



JESUS' 12 DISCIPLES

ESCAPE ROOM

PRINTABLE



THANK YOU

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JESUS' 12 DISCIPLES

ESCAPE ROOM

Your students are on a mission! They are returning to [the time of Christ and the dusty towns and byways of Israel, where Jesus' disciples first met Him](#). Like most of God's unfolding story, there are head-puzzling mysteries to be solved!

Students will be taken back to solve the mysteries of what happened by decoding the facts—so they can SEE THE LIGHT of a glorious bond formed between Jesus and 12 special men.

Students will learn all the surrounding details, such [where the disciples came from and where they went, and how the Holy Spirit changed them](#).

IT STARTS IN THE SMALL, DUSTY TOWNS NEAR CAPERNAUM IN ISRAEL. To discover the LIGHT, students will use ciphers, cryptograms and other puzzles.

Each mystery is unique. Some puzzles are easy for younger children; others require guidance or wisdom from older counterparts. The main fun is that the codes require critical thinking to determine what secret lies behind each symbol. Each code will reveal interesting facts about faith in new beginnings. These exercises will keep your students captivated while encouraging friendly competition to crack the final code.

The fun for teachers and parents is the lack of prep. This is a **PRINT AND GO** activity requiring little else! Enjoy solving the codes with the kids without cutting, pasting, and problem-solving beforehand.

The best age range for our ESCAPE ROOMS is 8 and up. Younger students can still participate, but they may need some help.

The escape room package includes:

- Teacher Instructions
- Student Instructions
- Four Mysteries
- Four Decoders
- One Final Challenge
- Keys to the Kingdom (Prizes)
- Answer Key

The objective of our ESCAPE ROOM is to read and solve the four mysteries and complete the final challenge in the time allotted, and thereby earn a key.



TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students can complete the escape room alone, in partners, or teams. If you have a child younger than 8, we suggest they are paired with an older teammate.
2. Print out the 4 mysteries and final challenge for each student/team to fill in (pages 6-9).
3. Print out the 4 “decoders” (pages 11-15) and either spread them out so kids can view them as needed or hang them on the walls. Make sure they are placed where several students can congregate at once if needed.
4. Tell students they have [you decide] minutes to solve the 4 mysteries by decoding the answers, answering the multiple-choice questions, and figuring out the final 4-digit code. Between 30 and 60 minutes usually works well, depending on the age and ability of students.
5. Students can solve the mysteries in ANY order. Encourage them by saying, “If you get stuck, just move on and come back to the tricky one later.”

Note: The first time students see the codes, they may find them a bit confounding. That’s okay! Let them exercise their clue-solving skills independently for a bit before you jump in to help them.

6. Students will not be able to figure out the final code without reading through each mystery.
7. After all mysteries are solved and decoded, the four-digit code is cracked, and the Final Challenge is complete, give out prizes (keys). One key (symbolic to the keys to the Kingdom) should be given to each child involved in finding the solutions.
8. If time permits, review the answers to the Final Challenge to help reinforce the material.



ESCAPE ROOM INSTRUCTIONS

SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' 12 DISCIPLES

Our Bible is filled with sound wisdom, great advice . . . and **BIG MYSTERIES THAT NEED SOLVING!**

Here is where you come in. Today we will be solving four mysteries surround JESUS' DISCIPLES. Who were they, really? Some of this is described in the Bible:

- John 1:35-50 (first meeting with John and Andrew)
- Matthew 4:18-20 (first calling)
- Luke 5:10-11 (first calling)
- John 6:59-66 (many early disciples leave)
- Mark 3:16-19 (all the disciples listed by name)
- Mark 3:17 (nickname for the brothers John and James)
- Matthew 10:2-4 (all disciples by formal Jewish names)
- Luke 6:13-16 (all disciples by common names)

Your teacher may want you to read some of these passages first. Be sure to ask!

THE FIRST MYSTERY: HOW DID JESUS PICK THEM AND WHY ONLY 12?

THE SECOND MYSTERY: WHY WAS PETER ALWAYS IN TROUBLE?

THE THIRD MYSTERY: WHY DID JESUS CALL THESE BROTHERS 'SONS OF THUNDER'?

THE FOURTH MYSTERY: WHY WOULD JESUS PICK A MAN SURROUNDED BY SCANDAL?

YOUR MISSION: SHED LIGHT ON THE MYSTERIES

Jesus said "YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." It is our job to understand God's word so we can defend it!

