





# FROM BROTHER NATHAN

I am very excited to have you as a reporter for the **DGN** network this year! Do you know what **DGN** means? **"DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS!"** I hope you are ready to jump into your assignments in this new year, so gather around the producer's desk to hear what your assignment will be.

Listen carefully...

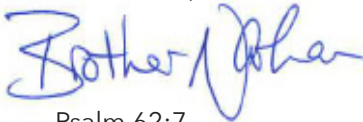
There were 12 men in the Bible that Jesus specifically chose to be His disciples. He called them; He trained them; and He used each of their personalities and abilities to **DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS** to the world!

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, these 12 disciples turned the world upside down for Christ. They traveled to the entire known world at the time and told multitudes about the Gospel. The world would never be the same.

This booklet will serve as your guide for your news report for the **DGN** network about the disciples. You can work on these assignments at the same time, and when you're done with all of them, make sure your parents have signed each page and turn them in to your Kid City teacher for your prize!

Now it's your turn to **DECLARE THE GOOD NEWS!** So come along and join me as we interview these 12 disciples and follow them as they followed Christ!

Your friend,



Psalm 62:7



# PETER

## DEFINING THE GOSPEL

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

-1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4

When the other disciples were silent, Peter always spoke up! At one instance, Jesus asked the disciples who they thought He was. Peter as always jumped to the opportunity! In Matthew 16:16, he exclaims, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!" That's the Gospel in a nutshell!

Later, Peter preaches at the feast of Pentecost and three thousand people accept Christ as their Savior! Peter was always ready to define the Gospel for others.

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The word "Gospel" means "good news," and that's the best news anyone can announce!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15. You can break it up to read at different times if that helps you understand it better!

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Interview at least two family members about what the Gospel means to them and write what they say below.

### ***FAMILY MEMBER #1***

What does the Gospel mean to you?

### ***FAMILY MEMBER #2***

What does the Gospel mean to you?

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# ANDREW

## DELIVERING THE GOSPEL

*"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."*

-John 1:40-41

Andrew was Peter's brother. He followed a man named John the Baptist who preached about the coming Savior, Jesus! One day, John the Baptist announced that Jesus was here and baptized Him. Andrew immediately began following Jesus instead.

But what was the first thing that he did after he found Jesus himself? He had to tell someone else!

Andrew told his brother Peter about Jesus, and he never stopped delivering the Gospel to others. Whether they were smart Greeks or the small lad with his lunch, Andrew continued to bring others to Jesus!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read John 6:7-9 and John 12:20-23 to see how Andrew delivered the Gospel to others.

# REPORT

**1ST-6TH GRADE**

In the first column below, write the names of those who you will pray for to be saved. Think of family and friends who need to know about Jesus.

In the second column, keep a record of those who you have told about Jesus. If they didn't get saved the first time, keep praying for them!

***I WILL PRAY FOR...***

***I TOLD...***

***...TO BE SAVED.***

***...ABOUT JESUS.***

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# JAMES

## **DEPENDING ON THE GOSPEL**

*"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword."*

-Acts 12:1-2

James and his brother John were some rough fisherman. They were even nicknamed, "The sons of thunder!" They loved to be the center of attention, so much that they had their own mother ask Jesus to let them sit on His right hand and left hand in Heaven!

But in Acts, we see a humble James. Somewhere between wanting to be the greatest and getting arrested, James learned how to depend on the Gospel. James became the first disciple to be executed for preaching the Gospel. He boldly proclaimed the good news to everyone around him, and he paid a dear price for it. James was thankful for the opportunity to give his life for Jesus though, since Jesus gave His life for him.

For you to depend on the Gospel, you must have a close relationship with Christ through prayer.

## **RESEARCH**

### **4TH-6TH GRADE**

In Acts 4:23-31, read the prayer that James and the other disciples prayed when they were persecuted for their faith.



# REPORT

1ST-6TH GRADE

Write the names of those you feel God wants you to pray for, and pray for them every day.

**MY FAMILY**

**MY CHURCH**

**MY SCHOOL**

**MY FRIENDS**

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# JOHN

## **DELIGHTING IN THE GOSPEL**

*"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."*

-1 John 1:3-4

John, the brother of James, was another rough character, but he became known as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Of course, Jesus loved all of His disciples, but John had a special connection with Him.

When you read through John's three epistles and his Gospel book, you can sense the love and joy that John experienced.

John wrote the whole book of 1 John to remind his fellow Christians of how they could have a "full" joy in Christ.

Where did that joy come from? How could he delight in the Gospel?

The answer is simple: John was close to Jesus, and we should have that same desire.

## **RESEARCH**

### **4TH-6TH GRADE**

Read the entire chapter of 1 John 1 and ask God to give you the joy and love that John had.

# REPORT

1ST-6TH GRADE

Write out below what your favorite characteristics of Jesus are and explain why you are thankful that He is like that. After you're finished, pray and thank Him for the reasons you wrote down.

