

FRIEND 'EM ON SAINTBOOK

by Jacqueline Hurley



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Friend 'em on
Saintbook

Social media meets the disciples

Jacqueline Hurley

CAST OF CHARACTERS

YOUNGER CHILDREN

To do a finger play and sing.

TEEN LEADER

MODERATOR

CHILD 1-11

Up to eleven older children who will “Saintbook” the disciples.
(TEEN LEADER may take one of these parts.)

GOOGLE-EYE 1-11

Up to eleven older children who will
“Google-eye” the places they went.

ANSWERERS 1-5

Five children to answer closing questions
(primary or older children). May be any of the above
or additional children if you need more parts.

JUMPER

Nonspeaking role. Skips rope at the end.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Am I the only one not on Facebook?! Oh well, James the Less and Matthias can't be found on Saintbook, either. That doesn't mean they didn't do their bit for God. As for the other disciples ... get out your laptops and "friend" them! Like? Wait, there's more. You can also Google-eye the places the disciples evangelized. You'll learn about the disciples and geography at the same time! Join us for some high-tech fun.

The script may accommodate any number of preschool and early primary children. If there are eleven older children who wish to take part, each child may "Saintbook" a single disciple and partially label one of five possible maps. (Only eleven disciples are needed because James the Less and Matthias, Judas' replacement, cannot be found on Saintbook.) The part of moderator is best assigned to a mature, older student. If there are fewer or more children, parts can be adjusted so that all parts, including Google-eye parts, are taken and everyone gets a chance to participate. This script will assume eleven older children.

After performing a song and finger play, the younger children taunt, "We know something you don't." The older children become involved when they learn the disciples are on Saintbook. Throughout the play, the audience learns something about each disciple, and children "Google-eye" places the disciples evangelized. (Simplified maps are labeled throughout the play.) A jump rope chant and a couple songs complete the program.

Set

Chairs should be arranged in a split semicircle on the dais, one per older child. Child 1 sits farthest right and child 11 farthest left. The divide in the semicircle is for the screen. You will also need an overhead projector, SMART Board, PowerPoint, or other form of projection. Set up three microphones: Moderator (Stage Right), one to pass left and right within the semicircle, and one at the area where maps are to be shown (Center Stage).

Props

Wet-erase markers and clear plastic overlays if using the overhead, one 10" pizza box painted to look like a laptop for each older child (when opened, these boxes contain portions of script to assist the actors), script for moderator, small electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc.), one pair of "google-eyed" glasses, five outline maps in various stages of completion depending on the director's choice and needs of the actors (examples included), and a jump rope.

Music

Three songs are suggested.

1. "We Are the Church" by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. Copyright © 1972 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI # 18510.
2. "Children Go Where I Send Thee" by Bradley Knight. Copyright © 2008 Minister of Funk Publishing. CCLI # 5162316.
3. "Get on Board, Little Children" by James Pethel. Copyright © 2003 Pilot Point Music. CCLI # 4264435.

