

JAMES (SON OF ZEBEDEE)

DISCIPLE OF JESUS



BACKGROUND

- He was also called “James the Great” to differentiate from Jesus’ brother James, who also became a follower of Jesus*
- Lived somewhere around the Sea of Galilee, probably either Capernaum or Bethsaida, since Jesus found him “a little farther” from Peter and Andrew (Mark 1:19)
- His father was Zebedee (Mark 1:19)
- His mother was Salome (from a comparison of Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40)
- Had a brother named John, who also became Jesus’ disciple
- Worked together with his brother and father as fishermen in the Sea of Galilee, along with their hired servants (Mark 1:20)

AS A DISCIPLE

- Bold, assertive, and sometimes short-tempered
- Nicknamed by Jesus as one of the “Sons of Thunder” along with his brother, John
- Was rebuked by Jesus after he asked if he and his brother should call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritans (Luke 9:54)
- James and John had their mother ask Jesus if James could sit on one side of Jesus, and John on the other, in Jesus’ kingdom to come (Matthew 20:20-21)
- Was one of three disciples who were part of Jesus’ inner circle and experienced miracles of Jesus:
 - The healing of Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:35-43)
 - The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)
 - The Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33-42)

LIFE AFTER JESUS’ ASCENSION

- He was the first disciple—after Judas Iscariot—to die
- Was killed by the sword by Herod Agrippa; most scholars believe he was killed in AD 44 in Jerusalem
- He is the only other disciple (besides Judas) that the Bible records the death of (Acts 12:1-2)
- James worked to spread the gospel for approximately 10 years up until his death

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE

- Someone that many of us can relate to
- He let Jesus transform him into the best version of himself
- Lessons we can learn:
 - Use your passion to serve God
 - Be inspired by his faith
 - There’s always more to learn



- Jesus also had a brother named James and he is likely the one who wrote the book of James. He may have also been a leader in the church of Jerusalem (Acts 15:13).
- Jesus had another disciple called James, often referred to as James the son of Alphaeus or “James the Lesser”