



Introduction

As Jesus' ministry grew he selected a small group of men (12) whom he called apostles. These men were to learn from him and be sent by him to do the very things he himself was doing. Out of these twelve men, eleven of them would become the leaders in the early church and one would betray him.

Observation/Interpretation

- Jesus knew that God had called the twelve sons (tribes) of Jacob to be his special people. However, the tribes of Israel often failed to obey and love God. What message do you think Jesus was intending to send to the Jewish people (and ultimately the world) by calling 12 men to follow him?
- An apostle was someone who was sent to do a specific task. Since Jesus was God, why would he choose sinful men to go do his work?
- Why do you think Jesus chose someone who he knew would betray him?

Application

Jesus chose many types of people to be his apostles: fishermen, tax collectors and militant Jewish loyalists. Even though there are not apostles here today with the same unique office as then, all Christians (followers of Jesus) are called to go and tell others about Jesus. God still chooses unique people together to be his followers and to represent him.

- Who are some people that God may be calling you go out and tell about Jesus?
- Who are some people that God may be calling you to love, within the church, who you may not normally get along with?

Prayer

- Jesus lovingly reaches out to the hurting and the lost. Pray that God would make your heart like his.
- Pray that God would give you boldness to be a faithful witness.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.