

The CHOSEN

Invitations

Episode 7

Key Bible Verse

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. ~John 3:16-17

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.

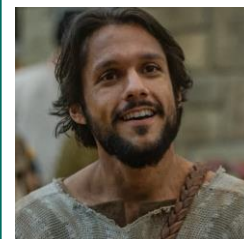


Matthew – Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:27-32

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)

Did Moses make a bronze serpent in the Old Testament?

Yes, and anyone who lifted his head to look at it on the pole was saved (Numbers 21:4-9). Jesus likely illustrates from this account in order to help Nicodemus understand his need to believe in Him and be born again (John 3:1-15), the need to trust in Jesus for salvation.

Did Jesus travel with only 12 men?

Jesus traveled with a group that included both men and women disciples. In Luke 6 Jesus appoints twelve from among “a great company of disciples” to be apostles. Luke 7 records Jesus traveling with his disciples and this great crowd. Then shortly after beginning his public ministry, we read that as Jesus traveled “the Twelve were with him, along with certain women... and many others” (Luke 8:1-3). Luke lists Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and “many others” as being in this band of disciples who traveled with Jesus.

Did Quintus express concern to Nicodemus about Jesus? There is no “Quintus” in the Bible although there are centurions like him. The gospels do reveal plenty of political tension early in Jesus’ ministry (Mark 3:6), but we do not see this kind of conversation with Nicodemus.

Was Matthew rejected by his parents?

The gospels do not comment on Matthew’s parents, but the portrayal of him as a traitor is accurate to how he would have been viewed by his own people. Was Nicodemus born again? We don’t know for sure, but we see Nicodemus identifying with Jesus unashamedly twice later (John 7:45-52, 19:38-42).

Did Matthew leave just like that to follow Jesus? Matthew (9:9), Mark (2:14), and Luke (5:27-28) tell us that Matthew left everything after Jesus said, “Follow me.” What took place is not known, but the show helps us to imagine the drama of that moment!



Jesus invites Nicodemus to a new life. Jesus invites all people to something new!

Growth Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. What ideas or images come to mind when you hear the term “born again”?
3. In your own words, explain what Jesus meant when He said one cannot see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.
4. In the episode, Nicodemus struggled with leaving a life of status to follow Jesus. Matthew struggled with leaving a wealthy lifestyle. When have you felt this type of tug of war when you sense Christ’s invitation to follow Him?
5. Jesus tells Nicodemus there is a lot he would give up, but much more he would gain in following Him. What have you gained from following Christ that has been greater than what you gave up?
6. What do you think Peter was feeling when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him?
7. Jesus tells Peter to “get used to different.” What are some ways you have had to “get used to different” as you have grown in knowing and following Jesus?
8. In the episode, Jesus kept inviting people to follow Him. While many Christians enjoy knowing they have eternal life, the question remains, are they following Jesus - here and now. How could you follow Jesus more closely this week?
9. So far, which of the characters can you most relate with as you think about their various spiritual journeys?
10. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?