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MAP EXAMPLES



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Map 3

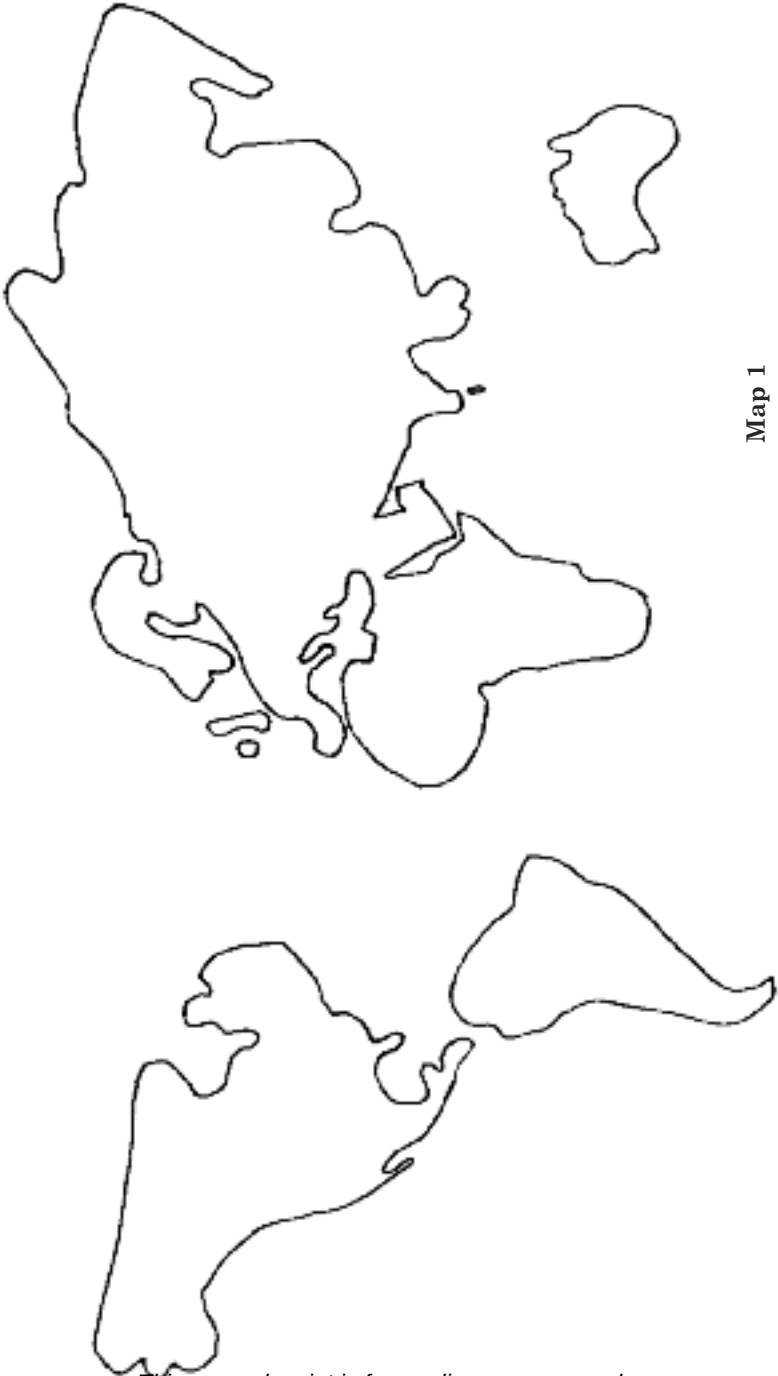


Map 4



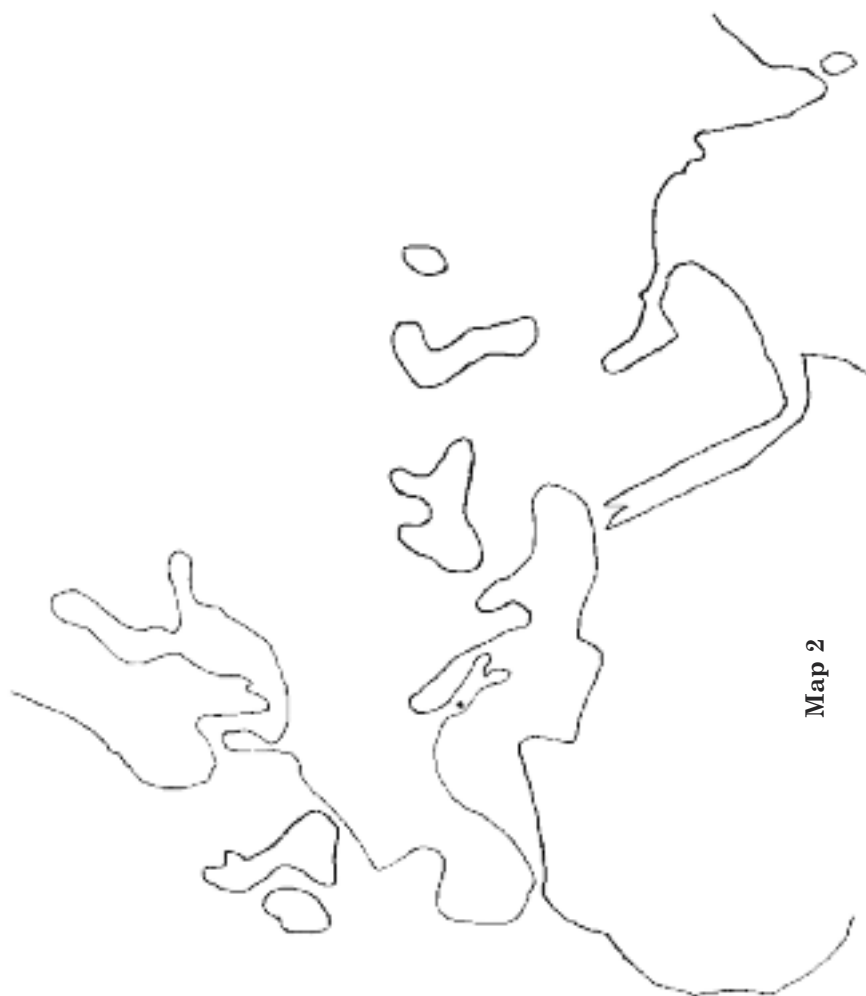
Map 5

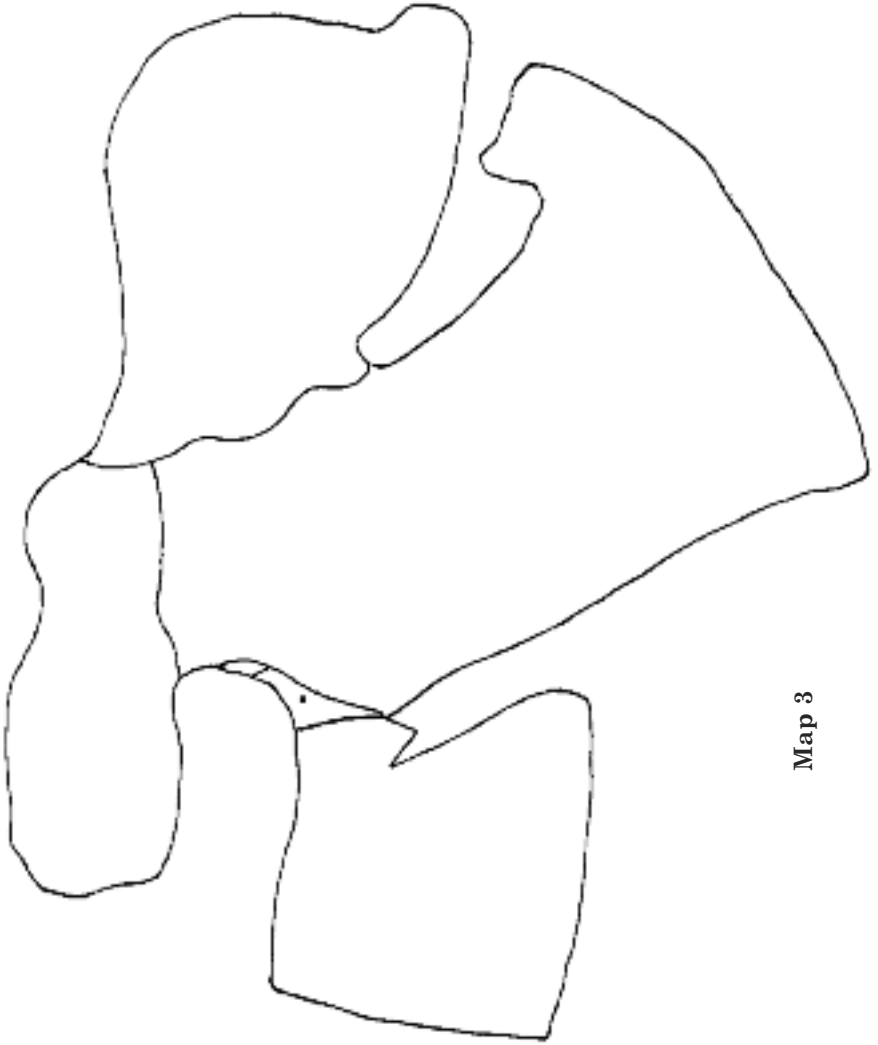
8
BLANK MAPS



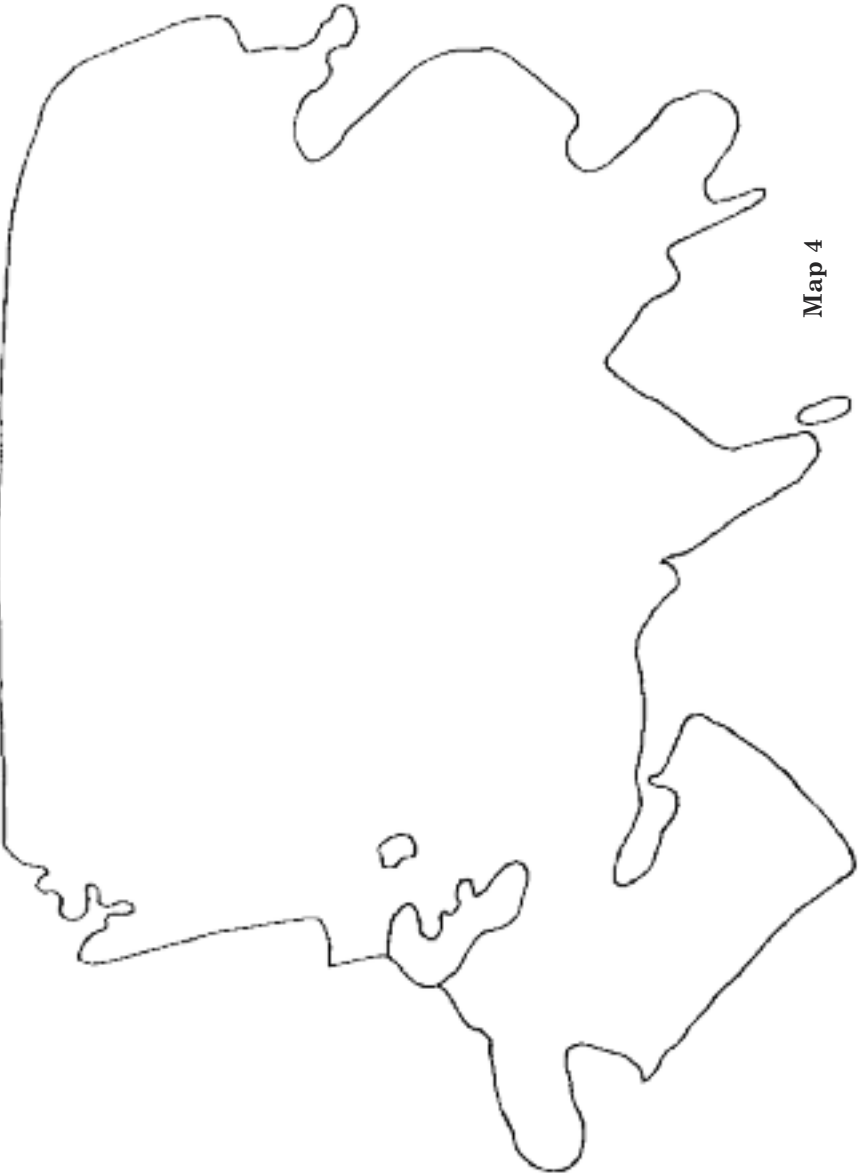
Map 1

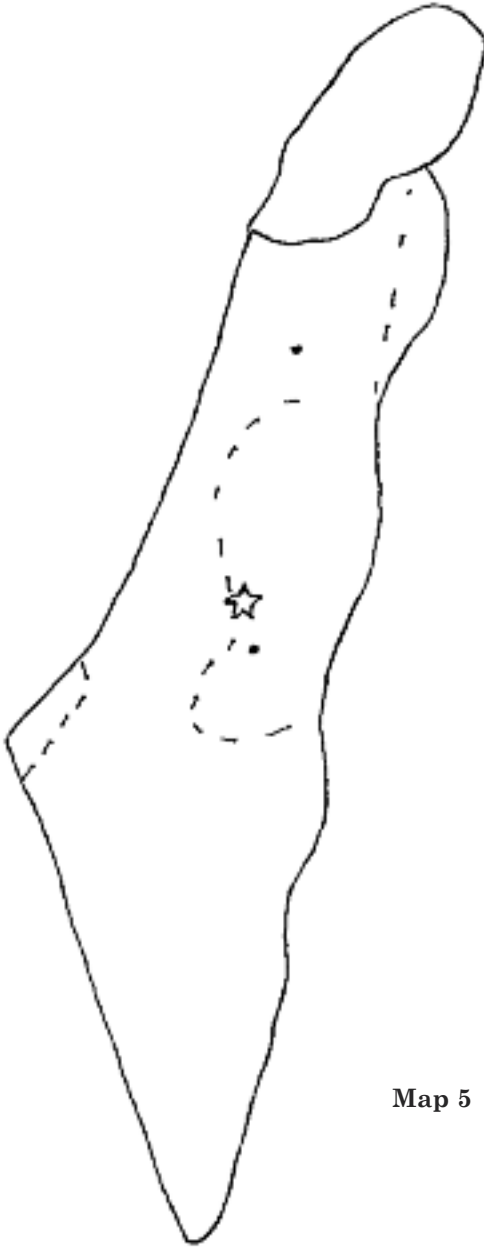
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Map 3





Map 5

1 *(YOUNGER CHILDREN are gathered, standing, at Center*
 2 *Stage. TEEN LEADER holds script and stands with the*
