

I Formed You ■ I Chose You



I Set You Apart ■ I Appointed You

JEREMIAH 1:5

Bible Study Leaders Guide
For 2011 Texas Royal Ambassador Camps



Built God Tough

A Bible Study for Royal Ambassador Camps

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**Note: Day 4 Bible studies were not available at print time
please download from the Baptist Men Website**

@<http://www.texasbaptistmen.org/dnn/Ministries/RoyalAmbassadors/RAOverview/RAEvents/SummerCamps/>

Bible Study Leaders Guide – “Built God Tough” Day 1

Theme: “I Formed You”

Materials Needed:

Play-Dough or Pipe Cleaners

Memory Verse: Psalms 139:13 HCSB

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

Aim: Boys will learn that God has a plan or blueprint for their life. God made each of us and we are all a part of His beautiful creation and that God has a special plan for each of our lives.

Background Bible Study:

Leaders read through the following passage in several of your favorite translations of the Bible. It will give you much more detail to expand on when telling the story in your own words.

Read Isaac’s Story in Genesis 21-28

Bible Story: Isaac

Long ago God made a promise to a man named Abraham that he would become a father and he would be the father of fathers and nations and great kings would come from his descendants. Abraham had a very hard time believing this because he and his wife Sarah were very old. Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 90. Sarah laughed and thought I’m way too old to be having a baby. But God made a promise to Abraham and said he would also make a promise to his son, that all who came after him would become God’s chosen people.

A year later Sarah had a baby and God commanded Abraham to name him Isaac, which means laughter, to remember what Sarah did when she heard the news and to show that nothing is impossible for God.

Later on when Isaac was a young man, God commanded Abraham to take him to a mountain He specified and give his son Isaac as a burnt offering. The next morning Abraham gathered the donkeys and two servants along with the firewood needed to give the offering and took Isaac on a three day journey to find the mountain where God wanted him to give the sacrifice. Isaac asked his father, “where is the lamb we are to sacrifice?” Abraham answered “God will provide the sacrifice.” Isaac soon found himself tied up and laid on the alter to become the sacrifice! At the last minute God sent an angel to stop Abraham and provided a wild ram to take his place. Abraham had passed the test of fearing and trusting God.

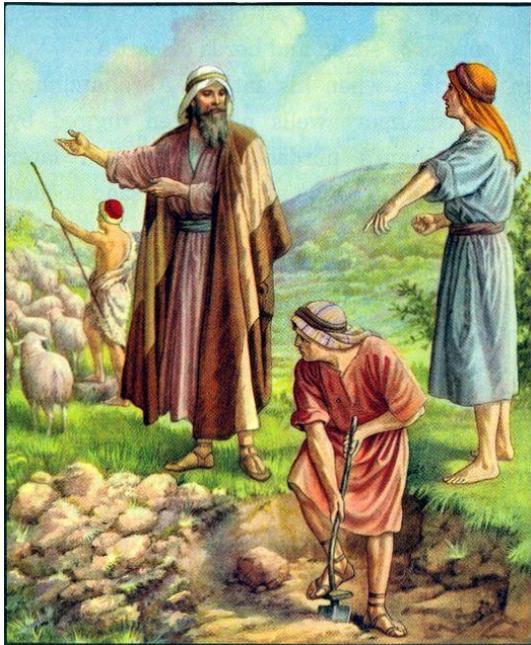
As Isaac grew into manhood his mother Sarah died and



Abraham and Isaac were very lonely. So Abraham sent his servant Nahor out to find a wife for his son Isaac. Nahor prayed to God and asked for to him find the proper woman for Isaac. God gave him his answer when Rebecca offered to give him, as well as his camels, a drink from the well. After meeting with Laban Rebecca's brother, they agreed to send Rebecca to meet Isaac and soon they were married. Isaac was 40 years old when he got married.

Isaac and Rebecca discovered they were unable to have children so Isaac prayed to God time and time again to give them children. After 20 years when Isaac was nearly 60 Rebecca became pregnant with twins. She had a difficult time while she was pregnant because the babies inside her tumbled and kicked so much she did not want to go on living. One night she asked God why he would allow this and God told her there were two nations inside her who would not get along but the older would serve the younger. Soon Jacob and Esau were born and grew. Esau became Isaac's favorite. He became a skillful hunter and outdoorsman. Jacob became Rebecca's favorite. He was mild mannered and enjoyed staying near home tending the garden and cooking.

