

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

SEASON 2 / EPISODE 1



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 1

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Luke 15:3-7
- John 1:1-18
- John 21:24-25
- Mark 3:17
- Luke 9:52-56
- John 4:28-30, 39-42
- John 14:12

CHARACTERS

Jesus, James & John, Andrew & Peter, Thomas, Rema, Rema's father, Matthew, Samaritans in Sychar, Samaritan cripple and his family

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode opens with John interviewing the disciples about their memories of Jesus. How would you share about how you met Jesus? Who do you enjoy talking with about Jesus? Why?
3. The disciples were gathered to mourn the loss of John's brother James. He had been martyred (Acts 12:1-2). Why is it good to simply reflect on Jesus during hard times?
4. The disciples consistently seemed to "lose Jesus." ;) How do we seek to control Jesus? How do we try to make Him fit our agenda?
5. There was tension between Rema's father, Thomas and Jesus. Why? How hard is it to trust Jesus over family?

EPISODE 1

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. Jesus heals the Samaritan cripple without being present. While he stayed there, the cripple told his story. How did Jesus treatment of him impact you?
7. When Jesus stayed overnight in the Samaritan priest's house, He was asked why he didn't correct the priest when he said one room was haunted. "I don't address everything at once," He replied. How grateful are you that God is patient with our ignorance.
8. We see James and John and their intensity. Jesus rebukes them creatively. He said, "You're not more worthy than they!" Why is that a message we need to hear?
9. What other questions could you ask?

QUOTES

"I cannot give you my belief or my devotion but my honesty and my daughter are all I have left to give." - *Rema's father*

"Strong passion can be good when channeled for righteousness." - *Jesus, to James and John*

THANKS TO:

- Northstar Church, Blacksburg, Virginia for provision of study guides (dontgo.be/thechosen)
- The Chosen team! Watch *The Chosen*

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

SEASON 2 / EPISODE 2



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 2

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- John 1:43-51
- Psalm 27:7-95
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- Ezekiel 39:6-10

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Thaddeus, Phillip, Nathanael, Andrew & Peter, Thomas, Rema, Mary Magdalene, Matthew

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode begins and ends with Nathanael. He thought his life was lost, only to discover something beautiful after meeting Jesus. He told the bartender that he had died of "hubris." What did he mean and why is that significant to the story?
3. Phillip played several roles in the episode, but he played a key role in bringing Nathanael to Jesus. Nathanael said, "I've never seen you talk like this." What will it take for you to talk so compellingly about Jesus to someone?
4. What can you conclude by Jesus' being aware of Nathanael's lowest moment?

EPISODE 2

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. What joke did Phillip tell Matthew to help him loosen up? What did you think about the way he related with Matthew?
6. Matthew said he felt “outside the circle.” What did he mean, and can you identify?
7. We see another instance of the life of Jesus being written down in Matthew’s journal. Why is that meaningful?
8. Peter advocated for more structure. What was he really wanting?
9. Jesus said, “Each brings something unique to the whole. I want every voice heard. We can all learn something from each other.” It seems to echo Paul’s teaching about spiritual gifts. Why do we need each other?
10. What other observations did you have?

QUOTES

“I don’t know what he sees in me.” -Matthew

“I was something else once too. They want to define us by our past, our sins.” -Phillip

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SEASON 2 / EPISODE 3



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 3

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Psalm 139:8
- Zechariah 14:1-5

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary, the disciples, especially Matthew, Simon

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This is a powerful and even uncomfortable episode. It's unique in the series so far in that it captures an evening of ordinary conversation among the disciples as they discuss:
 - speculation about Messiah
 - exhaustion
 - simple questions about life - to get to know one another
 - the loss of a father
 - "i tried pork once" :)
 - swapping stories
 - wanting to know about Jesus' birth
 - frustration with pace
 - questions about life, having expectations of Jesus

EPISODE 3

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

3. What did you learn about the disciples, and what do you think the producers were trying to communicate?
4. Little James said, "He's healing the *Samaritans*. How many would believe in Him if he wasn't healing them?" What did this question reveal about another reason the disciples weren't in the village helping?
5. How has your belief been impacted when Jesus hasn't done what you wanted? How do we know when we're following Jesus for *who He is* and not for what He can do for us?
6. How do you feel about Simon's treatment of Matthew? How powerful is it that Simon says he can't forgive him for what he's done, when you know Simon will need great forgiveness from Jesus for a later betrayal?
7. Read Matthew 7:1-5. How does this apply to Peter? How does it apply to us?
8. Jesus returned to camp exhausted from ministry. His condition stunned the disciples into silence. Why?
9. Mary washed Jesus' feet. Where does scripture record Jesus washing someone's feet and when?