THE MYSTERIES: Mysteries #1, #2, #3, and #4 will introduce you to people, places, and things in the context of the Bible. Each mystery will raise a question you need to answer.

THE DECODER: Visit the decoder for each mystery and SHED YOUR LIGHT (solve the mystery)!

THE KEY: Once you have solved ALL FOUR MYSTERIES using each one's DECODER, you must take one final step and earn the KEY. This KEY is a symbol of the KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN! In order to earn the key, you must decipher the four numbers needed on the four-digit code page.

When you have SHED LIGHT on the four MYSTERIES and obtained the four-digit KEY CODE, you will be given your symbolic KEY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

GO FORTH, SHEDDING LIGHT TO A WORLD FILLED WITH DARKNESS, OBTAINING KEYS TO THE KINGDOM!





MYSTERY #2:

WHY WAS PETER ALWAYS IN TROUBLE?

Peter is one of most well-known disciples of Jesus. There are several stories about Peter, which highlight both his faith and his faults. Peter's biggest problem seemed to be that he spoke without thought to the consequence. He was impulsive and passionate, and would respond before understanding. This got him into trouble quite a few times. Let's see how Jesus handled these situations and what we can learn from this disciple.

1. When Jesus was traveling with His disciples on a dusty road around Caesarea Philippi, He foretold that He would be killed in Jerusalem. Upon hearing this, Peter grew indignant, responding that they would NEVER let that happen to Him.
2. Jesus answered by telling Peter to be quiet. His exact words were pretty harsh. He said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" Despite the fact that Peter was answering with loyalty and a recognition of Jesus' power, he was missing the big picture. Peter was seeing the Lord's death through the world's eyes, not God's eyes.
3. Peter was present at many events throughout Jesus' ministry. His enthusiasm allowed him to leave his life behind as a fisherman and immediately follow Jesus. Peter was also the first disciple to say he believed Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah.
4. Peter was with Jesus at the Transfiguration, where he, James, and John witnessed Jesus in His glory and the appearance of Moses and Elijah.
5. Peter had been among the disciples who couldn't cast out a demon in Matthew 17:17-21. Jesus said the problem was their lack of faith. But because of Peter's faith, he was also one of only three disciples that Jesus allowed in the room when He raised a little girl from the dead.
6. At the Last Supper, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times. As Jesus was being arrested, Peter got angry, swung a sword, and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus healed the ear before He was taken away. As Jesus was being tried, Peter waited outside and was recognized as one of His followers. When confronted though, Peter denied knowing Him, exactly as Jesus had predicted.
7. Peter ended up becoming an important leader to the early church. He wrote two epistles in the New Testament: 1 and 2 Peter. Like Jesus, Peter was sentenced to death by crucifixion. He said he was not worthy to die in the same way as our Lord, so he requested to be crucified upside-down.
8. God looks at the heart. He looked at Peter's heart, and chose him to do an important work despite his mistakes. Peter is proof that God can work through anyone.

QUESTION

Peter was the first apostle to think Jesus was

a. a great teacher

b. a great prophet

c. the Messiah

d. a great healer

Question: If Peter kept making so many mistakes, why did Jesus keep him as a disciple?

_____ had _____ and his _____

for _____ was _____.





MYSTERY #3:

WHY DID JESUS CALL THESE BROTHERS 'SONS OF THUNDER'?

Jesus spoke with two very feisty brothers, James and John. Both were fishermen. They were known for never avoiding an argument, the type of person you wouldn't want to confront. These enthusiastic men became enthusiastic followers of Christ. Jesus loved them dearly, and affectionately called them "the Sons of Thunder." Let's see why.

1. Jesus met John first. John was first a disciple of John the Baptist, along with his friend Andrew. They had listened to John the Baptist preaching early on about the Messiah.
2. John and Andrew were present the day Jesus was baptized. They heard John the Baptist witness that Jesus was the Son of God, and prophesy that Jesus was the reason he had been baptizing.
3. Both John and Andrew had older brothers. They went and told their brothers what had happened. John's older brother was named James, who became a disciple as well.
4. In Luke 9, James and John went with Jesus into a town where they were not welcomed. The Sons of Thunder in their enthusiasm and anger wanted to call fire down from heaven. Jesus, however, told them to leave the people alone.
5. John was the youngest of the disciples, and some think that he was possibly a teenager.
6. James was the first of the disciples to be martyred, around 12 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. It is mentioned Acts 12, and happened in Jerusalem when Herod ordered James to be slain with a sword.
7. John went on to preach all over the known world. He was the only disciple to reach old age, living into his 90s. Toward the end of his life, John wrote the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; and finally, Revelation, the last book in the New Testament.
8. After a life of preaching, John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, where he received the vision recorded in the book of Revelation. He was the only one of the disciples who was recorded to have been lifted up to heaven before death.

