1. **Luke 6:12-16**
   * + Who did Jesus rename?
     + How many “apostles” did he appoint.
     + Name something unique about two of them.
     + **Jeremiah 23:1-6**
     + How does the reading in **Jeremiah** relate to the **Gospel** (look closely at **verse 4**)?
     + **Genesis 17:5, 15**
     + What do you see occurring in **Genesis** that also occurred here in the **Gospel**?
     + What do you think the changing of one’s name signifies in your opinion?
     + **John 1:42**
     + What is the Greek form of Simon’s new name, what is the Aramaic form of Simon’s new name?
     + Read the **footnote** aloud from the New American Bible on **John 1:42** and **Matthew 16:18**.
     + What language was the **Gospel of Matthew** originally written in according to what you know?
     + Read the following Church Father’s commentary about The Gospel of Matthew which range from the 2nd to the 4th century, before the Bible had even been put together as a single book.
     + **St. Irenaeus (142? - 202A.D.)** Against Heresies 3.1

"**MATTHEW** published his **GOSPEL** among the **Hebrews in their OWN LANGUAGE**, while Peter and Paul were preaching and founding the church in ROME. After their departure Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, also transmitted to us in writing those things which Peter had preached; and Luke, the attendant of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel which Paul had declared. Afterwards John, the disciple of the Lord, who also reclined on his bosom, published his Gospel, while staying at Ephesus in Asia."

* **Eusebius of Caesarea** **(260-339 A.D.)** Book 3.24

“Yet of all those who had been with the Lord, only **Matthew** and John have left us their memoirs, and tradition has it that they did so of necessity. **MATTHEW** at first preached to **Hebrews**, and when he planned to go to others also, he **wrote his GOSPEL in his OWN NATIVE LANGUAGE** for those he was leaving, his writing filling the gap left by his departure.#

* **St. Jerome (327-420 AD)** Letter to Pope Damasus ... THE FOUR GOSPELS. [Addressed to Pope(1) Damasus, A.D. 383.]

“For if we are to pin our faith to the Latin texts, it is for our opponents to tell us which; for there are almost as many forms of texts as there are copies. If, on the other hand, we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and correct the mistakes introduced by inaccurate translators, and the blundering alterations of confident but ignorant critics, and, further, all that has been inserted or changed by copyists more asleep than awake? I am not discussing the **Old Testament**, which was turned into **Greek** by the **Seventy elders**, and(1) has reached us by a descent of three steps. I do not ask what (2)Aquila and (3)Symmachus think, or why (4)Theodotion takes a middle course between the ancients and the moderns. I am willing to let that be the true translation which had apostolic approval. I am now speaking of the **New Testament**. This was undoubtedly composed in **Greek**, with the **exception of the work of Matthew the Apostle**, who was the first to commit to writing the Gospel of Christ, and who **published** his work in **Judaea in Hebrew characters**. We must confess that as we have it in our language it is marked by discrepancies, and now that the stream is distributed into different channels we must go back to the fountainhead.”

* + - According to the Church Fathers, what language was **The Gospel of Matthew** written in**?**
    - **Matthew 16:17-19**
    - Why might it be important to understand the original language used in the **Gospel?**
    - **Isaiah 49:6**
    - Why do you think Jesus chose to appoint twelve apostles?
    - What was their purpose according to the scripture?
    - Read the **footnote** on **Isaiah 49:6** in the New American Bible and share your thoughts about it.
* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 23*

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, having spent the night in prayer, and having conversed with His Father and God in heaven in a way ineffable and beyond our powers of understanding, and such as is known solely to Himself, even therein making Himself an example unto us of that which is necessary for salvation, for He taught us in what way we too may rightly and blamelessly offer our prayers comes down from the mountain and appoints those who were to be the world’s teachers, according to the words He spoke, “you are the light of the world.” And of this appointment of the holy Apostles, the blessed David also makes mention, addressing himself, as it were Christ; “Thou shall make them rulers over all the earth, they shall make mention of your name in every successive generation.”

* **Catechism 551-553**
* Please share a final thought that stood out to you today with the group.