**JESUS IS...**

**WHY I'M THANKFUL...**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# PHILIP

## DETAILING THE GOSPEL

*"When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little."*

-John 6:5-7

We don't know too much about Philip, but we know he was a thinker. He was always listening and analyzing what Jesus was saying.

In John 6, Jesus tests Philip and asks him where they could get enough bread to feed all the people who had come to hear Him preach. Philip answers that even if they knew where to get food, they wouldn't have enough money to purchase it!

Later in John 14, Philip was again thinking and asking about what Jesus was teaching them about Himself and Heaven.

Philip always had his eyes on the details, so let's do everything we can this week like Philip!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the whole chapter of John 6 and John 14, and analyze what Jesus was doing and saying, just like Philip did.

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Write down the chores that you will do around the house with an attention to detail this week, and check them off when you are done.

**CHORE #1**

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**CHORE #2**

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**CHORE #3**

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**CHORE #4**

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**CHORE #5**

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**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# BARTHOLOMEW

## DISCOVERING THE GOSPEL

*"Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these."*

-John 1:49-50

Bartholomew is one of the many disciples with two different names. (Did you know that Peter's other name was Simon Barjona?) So Bartholomew, as he is named in the lists of the disciples, is also named Nathanael in John 1.

John 1 tells us how Philip ran to his brother Nathanael and told him that he found Christ! Nathanael was a little doubtful, but he decided to come with Philip to check it out.

When he met Jesus, Nathanael changed his mind quickly! He was amazed at how Jesus knew everything about him. Then Jesus told him that if he thought that was amazing, he's going to be blown away by what happens next! I'm sure Bartholomew was amazed at what Jesus did all throughout His ministry!

What an amazing story Bartholomew had of discovering the Gospel! And he never lost the wonder of it all!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the entire chapter of John 1. You may recognize a few names of disciples we've already discussed!





# MATTHEW

## DISPLAYING THE GOSPEL

*“And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.”*

-Luke 5:27-29

Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector for the Roman government. The Jewish people hated the Romans and considered Matthew a traitor. The tax collectors were also known for stealing from the people by charging more than what the real taxes were.

Despite all of this, when Jesus passed by Matthew, He called him to follow Him. The Bible says that at Jesus' word, Matthew left everything and followed Him. He hosted a huge celebration at his home to welcome Christ into his life.

Matthew was able to write one of the books of the Bible that describes Jesus' ministry, also called Gospels. And everywhere Matthew went, he displayed the Gospel's changing power for all the world to see.

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the entire chapter of Luke 5 and think about the other people in this chapter who could display the Gospel.



# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Find two church members (not in your family) and ask them if you can interview them for a short minute, whether in person or on the phone. Ask them the following questions.

### **CHURCH MEMBER #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you get saved?

How did the Gospel change your life?

Are there any prayer requests that I can pray with you about?

### **CHURCH MEMBER #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you get saved?

How did the Gospel change your life?

Are there any prayer requests that I can pray with you about?

## MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE

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# THOMAS

## DOUBTING THE GOSPEL

*"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."*

-John 20:27-29

Jesus had just risen from the dead and appeared to His disciples, but one person was missing. We don't know why Thomas missed Jesus' appearance, but he did. And when he got back, he could not believe what his fellow disciples were telling him.

Thomas told them that unless he could put his hand in Jesus' nail scars and on his pierced side, he would not believe.

Soon after, Jesus appeared again, and Thomas was shocked! Jesus kindly forgave Thomas and told him that those who cannot see Him are blessed by God when they believe.

Guess what? Jesus was talking about you!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the entire description of Jesus' resurrection in John 20. What an exciting story!

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

List off any events, stories, people, and even promises in the Bible that are difficult to believe, but you still believe them because that's what God said.

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____
9.	_____
10.	_____

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# THADDAEUS

## DISCUSSING THE GOSPEL

*"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."*

-John 14:21-23

Thaddaeus was also named Judas, but we'll refer to him as Thaddaeus so we don't confuse him with the bad Judas. We don't know much about Thaddaeus, but in John 14, he raises his hand.

Jesus is describing Heaven and Himself to the disciples, right before He would be crucified, and Thaddaeus is hanging on every word! He wanted to discuss the Word of God with Jesus, asking questions and learning the most he could. We should follow Thaddaeus' example and learn the Bible through discussion as well.

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read the entire chapter of John 14 to listen in on this whole discussion that Thaddaeus heard from Jesus.

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Write down three questions about God and the Bible that you can ask your parents. Make sure you ask your parents in advance to answer your questions, and don't just surprise them with it when they are busy. You want to have a good, solid discussion about the Bible with your parents!

**QUESTION #1...**

**MY PARENTS' ANSWER...**

**QUESTION #2...**

**MY PARENTS' ANSWER...**

**QUESTION #3...**

**MY PARENTS' ANSWER...**

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# JAMES THE LESS

## DEEPENING THE GOSPEL

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

-James 1:5

Yes, James the Less is what they called him. (Mark 15:40) His name could also be translated "James the Little," so he was probably a short man. We also know that his mom was a faithful believer as well.

