New Testament (1st & 2nd Peter)

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT ANDREW

- ❖ Vocation _____ (son of Jonah - family business)
- ❖ Met Jesus via _____; ensured both Simon Peter met Jesus, the Messiah, too.



OPENING QUESTION

Who would you cast as Peter in a movie?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When Jesus first meets Peter, He asks him to leave his nets and follow Him. And Peter did! What “nets” might you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more closely?
2. Read Matthew 14:22-33. What do we learn about Peter’s faith? What do we learn about Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 16:13-20. How would you respond if Jesus was asking you this question today?
4. When Peter denied knowing Jesus, it was a moment of fear and failure. Yet, Jesus restored Peter when He next saw him. How have you felt restored from your failures in the past?
5. How have some of your mistakes shaped your character today? In other words, what lessons have you learned...the hard way?
6. Over his years of following Christ, Peter’s character was refined to become more like Him. In your time of following Jesus, how have you changed?



WEEK 7: FISHERMEN - JOHN, AND HIS BROTHER, JAMES (SONS OF THUNDER)

VIDEO NOTES

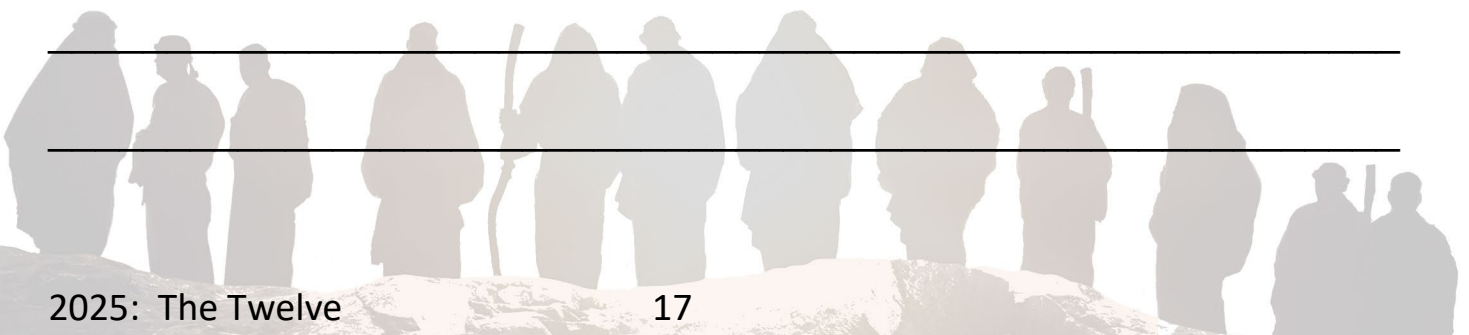
Within the 12 disciples, Peter, James and John were Jesus' BFFs.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JAMES

- ❖ Vocation _____ (eldest son of Zebedee)
- ❖ Lived and worked in _____, with fellow fishermen, Peter and Andrew
- ❖ Among _____ disciples called by Jesus
- ❖ First disciple _____ for his faith, leading to tremendous evangelism

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JOHN

- ❖ Vocation _____ (son of Zebedee)
- ❖ Only disciple who lived a _____ (died of natural causes)
- ❖ Wrote _____ of the New testament.
- ❖ Later, described himself as "_____"
- ❖ _____ to Patmos island where he wrote The Revelation