The next thing to happen in Isaac's life was a famine. The rain stopped and the land became dry and would not produce food. Isaac wanted to move his family to Egypt but God told Isaac to stay in Gerar and He would bless him. God told Isaac "this is the land I have promised you." Isaac loved God and stayed in Gerar. He dug new wells and had water to make his crops grow. People in Gerar did not like Isaac and they filled his wells with dirt. The king Abimelech came to Isaac and told him the wells were on his land and he would have to move his people. Isaac moved to another place and had to dig new wells and God helped Isaac and they had water again to water their crops and animals. King Abimelech wanted these new wells too and told Isaac he had become too rich and that he would have to move again. This time Isaac moved far away, dug new wells, and God continued to bless Isaac and his family. One day King Abimelech came to Isaac and talked to him about how God was with him and how he protected him. King Abimelech promised Isaac he would not bother him again and that he wanted to be friends and finally there was peace in the land.



In Isaac's later years when he was old, blind, in poor health and nearly ready to die, Isaac decided to give his blessing to Esau. He asked Esau to go hunting and to bring a deer and cook it the way he liked and they would talk and he would bestow his blessing on Esau because he was the first born. Rebecca heard what Isaac told Esau and she quickly found Jacob. She told him to go kill to small goats and she would cook them like deer meat. Jacob took the meat to his father and had covered his arms with the animal skins so his blind father would think he was his brother and Jacob tricked his father into giving him the blessing. When Esau got home and found out what happened he became very angry and threatened to kill Jacob. Jacob quickly left home and went far away. But that is another story...

Introduction:

While boys arrive give each a small lump of play dough or 3 pipe cleaners and tell them to create a new kind of animal. They should be able to tell what it is what it eats and what purpose it serves. After

boys have had time to share tell them that today we are going to learn about a person that God made for a special purpose.

Review Questions:

Was Isaac built God tough? Yes! Isaac was a miracle baby born to Abraham and Sarah who were too old to have children.

What does the name Isaac mean and why did Abraham and Sarah give him this name? Isaac means laughter Abraham was instructed by God to name him Isaac to show Sarah even though she doubted and laughed at the thought of having a baby at her age nothing is impossible to God.

When God commanded Isaac to sacrifice Isaac how do you think Isaac felt about it? Isaac was not aware he was the sacrifice until the last minute. He had questioned his father about what they were to sacrifice but he was told God would provide.

After having experienced nearly being sacrificed, being saved by an angel, and seeing God provide a ram for the sacrifice. How do you think Isaac felt about God? Awe, thankfulness, relief

Do you think this made Isaac stronger in his faith? How?

How did Isaac meet his wife Rebecca? Abraham sent his servant Nahor to go find a wife for Isaac and he did not meet her until everything was decided.

When Rebecca finally had children she had twins what were their names? Esau and Jacob

When King Abimelech made Isaac move away from the wells he had dug how did Isaac react? It made him angry but he knew God would take care of him and his family so they left without causing trouble.

When Isaac was very old Jacob tricked him out of what? His brother Esau's blessing. What is a blessing and how important is it.

How does Isaac fit the profile of our key verse?

"Before I formed you in your mother's body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

I formed you – Isaac was a miracle baby given to Abraham and Sarah by God

I choose you – Isaac was chosen to be the father of God's chosen people

I set you apart – God blessed and protected Isaac and his family

I appointed you – He told Isaac to keep his family in the land He had given him and Isaac obeyed.

How was Isaac built God Tough?

He was a gift to his parents from God

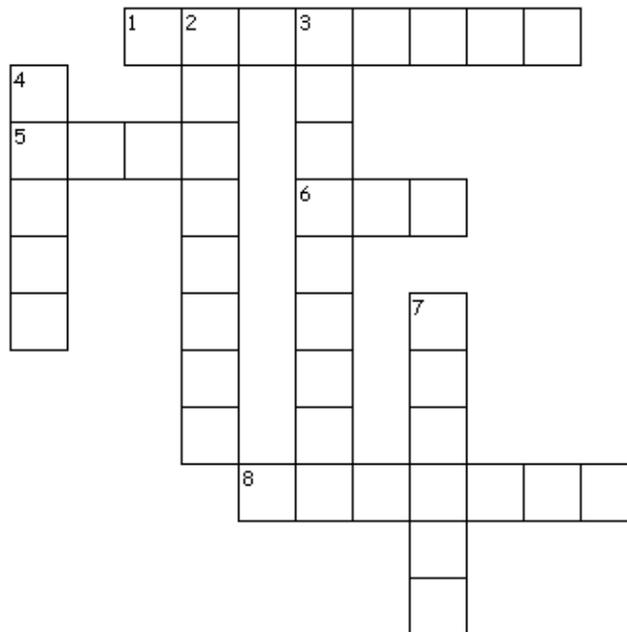
He survived nearly being sacrificed

He listened to and obeyed God

Wrap Up:

