

The Apostles

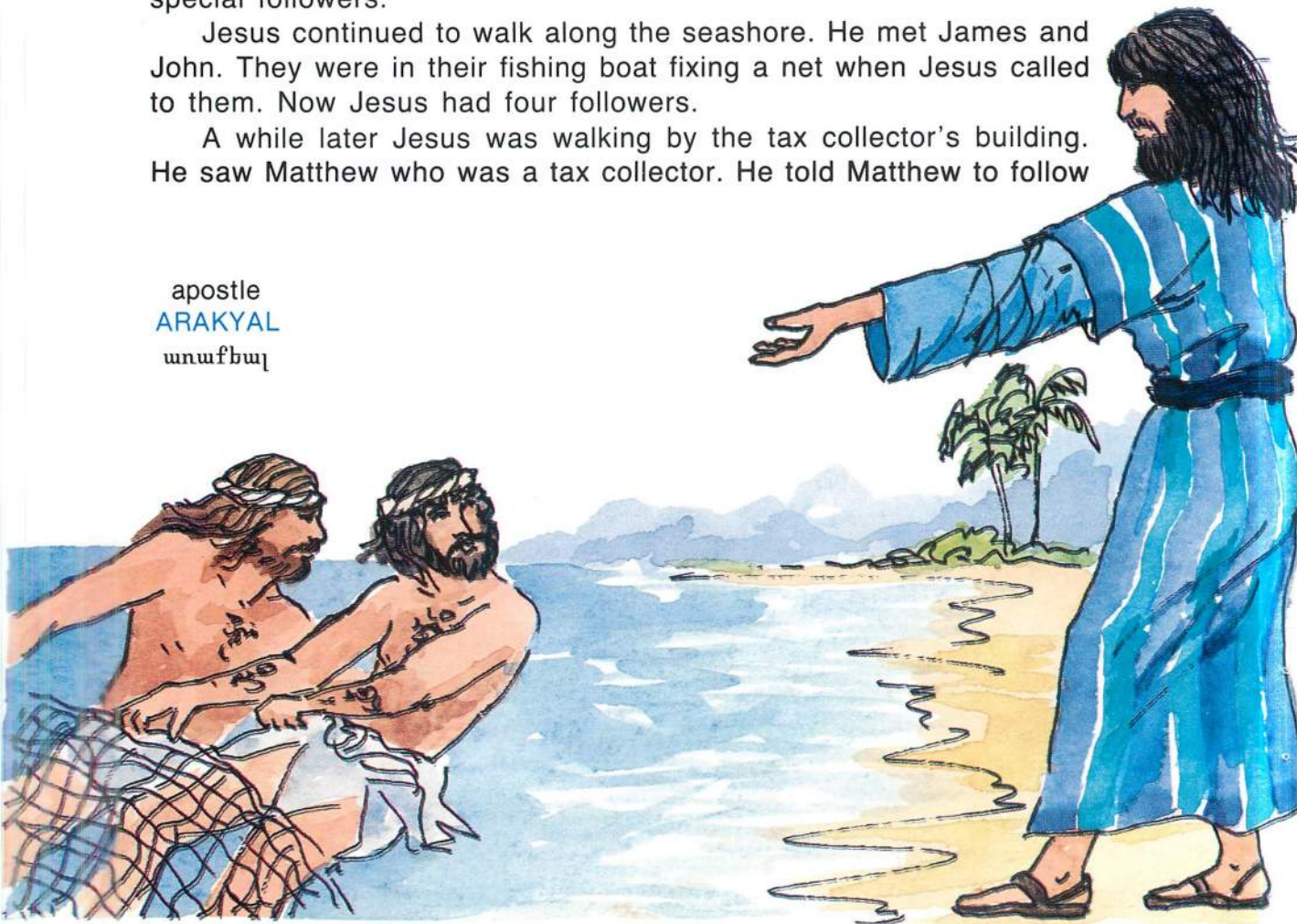
Jesus Calls Twelve Special Friends

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers named Simon and Andrew. They were fishermen and they were just about to throw their net into the lake to catch some fish. Jesus called to them. "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." Simon and Andrew left their work and followed Jesus. Jesus had two special followers.

Jesus continued to walk along the seashore. He met James and John. They were in their fishing boat fixing a net when Jesus called to them. Now Jesus had four followers.

A while later Jesus was walking by the tax collector's building. He saw Matthew who was a tax collector. He told Matthew to follow

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him. Matthew left his work and went with Jesus. That made five followers.

