

# Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE BARNICOLA

## Jesus gathers his first apostles

One clear sunny day, John the Baptist sat on a grassy hill with two of his followers. He told them about an exciting event that had just happened in his life.

"I was told by an angel in a vision," John said, "that I would know who the Messiah was when I saw the Holy Spirit disguised as a dove land on him. When I baptized Jesus, a beautiful, white dove came down out of the sky and rested on his shoulder. I knew at once he was the Christ promised by the prophets."

Andrew, one of the men sitting with John, said, "I would give my own life to be able to follow this man of God."

"Look!" said John, "There he is now. Behold the lamb of God!"

Andrew and his friend immediately stood up and chased after Jesus.

When Jesus heard them coming, he stopped walking and turned around.

"What is it you are looking for?" he asked.

"Where do you live, rabbi?" asked Andrew.

"Come with me," invited Jesus. "You are welcome in my house."

The two men followed Jesus to his home and talked with him for the rest of the day. On his way home that evening, Andrew met his brother, Simon.

"Where have you been all day, Andrew?"

"I have seen the Messiah."

Simon laughed. "You have met the Messiah? I would like to meet him for myself."

"Follow me," said Andrew.

The two men found Jesus still in his room. Andrew introduced his brother to Jesus.

Jesus shook Simon's hand warmly,



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

looked into his eyes, and said, "From now on your name will be Peter. Peter means 'the rock.' Upon this rock I will build my church, and the power of hell will not be able to destroy it."

The next day, Jesus, Andrew, and Peter travelled to Galilee, where they met Philip. Jesus waved to Philip and said, "Follow me."

Philip immediately went with Jesus. After talking with Jesus for a while, Philip asked, "May I invite a friend to follow you also?"

"Bring him here," Jesus answered. "I will wait for you."

Philip ran to where his friend Nathaniel was working. "Nathaniel, you must come with me to meet Je-

sus of Nazareth. He is the one Moses promised would come."

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" asked Nathaniel.

"Please come and see for yourself," answered Philip.

Nathaniel left his work and went with Philip. When Jesus saw them coming, he said, "Here comes Nathaniel, an Israelite in whom there is nothing false."

"How do you know me?" asked Nathaniel.

"I saw you harvesting figs before Philip found you," answered Jesus.

"Truly you are the son of God and the king of Israel," Nathaniel exclaimed.

"You believe in me because I saw you under the fig trees?" asked Jesus. "Follow me and I will show you greater things."

"Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker," said Peter. And all did so.

Read more about it: John 1

### Q&A

1. How did John the Baptist know Jesus was the Messiah?
2. What does Peter's name mean?

### WORD SEARCH

Using the letters from the grid, see how many books of the New Testament you can find. Each letter may only be used once for each book. Answers found on page 13.

M	N	A	U	T
K	T	L	H	J
E	R	W	O	C
S	I	A	G	Y
U	P	B	E	D

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) that answers this question:

**If Jesus were looking for disciples today, how would you convince him you would be a good choice?**

Send your essay — including your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is January 27, 1994. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Catherine Mendel, a seventh-grade student in Our Lady of Mercy High School's seventh- and eighth-grade program. In response to the question "John's message was that Jesus was coming. What can we do to preach the same message today?" She wrote:

John preached to people that God was coming. I can do the same by incorporating into my life daily acts of prayer and penance, like what John did. I can do that by making acts of sacrifice such as doing chores, being respectful to authority and reducing the amount of T.V. I watch. I can influence my sister and friends by imitating John as well as other holy persons. Another example would be Mother Teresa. I am hoping that through imitating a good example as well as setting a good example, I will prepare for the coming of Christ in a way that pleases our Lord.

## Bible Accent

### FIGS

Fig trees are grown all over Palestine, Syria, Egypt, and parts of Asia. They can reach a height of over thirty feet, and will grow in soil too dry or harsh for other plants.

Although used primarily for their fruit, fig trees provide shade from the desert sun, and their leaves are sometimes used for wrapping and storing other foods. Adam and Eve first covered themselves with fig leaves.

In Jesus' time, fig trees were often planted throughout grape vineyards. Early fig crops, which appear in June and late July, have a delicate flavor and are easily shaken from the tree. The main crop blossoms in August.

Figs also have medicinal properties. Dried, pressed figs are used as a healing salve. The Old Testament prophets used the fig crop as a symbol of the success or failure of Israel. If the crop prospered or failed, so would Israel.

### St. Agnes



St. Agnes was a beautiful young girl who lived in Rome in the third century after Christ's birth. She had a strong faith in God at an early age. Because she was a Christian, she was taken from her family by order of the governor for being a Christian. She was put in a house for women and girls and forced into a life of servitude.

Her faith remained so strong, however, that her prayers were able to restore sight to the blind. Because she continued to believe in Christ and refused to worship the Roman gods, she was condemned to death. She was only thirteen years old.

Artists often paint pictures of her holding a lamb, to represent her innocence and obedience. She is the patron saint of young girls. We honor her on January 21.

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