

## The Church Teaches Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 12**.

Jesus chose twelve apostles to be his closest companions, and he made Peter their leader.

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Jesus called Peter the rock upon whom he would build his Church.

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Today the Church is led by the pope and the bishops, who are the successors of Peter and the apostles. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops continue the apostles' mission and carry out Jesus' teachings.

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The pope unites the bishops and the whole Christian community.

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Most bishops are responsible for a local geographical church, which is called a diocese. Priests assist the bishops in their ministry.

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As members of the Church, we belong to a community that reaches all the way from our local parish to the pope in Rome.

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The Precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we are called to make in prayer and living a moral life.

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The apostles thought of themselves as carrying on the tradition of the 12 tribes of Israel. These Jewish tribes were descendants of Abraham and Sarah.

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Jesus' twelve apostles were the Church's early leaders. Before Jesus was crucified, he was betrayed by one of them, Judas Iscariot.

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To help the remaining disciples decide on a replacement for Judas Iscariot, they cast lots. Matthias was chosen as the new apostle.

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