

Directions for Lesson Plan Facilitators

Lesson Plan: The Twelve Apostles (Please adapt this for your own workshop or study group.)

Developed by

The First Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book*

Background: After presenting a version of this workshop at study groups of First Society for Readers of The Urantia Book, which is in the Chicago area, several members of the society adapted the workshop and presented it at IC14, in Amherst, Massachusetts. The materials have been used by other study groups since then. This Lesson Plan and handout has been adapted by the Education Committee of The Urantia Book Fellowship for any group of readers of *The Urantia Book* who would like to use it. It is designed apply some educational concepts and approaches in its study of the twelve apostles. Any group should feel free to adapt the materials as they see fit.

Audience

Any Level Reader of *The Urantia Book*

This workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in learning about Jesus and the 12 apostles, as well as the apostles' development as participants in the unfolding of the 4th Epochal Revelation as depicted in *The Urantia Book*. The study group is designed to enrich the view of experienced readers as well as being accessible to new readers.

Objectives

To learn more about the 12 Apostles and their responses to Jesus and the world.

1. To learn more about each of Jesus' Apostles.
2. To gain an understanding of how The Urantia Book coordinates references to each apostle, descriptions of their reactions to particular events, and advice from Jesus.
3. To understand how the psychology and background of each apostle impacted his work in the 4th Epochal Revelation after Jesus died.
4. To apply the patterns drawn from the apostles' experiences, psychology, and capabilities to our own lives.

Preparation

This workshop can be given in a 3 hour block of time, however it will need to be adapted. It is recommended that at least 6 hours are used in order to have in-depth discussions based on the big questions. A 6 hour workshop can be given over multiple weeks or in 2 or 3 hour sessions. In addition to the introduction and final discussion, each Apostle takes on the average 15 minutes to discuss thoroughly. If using multiple sessions, organize the Apostles so that there is a balance between the more complex and less complex. The Alphaeus twins can be discussed as one. If working in pairs or small groups it is helpful to use chart paper so that each group can share their observations about the Apostle.

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Materials

Workshop Outline (one page) and "The Twelve Apostles" handout (28 pages) to be photocopied for each participant. Note: It is strongly suggested that the handout be printed "back to back" such that, when collated and stapled, the two pages regarding each individual Apostle are side by side. (Suggest to practice printing one sample, before making multiple copies.)

Facilitator Notes

Begin each session with an opening prayer or time of worship. Introduce the workshop by reviewing the Workshop Outline for Participants. Remember to adapt the outline based on the amount of time for the workshop and number of participants. Note the resources in the highlighted box on the Participant Outline. You and/or your participants may want to read the resources prior to the workshop. Review the "The Twelve Apostles" handout noting its features. Detail the questions that should be answered for each Apostle. Begin the session by using one Apostle to demonstrate the process. Review the background, tendencies, strengths, weaknesses, reactions to specific events, etc. of this Apostle. Record the responses given by the participants, using chart paper or a computer, so that you can share your results later. Divide participants into pairs or small groups, asking each to choose an Apostle to analyze using the same process. About 30 minutes before the end of the session, have each group share their findings and save them for the next meeting. During the final 30 minutes, make the predictions about the Apostles role in spreading the teachings and how their experiences can apply to our lives and as seed sowers of the 5th Epochal Revelation.

