

The CHOSEN

Episode Study Guides | **EPISODE 1**

MEET THE CHARACTERS



Mary Magdalene

*Luke 8:2-3, John 19:25-27,
John 20:1-18*

One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been “cured of evil spirits and diseases” and were following Jesus. She had been delivered from seven demons. She is there with Jesus at the cross and is the first one Jesus appears to when He is risen.



Nicodemus

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

A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme religious and political council in Jerusalem during 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.



Matthew

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. He “left everything and followed him” and invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus. He also 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. He is brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier’s ear, denying Jesus before the cross, and writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew

John 1:40-42, 6:8-9

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

Key Bible Verse

But now, this is what the Lord says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have summoned you by name. You are mine!”

Isaiah 43:1



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WAIT – IS THAT IN THE BIBLE?

Was Peter really married?

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

Was Matthew collecting taxes from Peter & Andrew?

We do not know from Scripture, but it's possible. Levi (Matthew) was collecting taxes somewhere around the Sea of Galilee (Mark 2:13-14).

Was Nicodemus ever working in Galilee?

This is possible but not likely. It seems that Nicodemus meets with Jesus in Jerusalem (see John 2:23 – 3:22).

Did Nicodemus try to heal Mary Magdalene?

Mary Magdalene was delivered from seven demons (Luke 8:1-2) but we do not know when or where that happened. And there is no record of Nicodemus ever meeting her.

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 and often accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath.



Jesus' Area of Ministry

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 We met several main characters in this first episode – Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Matthew, Peter, Andrew, and others. Which were you most interested in or drawn to?
- 2 What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
- 3 What is something you observed about life for Jews in first century Galilee, where the first episode unfolded?
- 4 Read Luke 4:14-19, where Jesus reads from Isaiah in the Old Testament and claims He is fulfilling that Scripture as Messiah. Then read Luke 4:31-37, where Jesus delivers someone from a demon (similar to how He might have delivered Mary Magdalene). How do the miracles of Jesus serve to demonstrate the identity of Jesus?
- 5 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?
- 6 Share about your first impression or encounter with Jesus. What happened and how did you respond?
- 7 What 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?



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