 3 *YOUNGER CHILDREN and encourages them while the*
 4 *OLDER CHILDREN are grouped in clusters at Stage Left and*
 5 *Stage Right, bored and focusing on personal electronic devices.)*

6 **SONG and FINGERPLAY: “We Are the Church”**

7 **YOUNGER CHILDREN and TEEN LEADER:** *(Singing)*

8 I am the church, you are the church,
 9 we are the church together.

10 Open the doors, share in his Word,
 11 we are the church together.

12 *(Reciting with finger play motions)*

13 This is the church, this is the steeple,
 14 Open the doors and see all the people.

15 *(Singing)*

16 I am the church, you are the church,
 17 we are the church together.

18 Open the doors, share in his Word,
 19 we are the church together.

20

21 *(TEEN LEADER whispers something into each YOUNGER*
 22 *CHILD’s ear. Each YOUNGER CHILD smiles, in turn, as he or*
 23 *she hears the news.)*

24 **YOUNGER CHILDREN:** *(In unison, sing-song)* We know
 25 something you don’t!

26 **OLDER CHILDREN:** *(In unison, demanding tone)* What?

27 **YOUNGER CHILDREN:** *(In unison, excitedly)* The disciples are
 28 on Saintbook! *(YOUNGER CHILDREN exit stage and are*
 29 *seated nearby. OLDER CHILDREN hurriedly put away*
 30 *devices, take previously assigned chairs, reach under chairs,*
 31 *pull out “laptops,” open lids, and “log on” feverishly.)*

32 **TEEN LEADER:** *(To MODERATOR, who is seated with audience*
 33 *near front)* I have a list, _____. *(Insert actual*
 34 *name of MODERATOR.)* Will you help? *(MODERATOR*
 35 *accepts script and steps up to microphone at Stage Left while*
 36 *TEEN LEADER takes a chair in the semicircle.)*

37 **CHILD 1:** *(Picks up microphone and says excitedly)* OK, I’m on.
 38 Who’s the first disciple?