QUESTION

How many Bible books did John write?

a. Three

b. five

c. four

d. two

Question: Why did Jesus pick John and his brother, two feisty fisherman who were not well educated?

**QVHFH UVOG GSZG VWFZXGRLM OVEVO DZH RIIOVEZMG. SV OLLPH ZG SVZIGH
MLG XIVWVMGRZOH.**





MYSTERY #4:

WHY DID JESUS PICK A DISCIPLE WHO HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY SCANDAL?

Matthew was a tax collector before he met Jesus. Tax collectors were considered unlikeable individuals. It was the tax collector's job to take money from people, even when they couldn't pay what was owed. It was very common for tax collectors to be dishonest, charging the people extra and keeping the difference for themselves. They had more money than most, but it likely did not come from honest business practices. Matthew's life as a tax collector was changed forever when he met Jesus.

1. When Jesus met Matthew, He had just performed one of the most famous miracles: healing a lame man. While Jesus was preaching inside a house, a group of men with a lame friend couldn't get through to see Him. These men made a hole through the roof and lowered their friend the lame man on a stretcher to meet Jesus.
2. Jesus saw the lame man and told him that his sins were forgiven. This offended the scribes that were present, who believed that only God could forgive sins. Jesus then asked them if it was easier to forgive the man's sins or heal him. Then, as proof of His divinity, Jesus healed the lame man after forgiving him.
3. Matthew, like many of the other Jews, had likely heard about Jesus and this wonderful miracle. When Jesus passed by Matthew in the street, He invited him to leave tax collecting and follow Him. Matthew was likely astonished, but he followed immediately.
4. Mathew invited Jesus to eat with him at his house. As they sat and ate together, the religious leaders started complaining again. They couldn't believe Jesus would eat with such a sinner.
5. Jesus taught them that He didn't come to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance. He said he was a like a doctor, who is needed by sick people but not those that are healthy.
6. Matthew stayed with Jesus throughout His ministry, and saw firsthand many other miracles, eventually recording them in the book of Matthew.
7. After Jesus ascended, Matthew went to preach in Persia (now Iran) and then Asiatic Ethiopia, which is near India. He died a martyr's death when he was stabbed in Ethiopia.

QUESTION

The religious leaders didn't like Matthew because...

- a. his sins were not forgivable
- b. he had probably cheated people out of money
- c. he was a Gentile

Question: Why would Jesus call such a sinful man to be a disciple?

SECRET CODE

1 5 | 4 7 5 | 2 6 | 1 1 6
 6 1 | 6 6 | 1 5 | 2 2 1 7 | 5 4
 3 | 1 1 | 7 7 | 5 1 6 | 6 5 | 4 1 5
 1 5 | 1 4 | 4 6 | 1 5
 7 1 5 | 2 5 | 5 .

1 5 | 4 7 5 | 2 6 | 1 1 6
 6 1 | 6 6 | 1 5 | 2 5 | 6 1 | 7 5 | 4
 2 1 7 | 5 4 7 1 6 | 2 5
 2 6 2 1 4 6 | 1 7 6 6 1
 1 2 6 .

1. _____

2. _____



4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

FIRST NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #1, the number of disciples Jesus had MINUS 5 _____

SECOND NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #2, using the scripture mentioned in point #5...the chapter number MINUS the first verse number _____

THIRD NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #3, the number of books John wrote in the New Testament, MINUS 1 _____

FOURTH NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #4, the number of letters in word #8 of point #1 MINUS 2 ... _____

