

Apostles Emblem



Learning about the Apostles is very important because it teaches all of us how to live for Jesus. In the guide for this lesson you may notice that the devotionals are longer than the enhancement. This was done on purpose. Since we are speaking about the Apostles it would make more sense if we focus this lesson on the Bible.

Fishers of Men – Requirement #1

With this emblem focusing on “fisher of men,” this would be a great opportunity to have your troop recruit new members. Use the following ideas to encourage your troop to invite new members.

- Have each of your boys draw a picture of a boat that takes up the size of a piece of paper. Have them write their name on their boat. Finally hang their boats on a wall in your Adventure Corps room.
- Have a group cut out small fish that are the size of 1" x 1".
- For the rest of this emblem (3-4 more weeks) inform the troop that for each friend that they bring to Adventure Corps they will get a fish taped to his boat.

After the 3-4 weeks have two things available:

1. Have a prize table ready. Of course the more “fish” a troop member has the better prize he may earn.
2. Have a sleep over at the corps on a weekend. Invite your troop members to bring the friends that they brought to the Adventure Corps meetings. Hopefully this fun weekend will interest your guests to be a regular part of Adventure Corps.

The Early Church – Requirement #2

Teaching Tip

Studying the Holy Spirit is not an easy task, even for adults. Be sure to help your troop locate the answers in the Bible. This is not the type of lesson that you say, “Answer the questions and we will go over them when you are done.” If you do that you will get either wrong answers or several boys that will never finish.

Chosen Apostles – Requirement #3

Create a mural. Take a 12' piece of butcher paper and tape it to the wall. Have your troop draw a picture of the 12 disciples with a pencil. After the pictures are complete, purchase some paint and have your troop paint in the pictures. When the mural is dry, let it hang on a wall for others to see. You will probably need more than one day to do this.

Crossword Puzzle - Requirement #4

In addition to the puzzle, you may want to divide your group into teams and have a quiz game about what they have learned regarding the Apostles.

Shoebox Story - Requirement #5

Teaching Tips: Be sure to inform your troop a couple weeks in advance to bring in their shoebox. If you have access to extra shoeboxes bring them in because someone may forget to bring one. Also listed here are several stories that you can have available for your boys so they have an idea of what to make a shoebox story about.

- The last supper.
- The Pentecost.
- Feeding of the 5,000.
- Jesus and Peter walking on water.
- Jesus calming the storm.
- Jesus helping the Apostles catch fish.
- Jesus telling parables to the Apostles and/or crowds of people.



Devotionals

Matthew 4:18-20

For this devotional, have someone dressed in a Bible costume. This person will be Peter. Peter will be “fishing” from a bucket as the Rangers walk into the room.

Script: Well, hello there guys. I thought I would be the only one fishing in these here parts! My name is Peter. What? What’s that? Did I catch anything? No, not yet. But, I’m not going to give up. I love fishing. But, it’s not fish that I fish for, it’s people. Sounds pretty weird, huh? Well, it will make sense after I tell you about an encounter I had with a great man named Jesus.

It all started on a bright, sunny day in the Sea of Galilee. My brother Andrew and I were in our boats casting a net into the lake. We were both professional fishermen.

We had to be. There wasn't really much else we were qualified to do. And we were good at it. It was all that we knew. It was like a lifestyle. We knew everyone at the lake and we didn't have to go too far to make a living for ourselves.

We were having a good time until we noticed Jesus walking beside the lake. By this time we had heard of this man Jesus who was preaching about the kingdom of heaven. All of a sudden, he yelled out at us, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." And as weird as it might sound to you, we immediately left our nets and followed this man Jesus. It was at that moment that I became a disciple of Jesus. In other words, I became a person who follows the teachings of Christ. I was also called an apostle – a person who is sent out by Christ to preach the gospel.

During the next few months, I began to follow Jesus everywhere and learned from Him all that I could. Eventually, I began to fish for men. I began to preach to everyone the gospel of Christ. I began to seek out men, women and children to tell them of the good news of Jesus. It was hard work, but Jesus sent down a Helper that gave me and all the other disciples' power to preach and teach boldly the gospel of Jesus. But, I'll tell you more about the Helper next week. However, I do want to leave you with a few words to think about. I was called by Jesus Christ to be a fisher of men. He called me to be a disciple. But, He is still calling people today to be disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. God expects all Christians everywhere to tell others of how they can receive eternal life. God wants the whole world to receive eternal life, but He needs us to tell others of this life. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

If a doctor discovered the cure for AIDS, would you expect him to keep this secret to himself? Or would you expect him to tell the whole world? Well, we know of a cure to the disease of sin and it's Jesus Christ. Are we going to keep this secret to ourselves as people die around us? Or are we going to tell everyone we can about Jesus Christ?

Are you going to be a fisher of men?