- 1 MODERATOR: Peter's the first one I see on the list.
- 2 CHILD 1: *(Appears to be typing in "Peter.")* What's Peter's last
3 name?
- 4 MODERATOR: When the Bible was written, people didn't
5 have last names. They were known by the place they
6 lived. For example, Jesus of Nazareth, or as a son, like
7 James, son of Zebedee, or by reputation, like Simon the
8 Zealot. Why don't you try Simon Peter?
- 9 CHILD 1: *(Appears to be typing.)* Lives in Los Angeles?
- 10 MODERATOR: *(Smiling)* Not likely! *(In "aha" manner)* Peter
11 and Andrew were brothers. Their father was named
12 Jonas. Try Simon Peter Jonas.
- 13 CHILD 1: *(Appears to be typing.)* Got him.
- 14 MODERATOR: OK, so what do you see?
- 15 CHILD 1: Well, there's a picture of a guy holding keys.
16 *(Thoughtfully)* Not a picture, really — more like a
17 painting.
- 18 MODERATOR: No cameras back then, either. The pictures
19 are probably paintings. What else?
- 20 CHILD 1: The header says, "Christ's Teachings: Our Keys to
21 the Kingdom of God!" *(Appears to be scanning page.)* Here's
22 his profile ... Job: Fished for men. Title: First Pope.
23 *(Repeats.)* First Pope! Wow! No wonder he has so many
24 friends! He has 5 million ... billion ... I can't even read
25 this number! All those Catholics, I suppose!
- 26 MODERATOR: *(Smiling)* Any maps?
- 27 CHILD 1: Yup, born in Israel, evangelized Asia Minor and
28 Rome, Italy. *(Pausing, nodding)* I guess Rome makes
29 sense since he's the first Pope and all.
- 30 MODERATOR: Can somebody Google-eye that for us?
- 31 GOOGLE-EYE 1: *(Moves to the overhead, SMART board, etc., puts*
32 *on google-eyed glasses, and looks at the audience. Pauses for*
33 *laughter.)* First, I'll show the world. *(Places Map 1, a*
34 *simplified map of the world, on projector. Writes Rome in*
35 *appropriate place.)* Rome, Italy. *(Takes off glasses and takes*
36 *his/her seat.)*
- 37 MODERATOR: Will someone zoom in on that?
- 38 GOOGLE-EYE 2: I will! *(GOOGLE-EYE 2 moves to the map area,*

1 *does not repeat use of glasses, removes the first drawing, and*
 2 *displays Map 2, a zoom of Europe that also includes a part of*
 3 *Asia and North Africa. Places a dot and writes “Rome” on the*
 4 *“knee” of the boot and repeats) Rome, Italy. (Takes seat.)*

5 **MODERATOR:** *(To CHILD 1)* Anything else?

6 **CHILD 1:** Yes. Peter’s left a message ... “Even if all fall away
 7 on account of you, I never will. Matthew 26:33.” He was
 8 martyred in Rome.

9 **MODERATOR:** To be martyred means he died professing the
 10 name of Jesus Christ. We’re going to hear that a lot!

11 **CHILD 1:** Should we “like” him?

12 **MODERATOR:** Perhaps you could ask the congregation.

13 **CHILD 1:** *(Arms outstretched, looks to the line-up, then to the*
 14 *audience, clearly indicating their opinion counts and repeats)*
 15 **Like?** *(When the audience agrees, in broad, exaggerated*
 16 *movement, hits “like” on “keyboard.”) Like!* *(Passes the*
 17 *microphone to CHILD 2.)*

18 **CHILD 2:** Who’s next?

19 **MODERATOR:** Andrew. He was also a Jonas.

20 **CHILD 2:** *(Appears to be typing.)* Got him! Andrew, disciple of
 21 Christ. Brother to Simon Peter. Fished for men. Title:
 22 **Protokletos**, meaning “first called.” That must make him
 23 the first one to join Jesus! Evangelized the Scythian
 24 nomads and Greece. Where is Scythia, anyway?