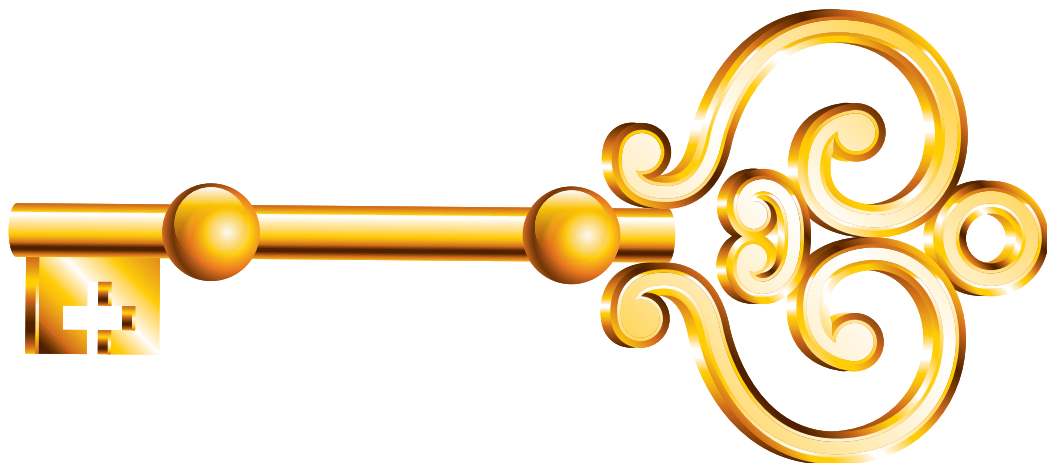
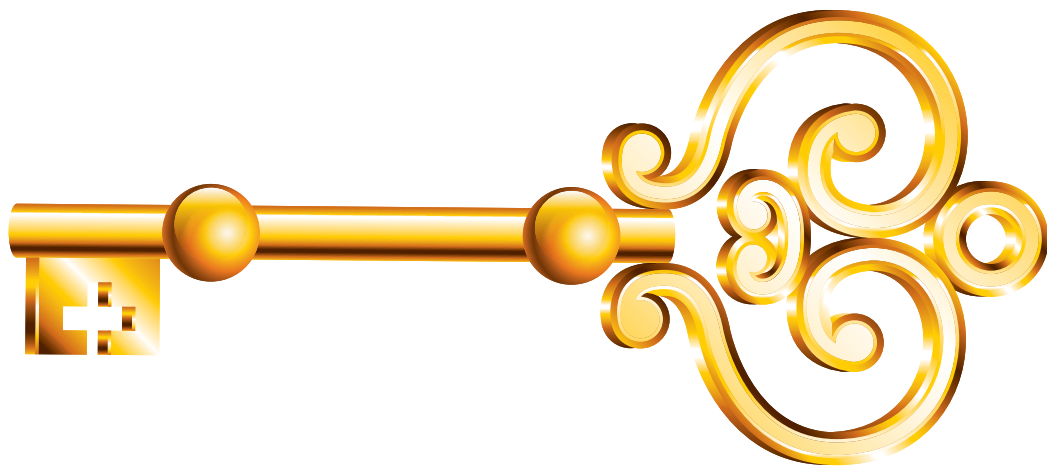
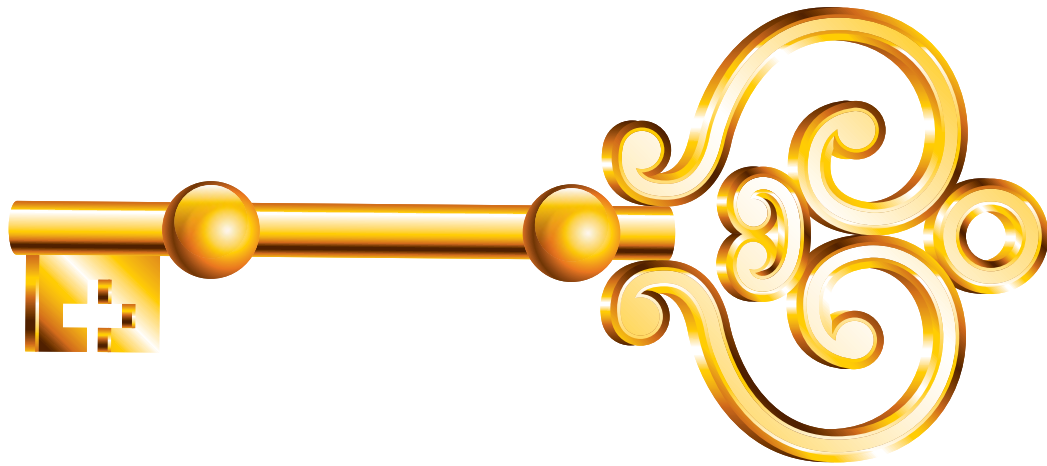
Enter the 4-digit code here to solve Jesus' 12 Disciples Escape Room: _ _ _ _

