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This weekly devotional will shine a spotlight on biblical characters that teach us about renewal, discernment and moving forward. The highlights of their faithfulness, leadership and service illuminate us and make us better.

Spotlight on Disciples – Peter, Andrew, James & John

Disciple, translated from the Greek for "learner" is an apprentice or pupil attached to a teacher or movement; one whose allegiance is to the instruction and commitments of the teacher or movement. Closely paralleling rabbinic custom, most New Testament references to "disciples" designate "followers" of Jesus, often a large group including both his closest associates (the Twelve) and a larger number who followed with varying positive response (Luke 6:17). (*Harper's Bible Dictionary*)

CENTER STACE

The Call of the First Disciples - Matthew 4:19-22

Here, Jesus recruits his first disciples, two sets of two brothers. What do you learn about Simon (called Peter), Andrew, James and John in this passage?

How does Jesus call the disciples?

What are the disciples leaving behind?

How long does it take for them to make their decision to follow?

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

READ MORE ABOUT THESE DISCIPLES IN MATTHEW

Matthew 10:1-42 – Jesus sends out the Twelve What are the instructions for a disciple?

Matthew 14:22-33 – Jesus walks on water

What does Peter learn in this passage?

Matthew 16:13-20 – Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah What does Peter get right?

Matthew 16:21-28 – Jesus predicts his death

What does Peter get wrong?

Matthew 17:1-13 – The Transfiguration

What are the disciples learning about Jesus?

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Matthew 18:21-35 – The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

What are the disciples learning about forgiveness?

Matthew 19:23-30 – The Rich and the Kingdom of God

What are you learning about the Kingdom of God?

Matthew 26:31-35 - Jesus predicts Peter's denial

What are you learning about Peter's limitations?

Matthew 26:26-46 - Gethsemane

What are you learning about Jesus?

Matthew 26:69-75 – Peter disowns Jesus

What are you learning about being a disciple?

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

What are the disciples commissioned to do?

Reread Matthew 4:18-22 – The call of the first disciples

How are this passage and the Great Commission related?

SHINE THE LICHT ON FAITH

As we consider this season's focus on re[new] consider the following questions:

As you reflect on these disciples, how did things start over for them? What did they bring with them? What was completely new?

As you reflect on your own life, if you could start over again what would you want to bring with you? What would you want to be completely new?

How will you live differently this week because of your encounter with God's Word?

MORE INSIGHT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH

Listen to this podcast from The Bible Project: What is Discipleship? https://www.gospelproject.com/make-disciples-video/

Overview of Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 1-13 https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-1-13/

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