



Andrew the Helper

Adapted from “12 Disciples” series by Dennis Marquardt.

When the term “great ministry” is used, it conjures up many pictures like great teachers or great preachers. People like Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, John Wesley, or Jonathan Edwards are usually associated with great people in the kingdom of God.

Yet, the vast majority of “great ministry” in God's Kingdom has been accomplished by much less well-known saints over the centuries. Perhaps one could call these people, the “Andrews” of the Ages!

Andrew was not as much an up-front person as much as he was a middle man. He would help bring together issues and people. He did not so much teach others by mouth as much as he brought people to Jesus for Jesus to teach them. Andrew was the guy who was

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looking for bridges or making them. The church of Jesus Christ needs “Andrews!”

American conductor and composer, Leonard Bernstein, was asked which instrument was the most difficult to play. After thinking for a moment he replied:

“The second fiddle! I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm – that is a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony!”¹

Andrew was much loved by Jesus. He was the first disciple Jesus called, and he was responsible for bringing his brother, Peter, to Jesus. Though Andrew is the first disciple whom Jesus calls, he seems to be largely in the background, while Peter gets most of the notoriety.

Peter is credited with great things while Andrew's accomplishments are hardly ever mentioned. Without Andrew bringing Peter to Jesus, Peter might not have

¹ David Cox, “Who is Willing to Play the Second Fiddle?,” Life A Team, <http://likeateam.com/who-is-willing-to-play-the-second-fiddle/> (accessed July 21, 2017).

become a disciple! It is the “Andrews” of this world that are the backbone of the church!

For God's work to go forward there needs be many “Andrews” around. God puts a premium on those who are servants. Andrew's gift was that of a "middleman," or “second fiddle.” He was the helper in the group, acting as a bridge. He connected his brother Peter to Jesus and then stayed in the background while Peter grew more prominent than he.

He brought people to Jesus. While others taught with words, he taught by example. The church still needs middlemen, those who can speak by action and not just words, those who know how to lead others to Jesus Christ!

“COURAGE Level Questions”

Exercise #1: Read and answer or discuss the following:

John 1:29–42 (ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will

see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

John 6:1–15 (ESV) After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five

barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world! Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

John 12:20–22 (ESV) Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Matthew 4:18–19 (ESV) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

C1: When you think of someone being used by God, who comes to mind?

Exercise #2: Write down the names of the people who work behind the scenes at your church.

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|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

C2: Andrew is the first disciple to follow Jesus and often is not spoken of like Peter, his brother. How would that make you feel?

C3: Andrew led his brother to Jesus as well as others. Who led you to Christ?

C4: How does it make you feel when you are not recognized for something good you have done?

C5: When Jesus wants to feed such a huge crowd, why do you think Andrew brings a boy with only five loaves and two fish to Jesus?

C6: Can you remain silent when others are getting credit, or the spotlight, instead of yourself?

C7: Andrew's name means "manly." Do you see bringing others to Christ as a "manly" thing? Why or why not?

C8: Jesus may be calling you to be "second fiddle" to your pastor or others at church. How would you respond to that call?

Exercise #3: Write down the names of three men whom you can bring to church (without getting any kind of credit for it). Write out a strategy how to get them to come to with you to church.

Name #1:

My strategy:

Name #2:

My Strategy:

Name #3:

My Strategy:

“STRENGTH” Level Questions

Exercise #1: Read and answer or discuss the following.

John 1:29–42 (ESV)

John 6:1–15 (ESV)

John 12:20–22 (ESV)

Matthew 4:18–19 (ESV)

S1: When you hear the term “second fiddle” what comes to mind?

S2: Andrew was searching for a deeper relationship with God. How far are you willing to go in search of a deeper relationship with God?

S3: Jesus said to Andrew that if he followed, He would make Andrew a fisher of men. What does that mean to you? Have you ever felt called you to be a fisher of men without being in the spotlight?

S4: Andrew might be considered the first missionary by bringing Peter to Jesus. Do you feel called to be a missionary, and what does that look like to you?

Exercise #2: There are people who work behind the scenes in our churches and ministries. Write out some ways you can support them.

S5: After reading the scriptures and finding out that Andrew with was Philip a lot of the time, we can presume they were good friends. Whom do **you** have walking alongside you as a friend? What do they mean to you?

S6: Where do you believe Andrew found the courage to bring a boy with five loaves and two fish to Jesus to share a meal with the multitudes?

S7: Andrew's name can be translated as "manly." How can playing second fiddle be manly? How do you (or don't you) feel "manly" in living for God and serving in your church?

Exercise #3: In the next 30 days, write down three areas where you can serve as a middleman like Andrew

by bringing others to Christ. Next, write out your plan for doing that in each area.

Area I where I can serve #1:

My strategy for getting started:

Area I where I can serve #2:

My strategy for getting started:

Area I where I can serve #3:

My strategy for getting started:

“ENDURANCE” Level Questions

Exercise #1: Read and answer or discuss the following.

John 1:29–42 (ESV)

John 6:1–15 (ESV)

John 12:20–22 (ESV)

Matthew 4:18–19 (ESV)

E1: Of the 12 Disciples, Andrew came to follow Christ first. His first thought was of bringing his brother, Peter, to Christ as well. How can you develop and cultivate this same passion to bring others to Christ?

E2: Following the Holy Spirit’s leading, how can you become a better “fisher of men” like Andrew?

E3: Andrew was searching for a deeper relationship with God. How are you helping others to deepen their relationship with God?

E4: How are you in regards to taking a second fiddle role to help your pastor grow the Kingdom of God in your community?

E5: Would you have the faith of Andrew in bringing the boy with five loaves of bread and two fishes to Jesus?

E6: How can you increase your faith in Christ as you serve others?

E7: When the Greeks want to meet Jesus, Andrew has no problem with their background. Do you ever not share Jesus with someone because something holds you back, or bothers you? What is it?

E8: Andrew and Philip were often spoken of together. It can be presumed that they were good friends. Is there someone serves in church alongside you whom you would consider to be a good friend?

E9: Do you have friends with whom you talk about Jesus? Why/Why Not?

E10: Andrew never uttered a word of complaint about being second fiddle to his brother, Peter. He just went about doing what God called him to do. How do you prevent yourself from wanting the spotlight while fulfilling God's call on your life?