FINAL CHALLENGE

1. The first disciples to meet Jesus were a. James and John b. John and Andrew c. Peter and Andrew d. James and Nathaniel	2. The first of the disciples to meet Jesus were also a. tax collectors b. disciples of John the Baptist c. possessed by demons
3. Peter's biggest fault at first was that his mouth often preceded his... a. understanding b. humility c. feet d. intelligence	4. Peter died in this way: a. crucifixion b. upside-down crucifixion c. beheading d. electrocution
5. Jesus affectionately called these brothers "Sons of Thunder:" a. Peter and Andrew b. James and John c. Nathaniel and Thomas	6. The only disciple to die a natural death was a. James b. John c. Jude d. Thomas

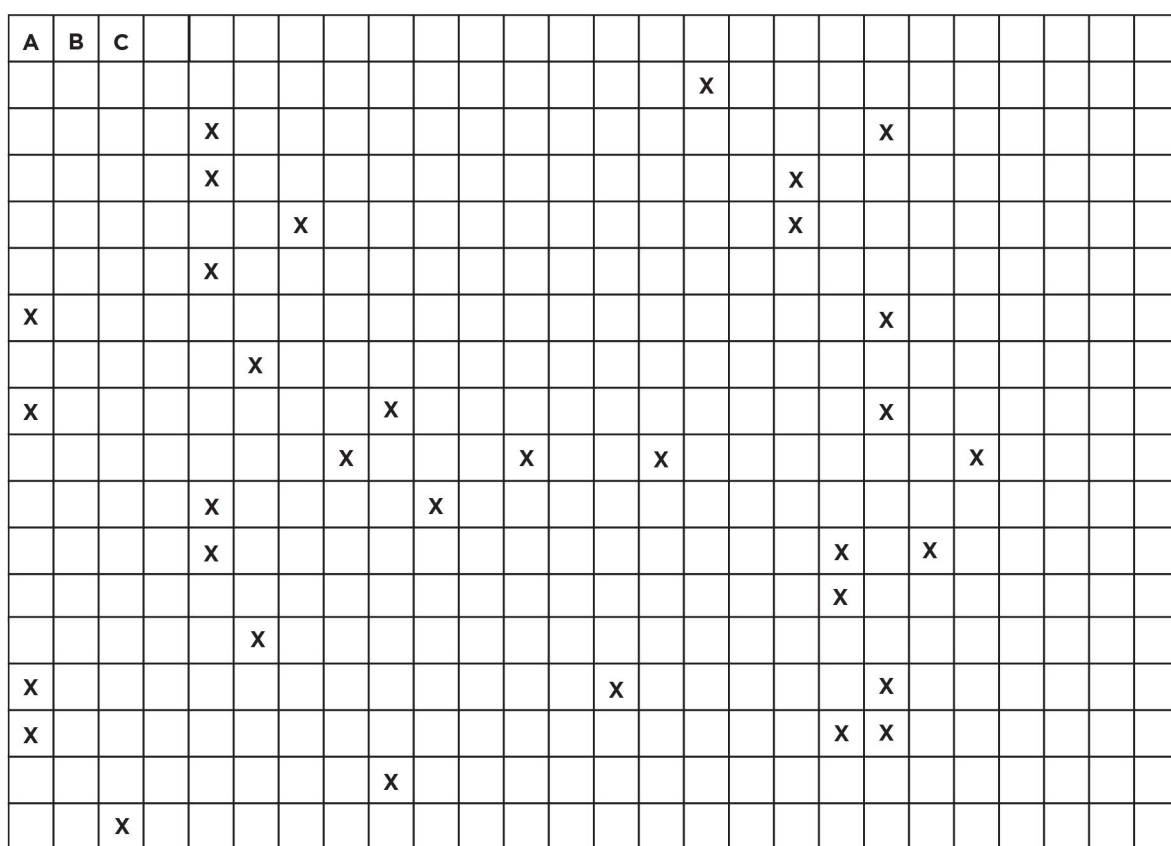
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

