



The Heroes: The Apostles

And Mary Magdalene
12 Lesson Pack



Kate Milošević

Using the Material



SAMPLE

How to lead a session

Each session is designed to highlight a hero we find in the bible, we assign each hero a gift, something that develops their character and helps them learn more about God. At the end of each lesson there is a hero card for the children to take home, this card sums up the key points about each character and can be collected to form a set.

The material provided is suitable for a whole range of children's groups, it's designed to be tailored to fit your time frame and children's ability. Each session has many sections, there is no set order and you can skip sections you don't feel you need. Start by reading the bible passage and the hero card, then select what part of the lesson you would feel comfortable teaching and your children would find helpful to learn from. If you are used to using memory verses one is provided at the top of the session page.

PLAY

There are 2 ideas for each lesson, simple games you can play or activities to start discussions.

DIRECT

There is one or two worksheets per lesson, these are usually designed for independent readers working in small groups for discussion.

TALK

Here the story is written out in full. You can use this as a script, as inspiration, or abandon it and retell the bible passage in your own words.

Find more ideas all the lessons on-line

PRAY

A simple prayer to get your group prayer time started

MAKE

At least 2 crafts, with pictures. The instructions are on a separate page. The templates to print are at the back of the book - each has a matching picture.



TINY

How to adapt the lesson for your youngest students.
(All lessons on a separate page)

Follow the QR codes to visit the web-site version of the material.



About the Author

*I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.
(Jeremiah 2:2)*



Kate Milošević

Kate is a missionary living in Serbia, a wife and a mother, a missionary associate with CMS (Church Mission society), but most of all a child of the divine. When her baby goes to sleep, she writes kids ministry material on Jesus-without-language.net and blogs about life over at Mission Mummy.com

Kate got involved in children's ministry in the church crèche at just 12 years old. She's worked with babies, toddlers, through all the ages up to university students. After some years in full time church children's and youth work, she embarked on a six month mission trip to Serbia and met her husband. Serbia became their permanent home and her former career appeared abandoned...

Until she joined a local church and ended up once again on the kids rota. Now needing to translate she struggled to find suitable material and started writing her own. With almost no knowledge of the local language she named her project 'Jesus-Without-Language'. The resulting web-site is now used by thousands worldwide.

Tinies : God's youngest learners

We all start from different points in search of the one God.

How to lead a session:

Tinies need less teaching time and more time to be free to teach themselves through exploration, they also like familiar things so set up some exploration spaces that can be repeated for all the sessions. These could include : **small dolls, water trays, jigsaws, abacus, sorting games and building blocks.** Specifics for each session are shown below.



Little James

PLAY

Play the included game with the children standing or sitting when the descriptor applies to them

TALK

Talk about your friends. Talk about who you chose to travel with. Jesus wanted to chose 12 special friends to travel with, 12 men who he would prepare to tell the world about him after he'd gone to heaven. What sort of people would he choose? Little James was short and quiet and almost missed his name when Jesus called it. Why did Jesus pick little James do you think? We don't know, but we know Jesus doesn't make mistakes.



MAKE

Print the un-jumbled template for this craft, cut the apostles into strip jigsaws & laminate if possible

Large blank colored areas for notes or activities, including a large blue rounded rectangle, a light green rectangle, and several smaller light green and blue rounded rectangles.

Little James : Selection

Being chosen is enough to mark you as special



Today's hero is James because he shows us the gift of Selection

He called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them (Luke 6:13)

PLAY

Included – You'll need the cards for this game, each had some descriptor on it. The aim of the game is to get through as many cards as possible while getting to know the group you are playing with. Shuffle the cards and then choose a player. Have the player turn over the top card and choose a person that the card applies to, that person is now in their group and can stand behind the player and assist them. Turn the next card and choose another child. You must choose a child that fills a given description to move onto the next card. If you reach a card that does not apply to anyone not already in the group your turn has ended. Remove the final unfulfilled card, shuffle and chose another player.