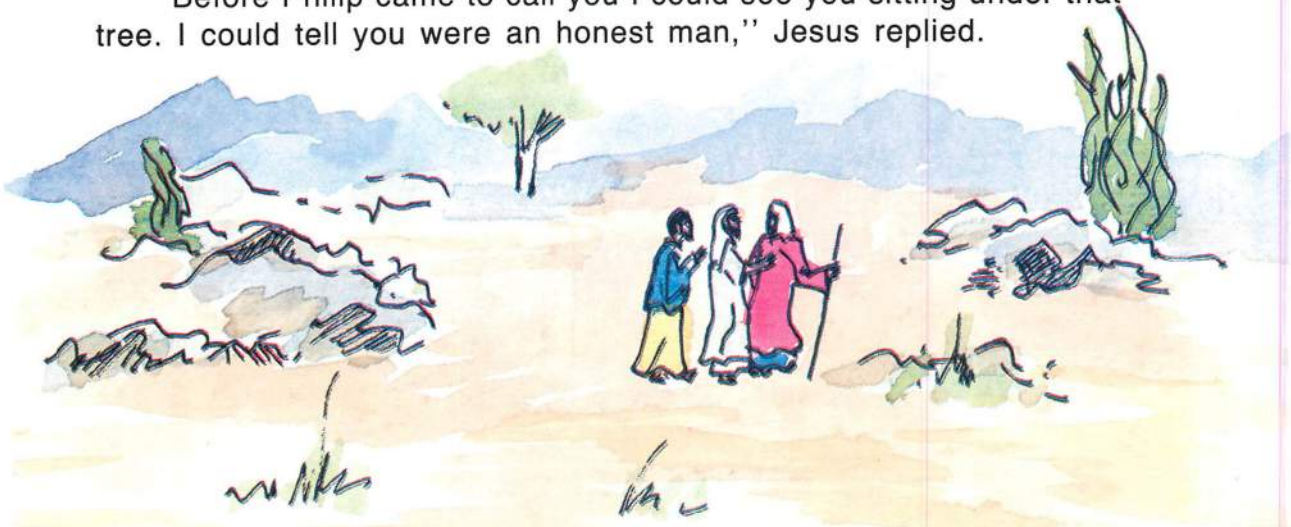
Philip listened to Jesus teach one day. Philip knew he had found the Messiah, the one God chose to help Israel. Philip was so excited he wanted to share his discovery with his friend Bartholomew. "Bartholomew," Philip called. "I've found the one that Moses and the prophets wrote about. His name is Jesus and he comes from Nazareth."

Bartholomew did not think a town as small as Nazareth could be the home town of the Messiah. He probably knew the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem. He said to Philip, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and meet him," Philip said. When Jesus came over to them, he said, "Here is a truly honest man," when he saw Bartholomew.

"Have we ever met before?" said Bartholomew because he did not know how Jesus could know that he was an honest person.

"Before Philip came to call you I could see you sitting under that tree. I could tell you were an honest man," Jesus replied.



“Teacher, you are truly the Son of God, the King of Israel, the Messiah,” Bartholomew said.

“You think it was unusual that I could know you before we met,” Jesus said. “I will tell you much, much greater things, I promise.”

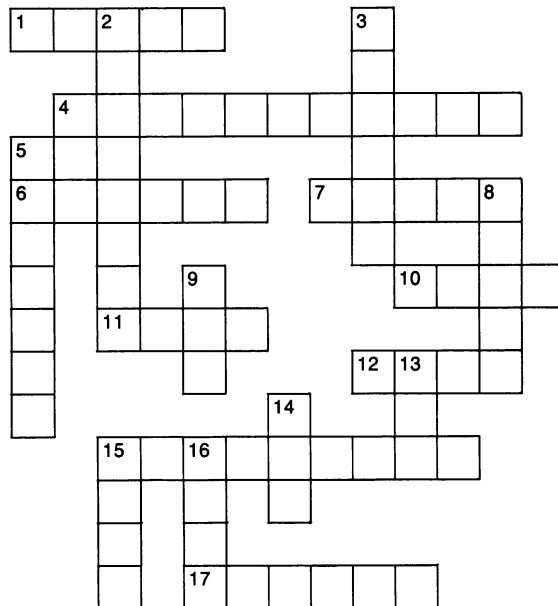
So Bartholomew, who is also called Nathaniel, and Philip became two more followers of Jesus. Lots of people were following Jesus now. He told them about God and about how to live the good life God wants us to live. From all his followers he chose 12 special ones to teach very carefully. Their names were: Simon (later Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter), James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, another James, Thaddeus, another Simon, and Judas Iscariot. Judas later went against Jesus and helped the people who wanted to get rid of him. A new apostle was chosen to take his place. His name was Matthias. Many people call Saint Paul, the man we learned about last week, the thirteenth apostle.

These apostles followed Jesus everywhere. They learned special things from Jesus. Jesus was preparing them for the time when they would carry on his work after he died.



Apostles Crossword Puzzle

Using the information on the Apostles Chart, fill in the crossword puzzle.