God had a plan for Isaac even before his was born. Psalms 139:13 says “You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother’s body.” God had a plan for Isaac and God has a plan for you too. Even before you were born God knew all about you and planed some pretty awesome stuff for your life. How do we get to find out what God has planned for our lives? All we have to do is trust in God and make him Lord (Boss) of our life. We are all built God Tough but the toughness comes from letting God be our protector. Are you God Tough or have you tried to be tough all by yourself. Wouldn’t it be so much easier if everywhere you went you had a body guard like Duane “The Rock” Johnson or the secret service standing behind you? Giving you life to God and being God Tough is kind of like that but much better. God is always with you and will never let anything happen that he has not given you the ability to deal with when we include Him in our plans. Think about being God Tough and have the courage and obedience like Isaac did to make that decision to follow Him.

CHECK YOUR FACTS



Across

1. what Jacob tricked his father into giving him
5. Jacobs twin brother
6. what God provided to replace Isaac as a sacrifice
8. wife of Isaac

Down

2. the meaning of Isaac's name
3. what nearly happened to Isaac on the altar
4. what Jacob had to dig everytime he moved
7. the age of Abraham when Isaac was born

Bible Study Leaders Guide – “Built God Tough” Day 2

Theme: “I Choose You”

Materials Needed:

Nicely wrapped box to look like a gift
ABC Decision pamphlets

Memory Verse: Romans 8:29

God planned that those he had chosen would become like his Son. In that way, Christ will be the first and most honored among many brothers.

Aim: Boys will learn that God chose us and offers us His salvation. God has given us His only Son so we can be a part of His family.

Background Bible Study:

Leaders read through Luke chapters 1-23 in several of your favorite translations of the Bible. It will give you much more detail to expand on when telling the story in your own words.

Introduction:

While boys arrive ask them to choose up teams select team captains and have each boy choose boys as they arrive. Don't tell them what game or skills they need just emphasize that they need to choose well so they can have the best team.

After everyone has arrived have the boys take a seat and then ask what it felt like to be chosen? Ask if anyone has experienced being the last one picked when playing games. Talk about how it feels when you are not sure you will be picked or picked last just because the team captain has to pick you. How would it feel if you were the first one picked every time? Today we are going to learn about a very special person who was picked before he even came into the room today. That person is with us now.

Tell the Bible Story: Chosen

The story of Jesus is the most popular story in the world. We can remember amazing things about Jesus. For instance how He was born in a manger and how in awe the shepherds were that came to see Him first. We remember how, when He was about your age, He got left in Jerusalem and it took three days for His parents to find Him and about Jesus' cousin John the Baptist that preached about and prepared everyone for the time Jesus would start His ministry. The story of Jesus is awesome.



to

Starting with His baptism, Jesus did many amazing things. He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He announces to the world who He is in His home town but no one believed Him and wanted to throw Him off



a cliff and kill Him. Jesus walked through the crowd and went on His way. After this Jesus began to perform many wonders and miracles. In Capernaum He cast a demon out of a man just by ordering it to leave. He also healed many people in the same town. All this occurred before Jesus met Simon one day while he was fishing. Many people were following Him hoping to hear a good word or be healed so Jesus asked Simon to bring in his boat and take Him a short distance from shore so he could preach to the people. When they were done Jesus had Simon go into the deep water and recast his nets and they caught so many fish it nearly sank the boat. Simon realized that Jesus was special and asked Him to step away because he was a sinful man. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid from now on you will be fishing for people." Simon, James, and John left everything they had on the shore and followed Jesus. Jesus chose them for a special work to come.

Jesus began his ministry teaching and performing miracles and calling those to follow Him along the way and eventually chose His twelve apostles. Jesus used His ministry to teach this small group of followers and allowed them to see His ministry close up and personal. He empowered them to be His helpers and they witnessed amazing things like healings and even a widow's son being raised from the dead! Jesus was recognized by many to be the Son of God.

Jesus demonstrated His power and did His best to educate His disciples through example and through the miracles He performed. Jesus always loved everyone He saw. He used dramatic experiences like calming a storm, casting demons into pigs, healing a woman with enough faith to just touch the hem of His clothing, to teach his disciples. He healed the synagogue rulers daughter by bring her to life.

