

# Journey of Faith



## Saying "Yes" to Jesus

"Today is the beginning of a very important part of your faith journey," Mrs. Evans told the class. "You've been learning about God, the Church, the sacraments, and how to live like Jesus. Now it's time for you to elect to say 'yes' to God's invitation to become an official member of his Church."

"So we just say 'yes' and then we're Catholic?" Terrence asked.

"Well, there's a little more to it than that," said Mrs. Evans. "You'll start by being a part of a ceremony called the rite of election. That's what we're going to talk about today."



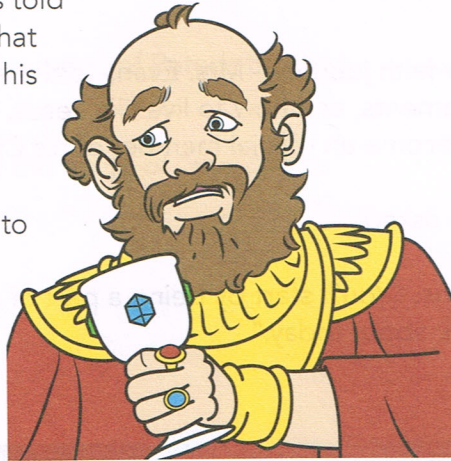


**Are you excited about saying "yes" to Jesus? Are you nervous? Why?**

## Jesus Is Calling

Jesus chose people who would walk with him and help him in his work. But not everyone Jesus called said "yes."

There was a rich young man who wanted to walk with Jesus. Jesus told the young man that he had to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. The man didn't want to give everything away. So he said "no." This made Jesus sad (Mark 10:17-31).



**How would you feel if Jesus asked you to give everything away?**

**Why might someone say "no" to giving their things away? Why might someone say "yes"?**

Another man was called to follow Jesus. This man told Jesus he would join him later, after his father died. This man wanted to follow Jesus but said, "Not yet" (Luke 9:57-62).



**Why do you think Jesus wants us to follow him right now?**

The twelve people Jesus called to follow him and lead his Church were called the apostles. All Jesus' followers are called disciples. Now that you're ready to say "yes" to Jesus, you will become a disciple, too!

The disciples had a lot to look forward to by staying with Jesus. He was the Messiah. He promised people everlasting life. But following Jesus wasn't easy. Jesus was tortured and killed. Many of his followers would be, too.



**What about being a disciple of Jesus makes you excited?**

**What about being a disciple of Jesus makes you scared?**

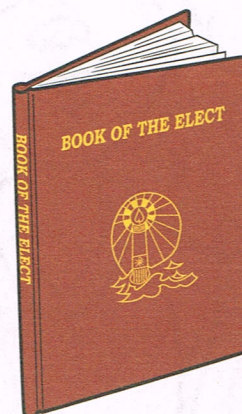
## Rite of Election

We believe that Jesus calls us to be his followers. As followers of Jesus, we have to follow God's rules and live like Jesus wants us to. Jesus doesn't force us to be his followers. He invites us. It's up to us to accept his invitation. The Catholic Church has a special rite, or ceremony, for accepting Jesus' invitation. It is called the **rite of election**, and it will take place at a special Mass. This rite is your chance to choose Jesus and let him know you're willing to live your life as he wants you to.



During the rite of election, you will be called to the front of church with your catechist, who will tell everyone that you want to follow Jesus. Then

the priest will ask the people if they accept your decision. When they say "yes" to you, your name will be written in a book called the **Book of the Elect**. This is a very important day in your journey to Jesus and the Church! It is public recognition of your desire to join the Church and live like Jesus!



## TWELVE WHO WALKED WITH JESUS

Read this poem about the apostles. Then follow the activity instructions on the back page.

Jesus is calling his special helpers to come and work with him every day.

They will follow him from town to town and listen to all he has to say.

Andrew and his big brother, Peter, are mending their nets by the sea.

Jesus calls for them to come, "Come be fishers of people," says he.

He calls two brothers, James and John, the "Sons of Thunder," to be his own.

And Philip and Thomas, the doubting one, join the team of God's only Son.

Next he calls Levi, the tax collector. (The people really don't like this man.)

But Jesus has dinner at Levi's house and Levi becomes Matthew, Jesus' friend.

He calls Simon, known as "the Zealot," and the one they all call Bartholomew.

Two Judases plus a James make twelve, and all but one remain loyal and true.

Today Jesus' friends are too many to count. All over the world they follow his way.

You have been chosen to be his friend, and he calls you to follow him today.

Always walk the way that Jesus walked, remain his friend, faithful and true.

Love him with all your heart and soul just as he has always loved you.





# GETTING TO KNOW THE APOSTLES

Read the poem about the apostles on the previous page, then follow the activity instructions below.

**Circle** the name of Andrew's older brother.

**Underline** the name of the "doubting one."

**Put a box around** the name of the tax collector.

**Highlight** the names of the "Sons of Thunder."

**Double underline** the name of Peter's brother.

**Put a star on top** of the name of "the Zealot."

## In Short



- People reacted differently to Jesus' message of discipleship throughout history.
- As members of the elect, you are called to discipleship.
- As you grow in faith, you will be asked to think about your actions and choices.

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Editors of the 2017 *Journey of Faith for Children*: Theresa Nienaber-Panuski and Pat Fosarelli, MD, DMin.

Design and production: Wendy Barnes, Lorena Mitre Jimenez, John Krus, and Bill Townsend. Illustration: Jeff Albrecht.

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