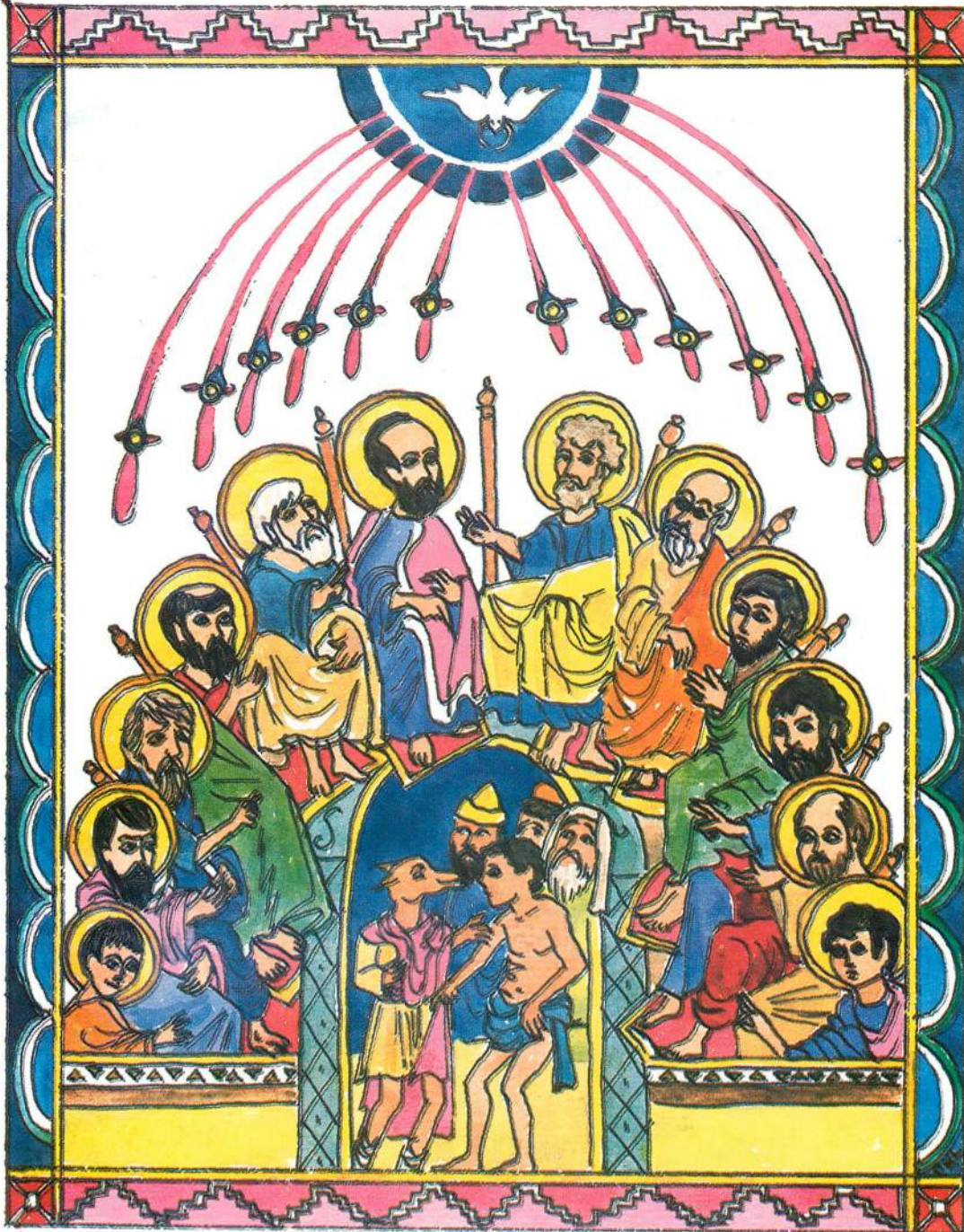
Across

1. Denied knowing Jesus during his arrest.
4. Philip brought him to Jesus.
6. His symbol is an X-Cross.
7. Two apostles share this name.
10. Peter and Paul traveled there.
11. The old name for Paul.
12. The apostle called the Beloved.
15. Most common work of the apostles.
17. His symbol is loaves of bread because he did not think Jesus could feed the crowd.

Down

2. First Enlightener of Armenia.
3. Didn't believe Christ had risen.
5. His symbol is money bags because he was a tax collector.
8. He wanted the Jews to be free of Roman rulers by fighting the Romans.
9. John's symbol.
13. The number of apostles who betrayed Jesus.
14. Peter's symbol.
15. Simon's symbol.
16. Thaddeus' symbol.

THE APOSTLES START THEIR WORK



After Jesus was arrested, had a trial, and was crucified, the apostles were very upset and confused. When Jesus rose from the dead they were very happy. Jesus appeared to the apostles and taught them more things. Then Jesus said that he was going away so that God could come to them in another way. Jesus told them the Holy Spirit would come to them and be with them.

The apostles were gathered together waiting for the Holy Spirit to come to them. Suddenly there was a big wind, and a flame came above each apostle's head. The Holy Spirit had come to them. They were able to talk in many different languages. They knew that this meant they must go to other places to teach people there about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave each of them special gifts to help them in their work.

Traveling around and telling people about Jesus is called a mission. Each apostle had a mission, so they went out to start their work. This is how the church spread throughout the world. Twelve special men accepted Jesus, God's gift of love, and were called to do his work. We can read about them in the Bible and our church tells us about them. For instance, our church tells us that Bartholomew and Thaddeus came to Armenia to teach people in Armenia about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit calmed the fears of the apostles; he cleared up their confusion. He gave them some special gifts we can read about in Paul's epistle called Galatians, chapter 5, verse 22. It says:

What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. These same gifts are given to us!