Jesus eventually sent out the twelve disciples and gave the power to cast out demons and heal the sick and to preach about the kingdom of God. Jesus continued to preach and teach and fed the five thousand with the fishes and loaves. He about Gods plan for our lives through stories we can all understand called parables. He taught the Pharisees by example in their homes and synagogues, He had meals with tax collectors, He healed the unclean people who had leprosy, He restored sight to a blind man, He taught about the faith of children and gave them a special place near Him. Jesus entered Jerusalem as a King of peace on a donkey and people honored by placing their coats and palm branches on the road for him to on. Jesus cleared out the temple and preached every day and chief priests and teachers tried to get rid of Him, they questioned His authority and eventually arrested Him nailed Him to a cross where He died.



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Wow! The story of Jesus' life is better than any adventure movie ever made. Jesus was chosen to live His life as an example to us and to give us hope. The story did not end when He died on the cross because

three days later Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb. Jesus entire life was meant to give us one message. God Loves You!

Did you know God has chosen you too? Today's story is not about Jesus it is about **YOU** the whole reason Jesus came to earth was not to heal the sick or help His disciples catch a lot of fish. Jesus came *to earth to bring us closer to God and to give us a way to reach* heaven. John 3:16 sums up everything we need to know: "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." God loves everyone in the world He doesn't choose first or second or last like a team captain He chooses **YOU** first. No one is loved any more or less than **YOU** "God loved the world so much" that he gave His only son for **YOU!** God wants you to be a part of His family and it doesn't cost anything! God wants us to be part of His family for free. The Bible tells us in Romans 8:29 "God planned that those He had chosen would become like His Son. In that way, Christ will be the first and most honored among many brothers."

Review Questions:

Are you ready to make a decision to be God Tough by accepting God's free gift and making Jesus your Lord and Savior?

Use this example pull a nicely wrapped gift out of a bag you have near you and say my best friend gave me this gift for no reason say I don't need it and toss it into the trash without even opening it to see what it is. Tell the boys that not believing in Jesus is just like throwing away a gift you have never opened "Anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life" Gods gift to us is getting to live forever in heaven! Gods only requirement is that we take His free gift.

Here's How: Easy as ABC

A= Admit – Admit to God that you are a sinner, repent, and turn away from your sin. Romans 5:8 "Everyone has sinned and no one measures up to God's Glory"

B=Believe – Believe that Jesus is God's Son and accept His gift of forgiveness from sin. Romans 5:8 "But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners Christ died for us."

C= Confess – Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord Romans 10:9-10 Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say that Jesus is Lord. And so you are saved."

How do you fit the profile of our key verse?

"Before I formed you in your mother's body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

- I formed you
- I choose you

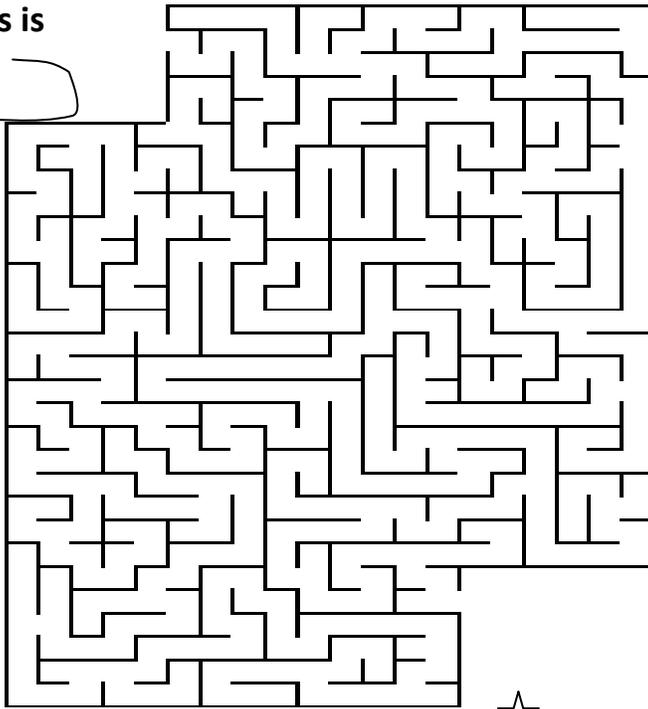
- I set you apart –
- I appointed you –

How are you built God Tough?

