

THE
APOSTLES
Their Lives and Messages


PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST

THE APOSTLES: THEIR LIVES AND MESSAGES

By Frank Hamrick

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FOR CHRIST

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Introduction

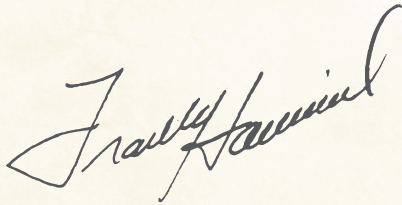
Who were Christ's Apostles? Maybe you can rattle off a list of names or even a few facts about these people, Jesus' prominent followers. You may have heard about their expansive missionary work, miraculous healings, or explosive sermons. But as you study their service to Christ, it's easy to forget that these men weren't always saints.

God didn't use these people to do great things because they were the best He could find. In fact, if you examine their lives closely, you might question why God would pick these men at all. Christ chose a thief, a terrorist, a murderer, social outcasts, uneducated fishermen, and utter nobodies—people that many of us would overlook and avoid.

But God had a plan for His Apostles, just as He does for each believer today. He taught them, encouraged their simple faith, and led them to spread the gospel. As you study the great accomplishments of the early church, you won't simply admire the work of the Apostles themselves, but rather the power of their God.

The purpose of this study is not only to give students a greater knowledge of the Apostles' lives, but also to give them a view of Christ's transforming, enabling power in action.

We pray this study will be a blessing and a challenge to you and your students as you watch God's grace at work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Hamrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "F".

Frank Hamrick

To the Student

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

As you work and take notes in your student manual, you are developing a great resource to reference after this study is finished. The more thought you put into your Bible study, the more you'll get out of it—both now and later.

Here's an overview of the contents of your student manual.

Teacher's Lesson Outline

This is an outline of your teacher's lesson. It will help you to follow along with the lesson and give you a structured breakdown of each lesson's topics.

Daily Devotional Readings

This section includes seven Scripture readings for each week of the study. Each reading assignment contains the passage, several questions about the reading, and a section for you to record your own thoughts and questions.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY

Class Time

- Prepare before you get to class—bring your student book and a pen or pencil.
- Review. A quick flip-through of the previous lesson will refresh your memory.
- Take notes. You aren't limited to just filling in blanks. Write down your own thoughts and questions during the teacher's lesson.
- Participate in discussions. It's OK to talk.

Student Work

- Pick the best time of your day to study the passages and pray. Try to find a time and place free of distraction. Play some quiet music or go to the library—whatever helps you focus.
- Begin with prayer, using what you've learned in this study so far. Ask God to teach you through the Scripture readings.
- Consider keeping a notebook to record prayers, take notes, ask questions, and record your Bible study thoughts.
- After you've studied and meditated on the passage, discuss what you've learned with friends or other students studying this material.
- Consider memorizing portions of the readings.

Not everyone will have the time or resources to be a Super-Bible-Scholar and study these passages for ten hours every day. Use what time you can to dig into these verses, and consider revisiting them later if you're limited on time.

YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO STUDY THE BIBLE

If you're a Christian, you have the ability to study God's Word as much as any theological professor or pastor. These people don't possess a special gift for learning that's only available to full-time ministry workers. Any Christian can—and should—study the Bible and share what they learn.

The Holy Spirit Lives in You

The Holy Spirit lives in you, and He gives you understanding of spiritual truths and helps you remember them (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:10–13).

The Bible Is a Living Book

Unlike any human-written book, the Bible has a divine Author who actively communicates with His readers. That's why it's possible to read the same passage several times and each time understand new things about it that you didn't previously notice.

God Gives Wisdom

Ask God for wisdom, and He will give it (James 1:5–6). Our human knowledge won't understand the spiritual nature of God's words. We can only learn truth with His help.

With God's help, you can do it! May He bless you as you continue to grow in your relationship with Him.

