

The CHOSEN

I Have Called You By Name Episode 1

Key Bible Verse

Descendants of Jacob, I, the Lord, created you and formed your nation. Israel, don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me. ~ Isaiah 43:1

Meet the Characters



Mary Magdalene – Luke 8:2-3, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-18

Mary was a Jewish woman from the fishing town Magdala, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been “healed of evil spirits and sicknesses.” She is mentioned in all four Gospels as one who followed Jesus and supported him and the other disciples out of her personal means.

Nicodemus – John 3:1-21, John 7:45-52, John 19:38-42

A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme religious and political council in Jerusalem during the New Testament times. His encounter with Jesus in John 3 is the occasion for the well-known verse John 3:16. He boldly helps to bury Jesus after the crucifixion, likely because he believed Jesus was the Son of God.

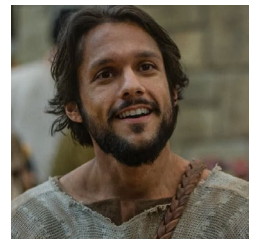


Matthew – Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:27-32

Also known as Levi, he was a despised tax collector when Jesus called him from his tax booth to follow Him as one of the 12 disciples. Matthew “left everything and went with Jesus.” He invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus so they could meet the Son of God. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

Peter – John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72

A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. The name Peter in Greek is petros, meaning rock. He is introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish caused by Jesus. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier’s ear, denying Jesus three times before being asked by Jesus three times to feed his “sheep.” He is attributed with writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for introducing his brother Simon/Peter to Jesus. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish. He plays a key role in feeding of the 5,000.

Is that true? (clarifying artistic imagination)

Was Peter really married?

Yes, we know from Mark 1:29-31 that Peter was married, and that Jesus healed his mother-in-law.

Was Matthew collecting taxes from Peter & Andrew?

It's possible, since Matthew was collecting taxes around the Sea of Galilee (Mark 2:13-14), but it is not mentioned in Scripture.

Was Mary possessed by demons?

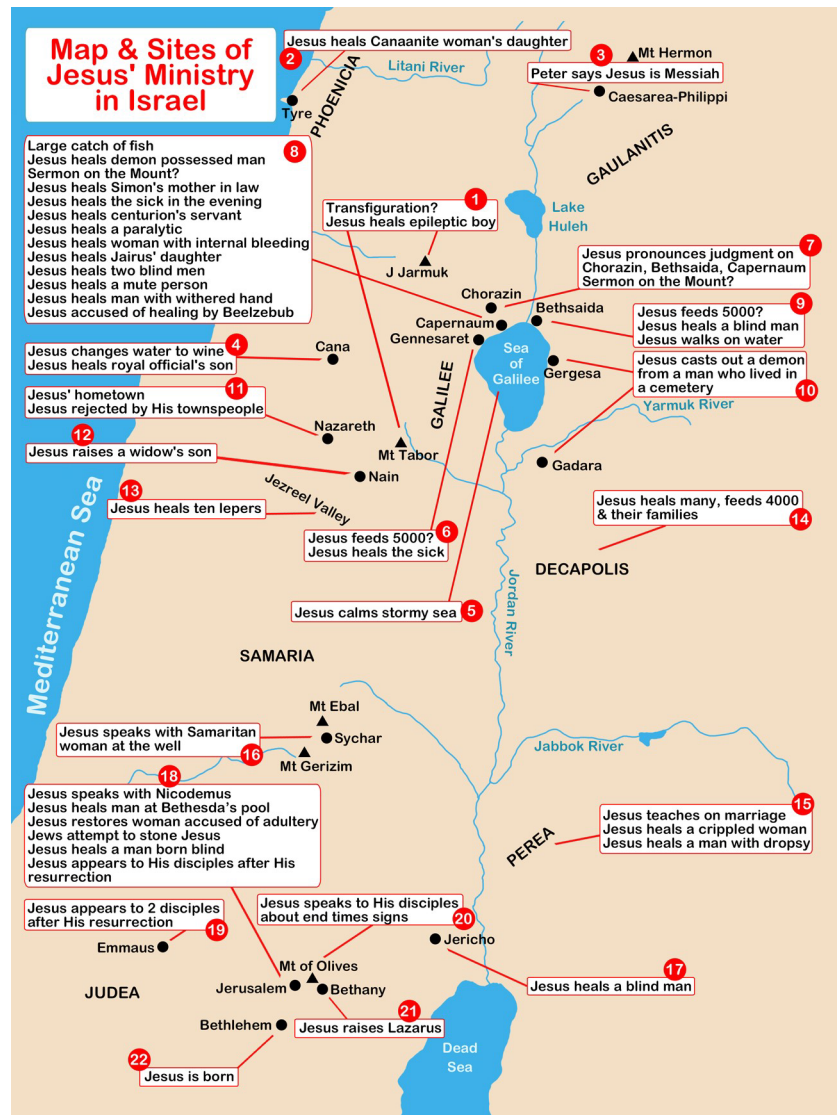
The term "demon," derived from the Greek daimon, describes a wide variety of spiritual beings (not all evil), unexplained fits of madness, and supernatural powers. Scripture states Jesus healed Mary of seven demons.

Did Nicodemus try to heal Mary Magdalene?

Mary was healed from seven demons (Luke 8:1-2) but we do not where it happened. Nicodemus also meet with Jesus in Jerusalem (John 2:23 – 3:22), which is 80 miles from Galilee so the likelihood this happened is slim.

Was there an issue of people fishing on the Sabbath?

While this is not stated in Scripture, it is not unlikely. The Pharisees were very legalistic about keeping the Sabbath; however, they were heavily taxed by the Romans and may have worked on the Sabbath to avoid being taxed.



Growth Questions

1. What were your expectations before watching the first episode?
2. This episode begins with Mary as a little girl who learned of the promise of God as Redeemer (Isaiah 43:1). Who are the people that have influenced your life?
3. We met several characters in this first episode – Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Matthew, Peter, Andrew, and others. Which were you most interested in or drawn to? Why?
4. Simon considers himself a faithful Jew and yet is reluctant to the seriousness of his actions in various areas of his life. How does our world today encourage us to compartmentalize our lives? How do we integrate faith in our lives?
5. Matthew is a Jewish citizen who works for the Roman government as a tax collector and is hated by his fellow Jewish community members. He seemingly gave up relationships for wealth. What are things that we are enticed to sacrifice for wealth, possessions, or symbols of success?
6. Read Isaiah 43:1-2, the Scripture that Mary Magdalene remembers from her childhood. What does it mean that the Lord "redeemed you" and "summoned you by name"? Does Jesus still do this today? How?
7. We are introduced to Jesus in the last few moments of the episode. What did you think about when Jesus called Mary by name and quoted Isaiah 43:1? How does "I have called you by name, you are mine" impact you today?
8. What is your first memory of Jesus or hearing about Christ?
9. We are being shown each character's "before Jesus" life. What does an encounter with Jesus do to people? How is your encounter with Jesus changing you?
10. Do you know Jesus to be your redeemer? If so, who can you share your story with? If not, what questions do you have about Jesus? Who can you ask to help you learn more about Christ's love?