

The CHOSEN

Knowing who we're following
30 January - 30 March 2022



Dear Church family

Did you know that Jesus said 'follow me' thirteen times in the Gospels. He used these two simple words to call Peter, Andrew, James and John as his disciples.

Today, Jesus calls us with the same words: "Follow me".

But what does it mean to follow Jesus?

What does he expect from those who have accepted his invitation to follow him?

What gets in the way of us following?

How can we help each other be better followers?

Throughout 2022, we'll spend our time thinking about these questions so that together, we can become more like the followers we're called to be.

We'll approach them in a number of different ways – in the themes we cover; through Sunday morning teaching; through our Life groups; in our worship; through special events; and by giving our church family opportunities to get involved in all sorts of ways.

Our journey proper starts with this series, using The Chosen as our inspiration. This short guide will give you all you need to know, so that we can travel together.

We're excited for what God is going to do amongst the NPBC church family in 2022 as we learn more of what it means to do life and faith together.

We'd love you to be part of it.

Steve & Peter

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Why The Chosen?

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications – although it says even more about the Chooser than those who are chosen. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because He invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.

What does it actually mean to be Chosen?

To answer that question, we're going Old School – Testament that is – which leads us back to the New. Which always leads us directly to Jesus.

Join us for this 9-week journey in Life groups and on Sunday mornings as, accompanied by Season 1 of The Chosen television series about the life of Jesus, we connect to God's story for our lives.

How will it work?

Each week will be tied into a particular episode of The Chosen. All you need to do is make sure you've watched the relevant episode before you arrive on the Sunday, watch online or go along to your Life Group.

Then, on Sundays:

We'll explore the Old Testament context as we journey through Isaiah 43, always finishing by pointing to Jesus. There'll obviously be some references to the relevant episode, and we might even show a clip or two.

And then in your Life group:

You get to catch up and chat about what happened in that week's episode (set in the New Testament). You'll get to look through the eyes of the characters to explore who Jesus is in light of the Old Testament context, the events of the episode and your own experiences.

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The schedule

Week beginning Sunday 30 January: You are called

Watch: Episode 1 - I have called you by name

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Week beginning Sunday 6 February: You rest

Watch: Episode 2 - Shabbat

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2

Week beginning Sunday 13 February: You are cherished

Watch: Episode 3 - Jesus loves the little children

"For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life." Isaiah 43:3-4

Week beginning Sunday 20 February: You change course

Watch: Episode 4 - The Rock on which it is built

"Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south. Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:5-7

Week beginning Sunday 27 February: You are a witness

Watch: Episode 5 - The wedding gift

"Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! All the nations gather together, and the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to prove them right, and let them hear and say, it is true. 'You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.'" Isaiah 43:8-10

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[The schedule cont.](#)

Week beginning Sunday 6 March: You are made new

[Watch: Episode 6 - Indescribable compassion](#)

"I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no Saviour. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the Lord, 'and I am God. And henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?'"
Isaiah 43:11-13

Week beginning Sunday 13 March: You are established

[Watch: Episode 7 - Invitations](#)

"Thus, says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.'" Isaiah 43:13-15

Week beginning Sunday 20 March: You are carried

[Watch: Episode 8 - Invitations](#)

"Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.'"
Isaiah 43:16-19

Week beginning Sunday 27 March: What's Next

[Watch: any episode you like / the whole lot / Season 2](#)

Isaiah 43:1-19

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Where can I watch The Chosen

Each episode is available, free-to-air at:

- The Chosen website: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch>
- The Chosen app – available for Apple and Android devices
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6sHNLmYbAM&t=4052s>
Here, episodes are grouped into twos.
There are also links directly to these videos at www.npbc.org.uk/the-chosen

The Chosen is also available to watch via

- Amazon Prime (£1.99 per episode / £15.92 for the full season)
- Apple TV (same price as above)
- DVD (available via Amazon for £14.09)

Our hope is that everyone who needs access will be able to watch The Chosen, even if they need a little help to find it in the first instance. If, however, you are struggling to find a suitable resource, please contact Keith Bedford via the Church Office (info@npbc.org.uk) who will do his best to help you.

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As with any series like this, we each get out of it
what we are prepared to put in.

Our prayer is that we will open our hearts
to what God wants to say to each of us
through this series.

At any time, if you want to speak to someone
because of what you've heard or seen or experienced
in this series, Steve, Peter or your Life Group leader
will be happy to chat and pray with you.

Enjoy.

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