OPENING QUESTION

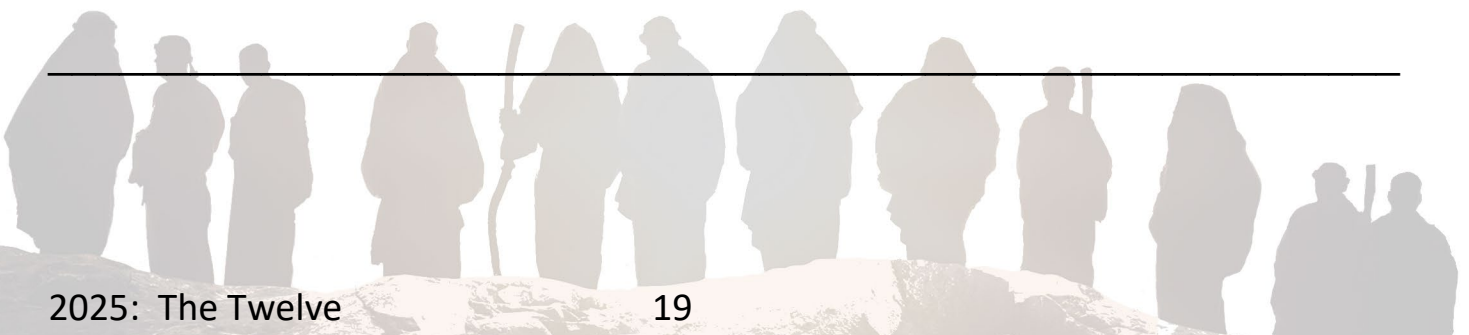
What's one of the most adventurous things you've ever done?

GROUP DISCUSSION

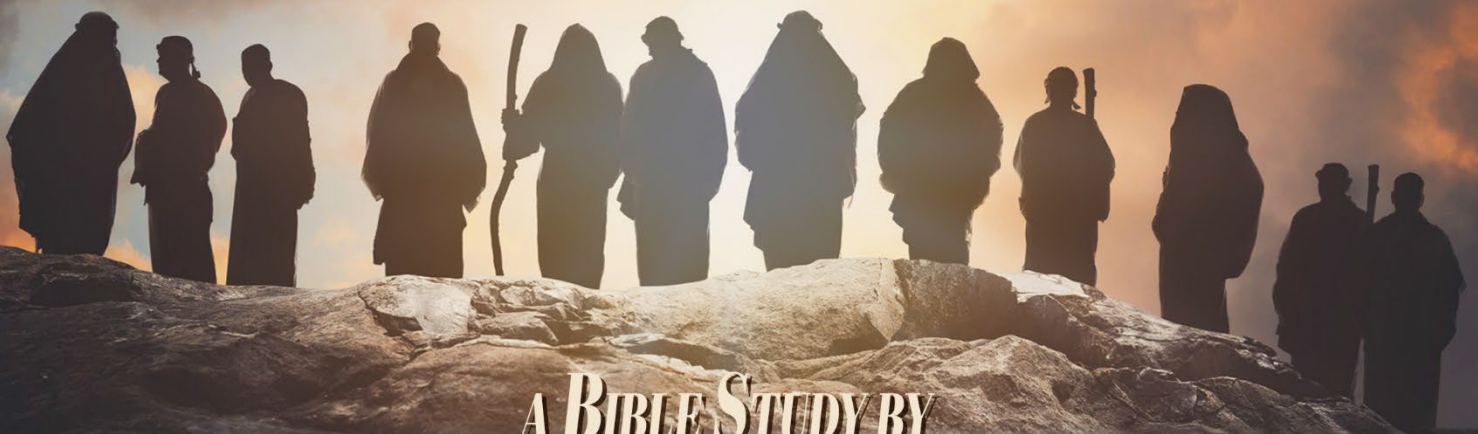
1. John was described in two ways: a “Son of Thunder” (Passionate and maybe a little wild); and, a “Disciple Whom Jesus Loved.” Which do you relate to the most closely?
2. John writes *“for God so loved the world that God gave His one and only Son”* . . . If you replace the word “world” with your name, how do you feel when you hear it? *“For God so loved _____ that He gave His one and only Son.*
3. Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 4:7-12. How can we live out love in practical ways? Get specific.
4. In John 15:5, Jesus says, *“I am the vine; you are the branches.”* How can you remain connected to Jesus on a daily basis?
5. Read 1 John 4:7-12 again. How do we love those around us in practical ways? Again...be specific.
6. Read Revelation 20:11-15. How do you know if your name is written in the Book of Life?
7. Who can we pray comes to know Jesus in a way that their name will be added to this book?



NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS

[illegible]

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