There are a lot of James's in the Bible, but he might have been the James who pastored the church at Jerusalem. He also could have been the James who wrote the book of James in the New Testament. We just don't know for sure!

Whoever James the Less is, we know that he focused his life on deepening his faith in the Gospel. Jesus made a separate appearance to a James in 1 Corinthians 15:7--that might have been him as well!

Take the next five days to deepen your faith, just like James the Less, by spending time in the Bible!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Get to know the author of James by reading a chapter of his book in the New Testament every day for the next 5 days.

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Read a chapter of the book of James every day for the next 5 days. If you're in 1st-3rd grade, ask your parents to read the chapters and help you with this activity. After you've read a chapter, write down what you learned.

**JAMES CHAPTER 1**

**JAMES CHAPTER 2**

**JAMES CHAPTER 3**

**JAMES CHAPTER 4**

**JAMES CHAPTER 5**

**MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# SIMON THE ZEALOT

## DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

*"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor."*

-Luke 6:13-16

Another rough character in the group of disciples was named Simon. He is mentioned when he is listed as a disciple in the Bible, but from these lists, we know two things about him.

First, we know that he was a part of a group called the Zealots that fought against the Romans being in Israel. And we know that he was not a Jew, since he is called a Canaanite.

Both of those characteristics are important to understand! We should also be zealous about our faith, defending it whenever it is under attack. And we should be thankful that Jesus didn't just love one group of people, but all the people of the world!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Read Ephesians 6. The first part of the chapter tells how kids should act in their family, and the chapter ends speaking about the armor of God that we should wear every day!



# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

There are those who would attack what the Bible says, so it's time for you to put your thinking cap on! Look up the following verses in the Bible that contain prophecies. Read the verse and then get the help of your parent or older sibling to look up the name of what the verse is talking about (in italics below). Write down what the prophecy said and, next to it, how it was fulfilled.

### **PROPHECY**

### **THE BIBLE SAID...**

### **FULFILLED...**

*Cyrus the Great*  
Isaiah 44:28  
(Written 150  
years before)

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*Babylon, Persia,  
Greece, Rome  
and Christ's  
Coming*  
Daniel 2:36-45  
(Describes 600  
years of history)

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*Bethlehem  
Ephratah*  
Micah 5:2  
(Written 700  
years before)

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## MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE

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# JUDAS

## DENYING THE GOSPEL

*"And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him."*

-Mark 14:10-11

You know how some people say, "We've saved the best for last" or "Last but not least"? This time, those statements are not true at all! The last disciple on our list is certainly the worst and the least. Judas Iscariot was the one who betrayed Jesus.

No one suspected Judas. He was the one in the group who carried all the money. Everyone trusted him! But somewhere along the line, Satan got his heart. Maybe it was through greed. Maybe it was through pride. But whatever the sin was, Judas did something that he probably never thought he would do!

Sin always takes you farther than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you want to pay.

Learn from the mistakes of this denying disciple!

## RESEARCH

### 4TH-6TH GRADE

Reread your reports from the last 11 disciples to refresh your memory for your last report on the next page!

# REPORT

## 1ST-6TH GRADE

Wow, what a journey it has been! You've researched and interviewed, and now it's time for your final report! Below, write out the biggest truth that you learned, the biggest decision that you made, and your favorite part of the DGN series. And be sure to turn this booklet in to your teacher to receive your prize! *(If you completed this booklet digitally, your parents can email your reports to [kid.city@lancasterbaptist.org](mailto:kid.city@lancasterbaptist.org).)*

### **BIGGEST TRUTH I LEARNED**

### **BIGGEST DECISION I MADE**

### **MY FAVORITE PART**

## **MY PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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# A NOTE TO PARENTS

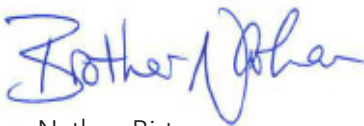
This booklet is intended to help your child grow closer to God through their time with God each day. Included in this booklet are 12 special activities (called “reports”) for your child to complete for a special prize at the end. All the devotional readings and activities can be completed simultaneously, but some of the activities do have a time factor that must be followed.

Depending on your child’s age, this book can be read aloud and worked on together as a family or completed personally. Either way, I would encourage you to follow up on these vital lessons when you sign that they have completed their activity. The fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have Bible reading (called “research”) with passages that relate to the devotion as well.

If your child misplaces their booklet or you prefer a digital copy, please let us know at [kid.city@lancasterbaptist.org](mailto:kid.city@lancasterbaptist.org) and we can provide a digital copy. Upon completion, you can email your child’s activities to this same address if you prefer.

I pray this devotional book will be a help to your family in this new year!

Your friend,



Nathan Birt  
Children’s Pastor