Acts 1:6-8

(Peter is still in costume. He is sitting on the floor reading the Bible.) Hello, again. I was just sitting here remembering some of the things that happened to me so many years ago. Well, did any of you have an opportunity to fish for men? Great! You'll remember that I told you last week that I became a disciple of Jesus. I was a student and Jesus was the teacher. He taught me a lot. But, I still managed to mess things up at times. I remember trying to walk on water. I was doing pretty well until I began to take my eyes off of Jesus and then I almost drowned. I surely can't forget the time I kept falling asleep in the Garden of Gathsemene instead of keeping watch for Jesus.

Then there was the time when I denied my Lord three times after He was crucified.

There were many times in my life when my faith was very strong. And then there were those times when my faith was very weak.

I was getting frustrated. I knew Jesus wanted me to preach the gospel boldly, but I just felt as if I wasn't qualified to do it. I wasn't sure of what to say, and when to say it and how to say it. But, it was on that glorious day, right before Jesus ascended into heaven, that He gave the disciples and I one of the greatest promises He had ever given.

As you might know, Jesus had been crucified and buried. But, then He rose from the dead and He showed Himself to the apostles he had chosen. And on one day, He said, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4b). He then went on to say, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) What do you think Jesus was promising us? That's right. He was promising us the Holy Spirit to give us power. Jesus knew that we needed the Holy Spirit if we were to begin His church on earth. He knew that we needed the Holy Spirit if we were to boldly preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone everywhere. And just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon us on the day we now call the Day of Pentecost. But, I'm going to tell you more about that next week. I just want to tell you this before I leave. When you accept Jesus Christ into your hearts, you too, receive the Holy Spirit into your heart. And it's the Holy Spirit that helps you in many ways.

Acts 2:1-14

(Peter is standing in costume.) Welcome back everyone! Who can tell me what we talked about last week? Yes, that's right. Jesus had promised us the Holy Spirit. Today, I want to share with you one of the greatest days of the Christian church – the day when the people of God received the Holy Spirit.

Gathered in the synagogue was a group of people. Everyone was sitting when all of a sudden a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and it filled the whole temple. Then all of us saw what we believed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to each one of us. All of us were filled with the Holy Spirit as we began to speak in other languages.

There were some other Jews in Jerusalem who heard the sound and they came to the temple. They were amazed at what they heard and saw. They saw us speaking in other languages. They asked what this all meant. Then they began to make fun of us saying, "They have had too much wine." This, of course, was not true. But, they kept on making fun of us.

The Holy Spirit then took a hold of me and I stood up with the other eleven apostles and I said, "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's

only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.” I then began to preach to the people. This was all done because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave me the words to say. The Holy Spirit gave me power and boldness to preach to a crowd that didn’t believe. But, what exactly is the Holy Spirit and what does it do?

Well, the Holy Spirit is God. It is the third person in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit lives in each and every one of us who believes in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and it comforts us in times of trouble and pain. The Holy Spirit also convicts us and the world of sin in our lives. And it helps us to understand the Bible and to pray to our Father in heaven. There are many other things that the Holy Spirit does but I won’t go into all of them. I just want you to remember that the Holy Spirit gives us power to live the Christian life, and that the Holy Spirit is God and is worthy of our worship.

I must say that since that day of Pentecost I was changed forever. Yes, I still had problems and trials. But, I went through the rest of my life with boldness and power because I had the assurance that the Holy Spirit would help me and deliver me. Next week I want to share with you one instance where the Holy Spirit helped me through a difficult time.

Acts 2:36-42

(Peter is in costume as he gives this final monologue.) It was on that same day of Pentecost that I received power from on high. And it was on that same day that I gave one of the greatest sermons I had ever given. I talked about the prophecies concerning Jesus and about the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ. Toward the end of the sermon I said, “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God had made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)

And then the most amazing thing happened. The words cut to the heart of the people and they asked me and the other apostles, “What should we do now?” I then told them they need to repent in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. I then told them that they would then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. I said, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:39)

And because of the Holy Spirit, three thousand people were saved on that day. Three thousand people received eternal life. Three thousand people accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts. And on that day there were born into the world more disciples.

Devotional #5

(Peter is in costume for the final day.) Every one of you is called by God to tell others about Jesus Christ. Not everyone is called to be pastors or officers, but everyone is called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. And when you tell others about Jesus, there are going to be many who will laugh in your face. There will be many who will not want to listen to what you are saying. There will be many who will not believe what you are saying. However, we need not be afraid because we have the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will empower us for His service.

Many people refer to the book of Acts as the Acts of the Apostles. However, it should be referred to as the Acts of the Holy Spirit because it was the Holy Spirit through us that accomplished all the acts. We were just instruments. The Holy Spirit will also accomplish many acts through you if you let Him work in your lives.

Yes, we can be fishers of men because we have the power that is promised to us – which is the Holy Spirit. However, there might be some of you who have still not accepted the gift of eternal life. I give you this opportunity now to accept the greatest gift that you will ever receive, the gift of salvation. Accept Jesus now and experience all that He wants you to experience.

Have a prayer time with your troop.