25 **MODERATOR:** Let’s Google-eye it.

26 **GOOGLE-EYE 3:** I will. *(Using Map 2 of Europe, prints*
 27 *“Scythians” on an area north of the Black Sea where the*
 28 *Scythians lived.)* Scythians were nomads who traveled
 29 east and west in modern-day Ukraine and Russia.

30 **MODERATOR:** Greece?

31 **GOOGLE-EYE 3:** *(Places a “G” on Greece and repeats.)* Greece.
 32 *(Returns to seat.)*

33 **CHILD 2:** *(Continues reading.)* Andrew died as a martyr in
 34 Greece. Bummer. *(To audience)* Should we “like” him? *(It*
 35 *is assumed the audience will “like” the disciples from here on*
 36 *out. CHILD 2 appears to hit a button to express “like” and*
 37 *passes the microphone to CHILD 3.)*

38 **CHILD 3:** *(To MODERATOR)* Me next!

MODERATOR: (*Consulting list*) John. Try Zebedee — that was his father's first name.

CHILD 3: Got him! The header says, "The disciple whom Jesus loved." Job: Gospel writer. Title: Boanerges ... that means "son of thunder." (*Raises shoulders in acceptance.*) John must have been big and loud. Brother to James the disciple, cared for Mother Mary after Jesus died, wrote the book of Revelation in the Bible. I see he has lots of friends! Here's his message: "This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written, I suppose even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:24-25." He evangelized Asia Minor. Can someone Google-eye Asia Minor?

GOOGLE-EYE 4: I will! (*Using Map 2 of Europe and Rome, points to the eastern edge of the Mediterranean and says*) The Middle East begins on the right side of the Mediterranean. I'll zoom in on the Middle East. (*Removes Map 2, places Map 3, a map of the Middle East, points to the western area of Turkey and says*) This part of modern-day Turkey was called Asia Minor in the disciples' time. (*Writes "A. M." on the western side of Turkey.*) It had cities like Ephesus, and Galatia was next to it. (*Write a "G" to the right of "A. M."*)

CHILD 3: (*While GOOGLE-EYE 4 remains standing*) John was probably the last disciple to die. He wrote on the Isle of Patmos until about 95 AD.

GOOGLE-EYE 4: (*Place a "P" just off the western coast of Turkey.*) Patmos. (*GOOGLE-EYE 4 takes a seat but leaves the map on display, as it will be added to by other GOOGLE-EYES.*)

CHILD 3: Like? (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*) Like! (*Hits "like," then passes microphone to CHILD 4.*)

MODERATOR: Next, James bar Zebedee. "Bar" means "son of."

CHILD 4: That's me. (*Appears to type and begins.*) The first disciple martyred! John's brother, also "Boanerges," son of thunder, and he had lots of friends! Martyred in

1 **Jerusalem in 42 AD.**

2 **GOOGLE-EYE 5:** I know where Jerusalem is! (*Using the map of*
3 *the Middle East, Map 3, says*) **Egypt**, (*While placing an “E” on*
4 *that country*) **Lebanon**, (*While placing an “L,” and*) **Israel**,
5 *(With label “I”)* **Jerusalem is about here.** (*Places a “J” for*
6 *Jerusalem and takes seat.*)

7 **CHILD 4:** Like? (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*)
8 **Like!** (*Hits “like,” then passes microphone to CHILD 5.*)

9 **MODERATOR:** Simon the Zealot.

10 **CHILD 5:** Me! (*Types.*) The header says “Jewish Patriot!
11 **Throw off the rule of Rome!**” Simon was a politician,
12 patriot, and — yikes! Possibly an assassin! His message
13 gives the Zealot’s creed: “No king but the Lord, no tax
14 but the temple, no friend but a Zealot!” (*Shaking head*)
15 He must have really changed for Jesus. Martyred in
16 Persia. Should we Google-eye that?