MAKE

choose of the following crafts:



DIRECT

& have a discussion

Again, this worksheet is designed for small groups and as well as writing material you may want some colouring materials and a bible



PRAY

Thank you for...
giving us role models
Please help us ...
know we are chosen by you



Find more ideas for this lesson on-line

TALK

tell this story or a similar one of your choice

Lets start by using our imagination... there was a really big crowd of people and everyone was looking at Jesus. Jesus has just said that he wants to select his special Disciples, the Apostles. It's a bit like picking people for a sports team, but there is only Jesus' team and everyone wanted to be in it! How many people do you think were there? ____.

Today's hero is in the crowd, his name is James and he's not very tall so he's trying to move to the front to see. I wonder what's blocking his view? Can you imagine what may stop him from seeing? ____.

Jesus is talking. He's calling Peter. Peter's real name is Simon but Jesus gave him a new name. Peter will make a good apostle, though he sometimes opens his mouth when he should keep it shut! Next are the "brothers of thunder", James and John. They were tall and strong and very, very, loud, and they get very excited about things. Nobody is surprised Jesus chose these 3, he seems to spend most of his time with them already. Do you have someone you spend most of your time with? ____.

Jesus also calls out Andrews name, he's Peter's brother, and then come the best friends Philip then Nathanael (who is also sometimes called Bartholomew). Andrew had told Peter about Jesus and Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus. Have you ever told someone about Jesus like Andrew and Philip did? ____.

Now the crowd is getting restless. It wasn't hard to predict who Jesus would chose first but it's getting harder now. Matthew the tax collector is called, that surprises some people. Tax collectors were not liked, even when they gave up their job to follow Jesus. Then comes Thomas, he likes to make big statements, sometimes he's really clever and sometimes he gets it wrong. I wonder if we know anyone like Matthew or Thomas. Do we find it easy to forgive people for their mistakes? ____.

Then today's hero - James - hears his name being called. He looks round, perhaps there is another James? Johns brother was called James perhaps Jesus is talking to him...? "James, some of Alphaeus" calls Jesus. That's his dad's name, that means Jesus wants him! James shuffles forward to stand amongst the chosen apostles. John's brother James is much taller than him and much louder, perhaps I'll be little James he thinks. Do you have a nickname? ____.

James is so busy imagining a nickname he misses who else Jesus calls, there is the serious Simon, the scribe Jude, and the money keeper Judas. Jesus chose 12 altogether. 12 is a special number, it stands for completeness. Why did Jesus pick James? There are no other stories about this James, no other mention of him in the bible, but Jesus doesn't make mistakes, I wonder what made Little James so special? Can you use your imagination to give me some suggestions? ____.

James looked at the people Jesus didn't select to be Apostles, they looked disappointed. Jesus needed 12 Apostles to give special training, but the others were still chosen to be his Disciples and still very special to him. Jesus calls all of us to be his Disciples, some will be like Peter and become well known, others will be like James and we won't know their stories, but it doesn't mean that Jesus made a mistake picking them.

Today's hero is Little James because he show us the gift of selection

Little James

Luke 6



Friend of Jesus: Gift of SELECTION

Have you ever had 2 friends with the same name? Jesus chose 12 special friends called apostles to work with him. 2 were called James, one is known as James 'the Great' the other James 'the Less'. Perhaps this little James was younger or shorter. All we know is his Dad's name and that he was someone special because...
...he was chosen by Jesus

Matthew

Matthew 9



Friend of Jesus: Gift of AN OUTCAST

Imagine, one day, somebody tells you to leave everything behind and follow him. Add to that, you are somebody everyone avoids, perhaps even hates? That's what happened to Matthew and he said yes. Jesus chose him not because he was so great but because he was an outcast who...
...would write the story of Jesus

Nathanael
Bartholomew

John 1



Friend of Jesus: Gift of HONESTY

Nathanael Bartholomew was sitting under his fig tree when Philip came running up to say he had found Gods promised one. That's how Nathanael met Jesus, he knew immediately that Jesus God's son. Jesus was impressed by Nathanael's honesty and faith. Nathanael was invited to come see great things...
...to become Jesus' disciple.

Thomas

John 20



Friend of Jesus: Gift of DECLARATION

Jesus chose Thomas to be one of his special 12 friends. Thomas didn't always understand what was happening but he knew Jesus was the person to follow. After Jesus died some of the other followers told him Jesus had come back to life, but Thomas wasn't sure. He had to see Jesus for himself. When he did...
...he realised Jesus was God