Wrap Up:

Share the ABC's Plan of Salvation with the boys at this time and give them a chance to respond. If time is short have the boys that have questions complete a decision card for follow-up counseling later that day.

**Finding Jesus is
Easy as ABC**



**Life can seem like a maze but Jesus
can show the way just pray**

Bible Study Leaders Guide – “Built God Tough” Day 3

Theme: “I Set You Apart”

Materials Needed:

Hat or bowl and papers with numbers or shapes on them to select boys in introduction activity
Basin, gallon jug of water, towel for closing activity (you will need supplies for each rotation.)

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:21 HCSB

So if anyone purifies himself from these things, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work

Aim: Boys will learn that God chooses each of us and equips us with the right tools to work in His kingdom. He sets us apart from the rest of the world so others can see His light through us.

Background Bible Study:

Leaders read through the following passage in several of your favorite translations of the Bible. It will give you much more detail to expand on when telling the story in your own words.

Read the disciples story in Luke 5-6

Introduction:

While boys arrive allow them to choose a special card from a bowl or hat that has a circle or a triangle on it. (prepare these ahead of time so there are only three or four circles in the whole group) tell the boys that today some of you are going to be set apart for a special mission. You will be receiving special information and attention the others will not be getting. Tell the other boys that if they were not chosen if they try they can watch from the side and learn much. Prepare a special place for the boys to sit either in the center of the group in chairs or on the floor facing you. Use them for examples when possible and make them your special helpers. Leader, remember, although we are using a lottery to choose the boys Jesus had the ability to see men’s hearts. Toward the end of the lesson emphasize this fact. As a regular man you as a teacher cannot see into another’s heart to choose who was best for this position.

Bible Story: How God chose, set apart, and equipped the disciples.

Jesus Chose His Disciples

When Jesus returned from the wilderness and came upon John the Baptist and a group of his disciples, John shouted out “Behold the Lamb of God, who will bear the sins of the world” When Andrew his friend heard this, they went with Jesus and spent the afternoon talking and learning. Andrew knew he had to bring his brother Simon to Jesus. When he found Simon Andrew said “we have found Him! We have found the Messiah!” Simon went to meet



and

Jesus

and as soon as he saw him, Jesus greeted him and told him he would be called Peter (which means rock). The very next day Jesus went and found Philip and said to him, "follow Me." Philip rushed to get his neighbor and friend Nathanael who was very skeptical about Jesus until he met him. Jesus greeted Nathanael like he



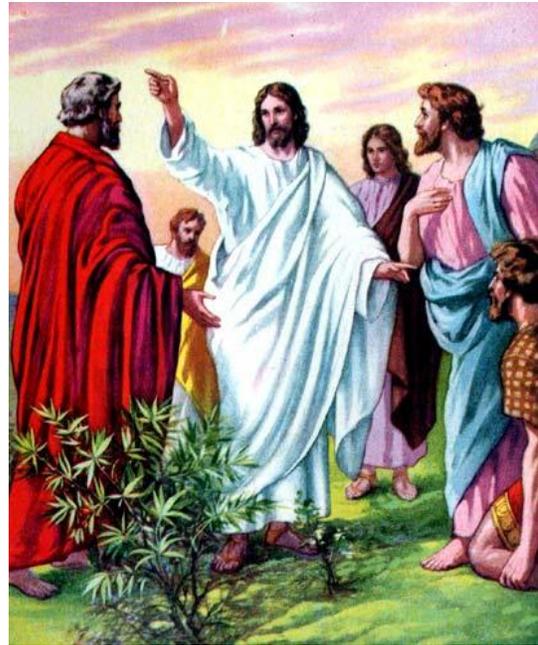
already knew him and then shocked Nathanael by telling him what he had been doing before Phillip went to go get him. Nathanael was amazed and believed and also followed Jesus. One day when Jesus went to see Simon Peter and Andrew by the lake He said, "come with me." They went with Jesus and came upon James and his brother John who were their partner fishermen. Jesus said to them, "follow me," and they went with Jesus and He began to teach them. Soon they went to a Passover feast in another town and witnessed Jesus casting out a demon in the synagogue. Other people begun to follow

Jesus and went where He went and saw the miracles He was performing. Jesus was also healing people and casting demons out of people. Jesus was teaching in the local synagogue. It was during this time that He called Matthew who was a publican. Publicans were Jews that worked for the Romans. Other Jews did not trust publicans and felt they were traitors. Jesus knew Matthew had a good heart and would make a good disciple. Matthew wanted all his friends to meet Jesus so he prepared a great feast and invited all his friends and fellow publicans. During the feast the Pharisees came to watch and were telling Jesus' disciples that they should not sit with sinners and publicans. When Jesus overheard them talking, He pulled his disciples aside and used the example to teach them. He told them, "People who are well don't need a doctor but people who are sick do. I have come not to help righteous people but to call those who are sinners to repent and change their ways."