LESSON 1

Disciples and Apostles

MAIN TEXT:

Matthew 10:1–8

TEACHER'S LESSON OUTLINE

- ◉ Disciple
 - Definition of a Disciple
 - A disciple is a _____
 - From *mathetes* (Gr.) and *discipulus* (Lat.)
 - Characteristics of Disciples
 - A new _____
 - Christ stated that people would treat His followers worse than they treated Him (Matt. 10:24–25).
 - When trained, a disciple will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40).
 - A new way of _____
 - Christ has priority over...

- » _____ (Matt. 8:21)
- » _____ (Matt. 8:20)
- » _____ (Matt. 19:21–22)
- A disciple must be willing to endure _____ and _____ (Luke 14:27).
- o A new _____
 - A true disciple will _____ in God's Word (John 8:31).
 - » Allowing God's Word to transform the heart
 - » Teaching God's Word to others
- o Examples of Disciples
 - Moses' Disciples (John 9:28)
 - John the Baptist's Disciples (Luke 7:18)
 - Jesus' Disciples (John 6:66; Acts 6:1)
- o Apostles
 - Definition of Apostle
 - o " _____ "
 - o A _____ or _____ who is dispatched on a _____ (Strong's Concordance)
 - o From *apostolos* (Gr.)
 - *Apostolos* Denoted God's Messengers
 - o _____ (Heb. 3:1)
 - o _____ (Luke 11:49)
 - o _____ (2 Cor. 8:23)
- o Qualifications for God's Special Apostles (Acts 1:12–26)
 - A _____ to the Resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 9:1)

- A _____ and _____ of Christ (Acts 1:21–22)
 - From Christ's baptism to His ascension
- One _____ Directly by _____ (Matt. 10:1–2)
- ◉ God Gave Special Gifts
 - To Christ's _____ (Matt. 10:5–15)
 - To Apostles in the _____ (Acts 19:11; 1 Cor. 12:27–28)
- ◉ Duties of All Apostles
 - To _____ (Rom. 10:14–15)
 - Christ commissioned His followers to preach the gospel all over the world.
 - To _____ Doctrine (1 John 4:1–6)
 - Apostles ensured the purity of doctrine and tested all teaching against God's words.
 - To Remain _____ to God (2 Tim. 2:1–7)
 - Christ expected His apostles to be willing to die for Him, if necessary.
- ◉ These Duties Are for _____ Believer



DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS

- Day One: Luke 14:25–34
- Day Two: John 6:52–69
- Day Three: John 8:12–38
- Day Four: John 9:13–34
- Day Five: Acts 1:1–14
- Day Six: Matthew 10:1–24
- Day Seven: Ephesians 2:11–22

DAY ONE: LUKE 14:25–34

- ⦿ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ⦿ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ⦿ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ⦿ What does this passage teach about God?

- ⦿ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY TWO: JOHN 6:52-69

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY THREE: JOHN 8:12-38

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FOUR: JOHN 9:13-34

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FIVE: ACTS 1:1-14

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SIX: MATTHEW 10:1-24

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SEVEN: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

LESSON 2

Andrew

MAIN TEXT:

John 1:35–42; John 6:8–9; John 12:20–22

TEACHER'S LESSON OUTLINE

- ◎ Andrew's Background
 - From _____, on the Northwest Shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44)
 - Brother of _____
 - A Disciple of _____ (John 1:37)
- ◎ Andrew's Faith
 - His Discovery of the Messiah (John 1:41)
 - Andrew _____ Jesus as Messiah.
 - He _____ Peter to see the Messiah.
 - His Call to Discipleship (Matt. 4:18–19)
- ◎ Andrew's Ministry
 - Brought His _____ to the Lord (John 1:41)
 - He found Simon immediately after he spent time with Jesus.
 - Brought a _____ to the Lord (John 6:8–9)

- Brought _____ to the Lord (John 12:20–22)
- ⊙ Andrew's Continuing Witness
 - Carried the Gospel into _____ (Eusebius)
 - Died a Martyr's Death by Crucifixion on an X-Shaped Cross (Foxe)
- ⊙ Sharing Jesus with Others (Rom. 10)
 - Definition of Witnessing
 - Witnessing means to tell others about something you have _____.
 - Example: a witness in court
 - Motives for Witnessing
 - To share the gospel with those who have never _____ (Rom. 10:14–15)
 - Our sin _____ us to hell (Rom. 6:23).
 - Christ is the only true _____ of salvation (John 14:6).
 - To fulfill Christ's _____ (Matt. 28:16–20; Acts 1:8)
 - To _____ God (John 17:20–26)
 - Methods for Witnessing
 - Witnessing requires _____ communication.
 - Relying on _____ to share the gospel isn't enough.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS

- Day One: John 1:35–42
- Day Two: Matthew 4:18–25
- Day Three: Mark 1:29–39
- Day Four: John 6:1–14
- Day Five: John 12:20–36
- Day Six: Romans 10:5–17
- Day Seven: Philippians 1:12–18

DAY ONE: JOHN 1:35–42

- ☉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ☉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ☉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ☉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ☉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY TWO: MATTHEW 4:18-25

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY THREE: MARK 1:29-39

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FOUR: JOHN 6:1-14

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FIVE: JOHN 12:20-36

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SIX: ROMANS 10:5-17

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SEVEN: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

LESSON 3

Simon Peter the Fisherman

MAIN TEXT:

John 1:35–42; Luke 5:1–11

TEACHER'S LESSON OUTLINE

- ◎ Peter's Background
 - Name and Family
 - Hebrew Name—_____
 - Greek form—_____
 - Brother—_____
 - Father—_____, sometimes spelled Jonas (Matt. 16:17)
 - From _____ (John 1:44)
 - Had a northern country accent (Mark 14:70)
 - Later Lived in _____ (Mark 1:21, 29)
 - City where Peter's mother-in-law lived (Mark 1:29–30)
 - A Fisherman

- Religion and Education
 - Followed _____ Law (Acts 10:14)
 - No _____ education (Acts 4:13)
- ◎ Peter's Call
 - To Meet Christ (1:41–42)
 - Christ gave Simon a new name—_____, meaning “_____.”
 - “Peter” comes from the Greek word petros, meaning “rock.”
 - Christ told Peter that he would be foundational in building the _____ (Matt. 16:18–19).
 - To Discipleship (Luke 5:1–11)
 - Peter personally witnessed two miracles.
 - _____ healed (Luke 4:38–39)
 - Unusually large catch of _____ (Luke 5:4–11)
 - Peter was a _____ disciple (Mark 9:2).
 - Peter, James, and John witnessed parts of Jesus’ ministry that the other disciples didn’t.
- ◎ Peter's Conflicted Trust
 - In Christ's _____
 - Peter's misunderstanding of Christ's _____ (Matt.19:27)
 - Peter's refusal to believe Christ's _____ (Matt. 16:21–23)
 - In Christ's _____
 - Jesus' _____ Peter's feet (John 13:6–16)
 - Peter's _____ at Christ's arrest (Matt. 26:69–75)
 - In Christ's _____

- Peter's _____ on water (Matt. 14:22–33)
- Peter's _____ at Christ's resurrection (John 20:8–9)
- ◎ Dealing with Doubt
 - The key to this struggle isn't found in trying harder or ignoring our doubts—it lies in meditating on God's _____.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS

- Day One: Mark 9:2–13
- Day Two: Matthew 14:22–33
- Day Three: Matthew 16:13–20
- Day Four: John 13:2–11, 36–38
- Day Five: Mark 14:32–42
- Day Six: John 18:7–18, 25–27
- Day Seven: John 21:15–19

DAY ONE: MARK 9:2–13

- ⦿ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ⦿ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ⦿ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ⦿ What does this passage teach about God?

- ⦿ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY TWO: MATTHEW 14:22-33

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY THREE: MATTHEW 16:13-20

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FOUR: JOHN 13:2-11, 36-38

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY FIVE: MARK 14:32-42

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SIX: JOHN 18:7-18, 25-27

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.

DAY SEVEN: JOHN 21:15-19

- ◉ Who is talking in this passage? Whom is the speaker addressing?

- ◉ Identify the prominent theme(s) of this passage.

- ◉ Choose a verse from this passage that teaches this theme.

- ◉ What does this passage teach about God?

- ◉ Write down any questions or thoughts you have about this passage.