17 **GOOGLE-EYE 6:** That’s easy. (*Moves to map and writes “Persia”*
18 *while saying*) Today, we call it Iran. (*Takes seat, leaving*
19 *map.*)

20 **CHILD 5:** Like? (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*)
21 **Like!** (*Hits “like,” then passes microphone to CHILD 6.*)

22 **MODERATOR:** The next disciple is Levi, but he was also
23 called Matthew. Try Matthew Levi.

24 **CHILD 6:** Matthew Levi bar Alphaeus! Tax Collector!
25 Message says: “He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at
26 the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me,’ Jesus told him,
27 and Levi got up and followed him” (*Mark 2:14*). That’s
28 something, because I know the Jews hated Jewish tax
29 collectors working for Rome. It’s hard to believe Simon
30 the Zealot didn’t kill him! He was a martyred Gospel
31 writer and went to Ethiopia, Persia, Parthia, and
32 Macedonia.

33 **GOOGLE-EYE 7:** I know where they are! (*Rises, removes Map 3,*
34 *replaces Map 2, marks “E” for Ethiopia, on the horn of Africa,*
35 *and “M” for Macedonia while saying*) “**E**” for Ethiopia and
36 “**M**” above Greece for Macedonia. (*Returns to Map 3 and*
37 *writes “Parthia ” above Persia, saying*) **Parthia.** (*Sits.*)

38 **CHILD 6:** Like? (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*)

- 1 **Like!** (*Hits “like,” then passes microphone to CHILD 7.*)
- 2 **MODERATOR:** Thomas. There’s no last name, so why don’t
- 3 you try Doubting Thomas? Who’s next?
- 4 **CHILD 7:** Me. I’ve already got him. I see a painting where
- 5 he’s looking at Jesus’ hands. I think he’s looking for nail
- 6 holes. It says he was martyred in India.
- 7 **GOOGLE-EYE 8:** (*Walks to map, removes Middle East, and*
- 8 *replaces with Map 4, Asia. Writes the word “India” while*
- 9 *saying*) **India.**
- 10 **CHILD 7:** **Like?** (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*)
- 11 **Like!** (*Hits “like,” then passes microphone to CHILD 8.*)
- 12 **MODERATOR:** Judas Iscariot is next.
- 13 **CHILD 8:** Betrayed Christ with a kiss, was the disciples’
- 14 treasurer, hanged himself after Jesus’ death. There’s
- 15 something posted by George MacDonald, a nineteenth
- 16 century novelist! It says: “I think, when Judas fled from
- 17 his hanged and fallen body, he fled to the tender help of
- 18 Jesus, and found it — I say not how.” (*Pauses to consider*
- 19 *before asking*) **Like?** (*CHILD 8 really weighs the audience’s*
- 20 *response and may or may not type “like.”*)
- 21 **MODERATOR:** Judas Lebbaeus Thaddaeus — oh no, not
- 22 another Judas!
- 23 **CHILD 9:** I’ll take him — just give me a minute to spell all
- 24 that. (*Types, pauses.*) Here he is. The header says, “Judas,
- 25 *not* Iscariot! Just call me ‘St. Jude.’ ” I guess he didn’t
- 26 like that name, either. Saint of last resort, also known
- 27 as Thaddaeus. Namesake for St. Jude’s Children’s
- 28 Hospital, he was martyred in the Armenia/Edessa area.
- 29 That’s right of Turkey and above Iran. Could someone
- 30 Google-eye that?
- 31 **GOOGLE-EYE 9:** **My turn.** (*Removing Asia and returning to the*
- 32 *Eurasia zoom, Map 2, points to the Black, Caspian, and Aral*
- 33 *Seas while naming them*) **The Black, Caspian, and Aral**
- 34 **Seas.** (*Places an A/E in the proper place, saying*) **Armenia ...**
- 35 **Edessa.**
- 36 **CHILD 9:** **Like?** (*Looks for audience response, then, nodding ...*)
- 37 **Like!** (*Hits “like,” then passes microphone to CHILD 10.*)
- 38 **MODERATOR:** James the less is next. He’s listed in the Bible



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