By this time large numbers of people had begun to follow Jesus from place to place. Many people wanted to hear His teaching or be healed. One day when Jesus was walking by the lake he asked Simon Peter to let Him in his boat and to go out into the water away from the shore so He could preach to those who had followed Him. When He was finished, He asked Simon Peter and Andrew to go out to deep water and cast their nets. They had not been able to catch fish all day but they did what Jesus said and soon their nets had so many fish, they had to call James and John to help them. They loaded fish onto the boats until they were nearly sinking. As soon as they got their catch to the shore Jesus asked the four men to "follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Simon, Andrew, James, and John all put down their catch and walked away from their boats and followed Jesus.

As Jesus continued His ministry, many people choose to follow Him. Some like Andrew and Simon and the brothers James and John were fishermen, Philip and Nathanael joined the group as well as Matthew. They all choose to follow Jesus because of the awesome message Jesus shared. Many other people heard Jesus and wanted to be part of His group as well. Hearing Jesus' message surely changed their lives but when the time came Jesus choose from all these people a special group he could train and send out to the places and people He had not been. These men would become the 12 disciples and were trained to preach and share the good news .

One night Jesus went away from the group up on the mountain where He would not be disturbed to pray to God. He prayed for help, wisdom, and strength to do His as He choose who would be among the twelve that would become his helpers. After praying all night Jesus returned disciples who were waiting for Him to return. From all who were there, He choose Simon who He called Peter his brother Andrew who first brought Simon to Him. Jesus choose James and John the brothers who were fishermen. then choose Matthew the publican and Philip and Nathaniel of Capernaum. He chose Thomas, and another named James who was the son of Alphaeus. He choose another named Simon, and Judas the brother of James, last of all he choose Judas Iscariot who ultimately became traitor.



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Jesus took this special group of men and gave them the to heal and cast out demons. He appointed them to and tell people about the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave a name to this group. He called them apostles which means who are sent out).

Jesus set apart this group of twelve men to share message of forgiveness and new life that Jesus taught them. God called these men and they choose to change their lives and follow Jesus. God set these men apart from others in the group. 2 Timothy 2:21 says “So if anyone purifies himself from these things, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work”

Did you know God expects us all to be a special instrument that he can use to tell others about Him. God wants to set us apart from the rest of the world so people can look at us and see how He is working in our lives. The apostles had the greatest opportunity of anyone in history. They actually got to sit with God the Son and be taught personally by Him. God calls us all to be His disciples which means (student follower) and He has given us his Word the Bible and allows us to talk to Him through prayer anytime night or day. What an awesome job we have been given when we believe in Him. We become representatives of God right here on earth, where we live, and work, and go to school. We become Ambassadors of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

How do the disciples fit the profile of our key verse?

“Before I formed you in your mother’s body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

Why did the disciples choose to follow Jesus?

What must we do to become disciples of Jesus?

What does it mean to be set apart for something?

Do you think we have been set apart like the disciples?

What are some examples of how the disciples were Built God Tough.

Wrap Up:

To wrap up this lesson tell the those boys you set aside for special training that our verse tells us we are set apart to serve, today they have been set apart to serve. Jesus emphasized this to His disciples at the last supper by washing their feet. Today as a servant of the Lord I (the teacher) am going to wash the feet of those special few who were set apart to serve. While washing each boys feet quote today's memory verse 2 Timothy 2:21. Have a basin, pitcher of water, and towels ready. Wash each chosen boys feet, then give them the basin and ask them to go serve another by washing another's feet in the classroom. Tell them God has set us apart as His special people but He does not want us to be all puffed up and self important because of it. 2 Timothy 2:21 tells us "So if anyone purifies himself from these things, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work." Jesus He wants us to humbly be able to do for others what He has done for us so they can do the same for others.

WORD SEARCH FIND THE DISCIPLES

S U E A H P L A S E M A J S K
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ANDREW
JESUS
JUDASISCAROT
PHILIP
THOMAS

JAMES
JOHN
MATTHEW
SIMON

JAMESALPHEUS
JUDASALPHEUS
NATHANAEL
SIMONPETER