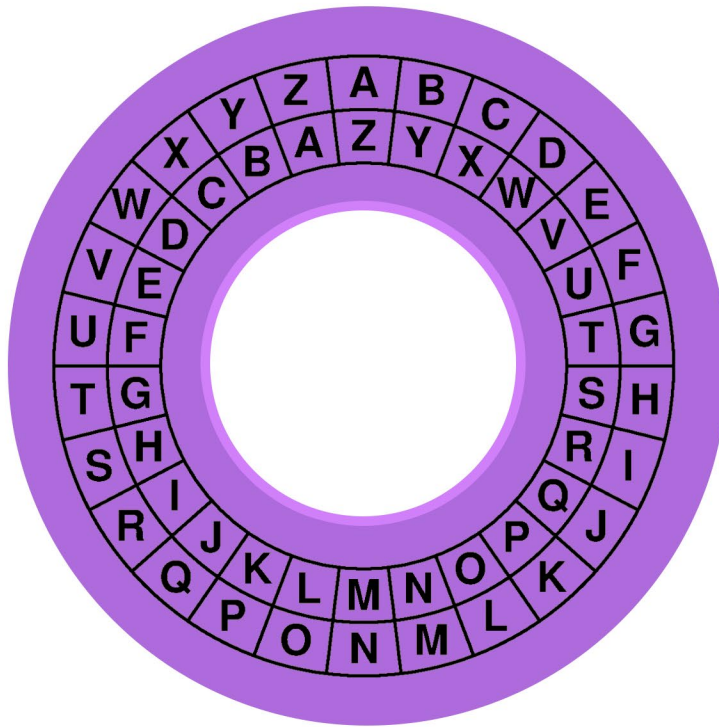
Print and cut out these keys, one for each person who solves the mysteries.





12







1.

A

H

O

V

2.

B

I

P

W

3.

C

J

Q

X

4.

D

K

R

Y

5.

E

L

S

Z

6.

F

M

T

?

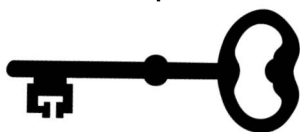
7.

G

N

U

!





ANSWERS

MYSTERY 1:

This many of Jesus' 12 disciples were fishermen:

- a. 12 b. 9 c. 6 **d. 4**

Answer:

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon, Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot

MYSTERY 2:

Peter was the first apostle to think Jesus was

- a. a great teacher b. a great prophet **c. the Messiah** d. a great healer

Answer: **Peter had great faith and his love for Jesus was fantastic.**

MYSTERY 3:

Question: How many Bible books did John write?

- a. Three **b. five** c. four d. two

Answer: **Jesus felt that education level was irrelevant. He looks at hearts not credentials.**

MYSTERY 4:

Question: The religious leaders didn't like Matthew because... The lesson about God in this miracle is

- a. his sins were not forgivable **b. he had probably cheated people out of money**
c. he was a Gentile

Answer: **He knew that Matthew would change after he heard the gospel. He knew that Matthew's money would not be important to him.**



ANSWERS

4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

Enter the 4-digit code here to solve the Easter Escape Room: **7047**

FINAL CHALLENGE:

- The first disciples to meet Jesus were
a. James and John **b. John and Andrew** c. Peter and Andrew d. James and Nathaniel
- The first of the disciples to meet Jesus were also
a. tax collectors **b. disciples of John the Baptist** c. possessed by demons
- Peter's biggest fault at first was that his mouth often preceded his...
a. understanding b. humility c. feet d. intelligence
- Peter died in this way:
a. crucifixion **b. upside-down crucifixion** c. beheading d. electrocution
- Jesus affectionately called these brothers "Sons of Thunder:"
a. Peter and Andrew **b. James and John** c. Nathaniel and Thomas
- The only disciple to die a natural death was
a. James **b. John** c. Jude d. Thomas

CIPHER HINTS

FONT/COLOR SCRAMBLE (PAGE 12)

Organize the letters into groups by font and color. Then unscramble the letters in each group, putting them in the correct order to reveal the correct word.

PIN POINT CIPHER (PAGE 13)

Each point on the page represents a letter. First, fill out the remaining letters at the top of the page. Then from left to right match up each point to its corresponding letter. Fill each word in the missing blanks on the mystery page to reveal the Secret Message.

ATBASH CIPHER (PAGE 14)

Replace the letter on the outside wheel with the corresponding letter on the inside wheel

CROSS CODE CIPHER (PAGE 15)

Each number and symbol in the message corresponds to a portion of one of the grids. The number tells the children which grid to look at. The symbol tells the position of the grid. The Secret Message can then be decoded by seeing the answer that is contained the correct grid position.