QUOTES

"I don't think He's waiting for us to be holy. I think He's here because we can't be holy without Him." -Mary

"I was something else once too. They want to define us by our past, our sins." -Phillip

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SEASON 2 / EPISODE 4



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 4

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- John 5:1-16
- Psalm 69:9
- Zechariah 8:20-23
- Exodus 20:8-11

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus, the disciples, Simon the Zealot, Jesse (the invalid), Shmuel (Pharisee), Atticus (Roman inspector), Rufus (Roman procurator), Zealots

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This episode is rich in providing context and understanding of the Jews' religious culture and history, helping us have perspective on the world Jesus ministered in. Some of the subjects covered are deep and worth further reading for your growth:
 - Teachings about the Sabbath
 - The Festival of Booths
 - The Rise and Concerns of the Pharisees
 - The Zealots and their goalsWe encourage you to do further research on each of these and revisit them in your group next week.
In the meantime, what can you conclude about each of these based on this episode?

EPISODE 4

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

3. Simon the Zealot and Jesse (invalid by the Pool of Bethesda) are creatively connected as brothers by the series. How did the back story give you insight into the misery of Jesse whom John 5:5 tells us had been disabled for 38 years? How might his presence at the Pool of Bethesda indicate his desire to be healed?
4. What was the stated goal of the Zealots? Why were they able to justify murder? How can someone be so passionate for God and be so wrong as to how to please Him? (Freebie: Mark 15:7 hints that Barabbas may have been a Zealot.)
5. Simon, the Zealots and Pharisees all wanted to please God. Who are you praying for to embrace grace and turn from legalism?
6. As you witnessed the disciples' preparation for the Festival of Booths, what thoughts did you have about the significance of religious tradition/heritage? About the importance of experiencing God in community?
7. Jesus knew who He was looking for at the pool. He went seeking Jesse. Who are you "looking for" to experience Jesus?
8. Jesus told Jesse the pool had nothing to offer him. What do we turn to that cannot satisfy/provide/help you? In what ways do you turn to a "pool" instead of Jesus?
9. As Jesse carried out his mat, he was confronted by Shmuel who accused him of working on the Sabbath. How did this example of legalism gone rogue impact you? How/when might you be guilty of a similar mindset?

QUOTES

"You're not coming back here. That life is over. Everything changes now." - *Jesus*

"I know a thing or two about prophecies that sound impossible." - *Mary*

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SEASON 2 / EPISODE 5



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 5

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Psalm 139
- Luke 4:31-37
- Luke 3:1-20
- Luke 6:7, 11
- Matthew 13:34-35

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus, Simon the Zealot, Jesse (the invalid), Shmuel (Pharisee), Atticus (Roman inspector), Mary Magdalene, Ramah, Caleb (demon-possessed)

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This episode is rich and deep. What do you think is going on with Mary Magdalene in this episode? How does your past interfere with your present?
3. The Pharisees cross-examine Jesse. Then Atticus also says to him, "I believe it was a miracle," to which Jesse responds, "I know it was a miracle." Do you believe in miracles today? Why or why not?
4. Mary is teaching Ramah to read, using scripture. She is also teaching Matthew on the side. What role does scripture reading play in your life? What fresh commitment can you make to reading the Bible? What has held you back to this point?

EPISODE 5

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Simon the Zealot saves Mary from Caleb's attack. What did you think about that encounter with the demon and how Jesus responded? What do you believe about demons and their activity today?
6. Why should we not be afraid of demons?
7. Simon the Zealot asks Jesus, "Why do you need someone like me?" Jesus responded, "I have everything I need. But I wanted you." How does that impact you in reference to Jesus' wanting *you*?
8. Jesus and his cousin John the Baptist share a powerful conversation. John's impatience with his perception of Jesus' slowness shows. How do we demonstrate impatience with Jesus' timing?
9. Jesus is emotional upon John's departure. What does this scene reveal about each character?
10. Why do you think Schmuel the Pharisee so set on discrediting Jesus? Do you ever see a similar attitude in people today?

QUOTES

"Welcome back." - *Jesus to Caleb*

"I just dropped the basket and ran. I totally ignored the prayers in my hands." - *Mary*

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SEASON 2 / EPISODE 6



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 6

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Psalm 20:7
- Luke 6:6-11
- John 8:1-3
- Matthew 12:1-18
- 1 Samuel 21:1-6
- Psalm 19:7

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Ramah, David, Abiathar, Matthew, Peter, Pharisees (Schmuel, Yanni), Elam (man with withered hand)

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. So much is going on in this episode!
 - The search for Mary by Peter and Matthew
 - Mary's restoration
 - John the Baptist's arrest
 - Pharisees plotting
 - Healing of man with withered handWhich of these stories within the story was most powerful to you and why?
3. While the search for Mary Magdalene and her fall from grace are not a part of scripture, what **IS** true about how Jesus searches for the lost and restores the sinner? Support your thoughts with scripture. How have **you** experienced forgiveness from the Lord?

EPISODE 6

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. Mary said to Peter, "He already fixed me once. I'm broke again. I can't face him." It's a common fear after our failure. Have you ever felt that, and how did you press through it? What would you tell someone who feels that they can't face Jesus because of their failure?
5. Some have expressed concern about the creative license with dialogue and story that *The Chosen* sometimes displays. Why is it important to be able to distinguish between what is in the scriptural narrative and what is not?
6. The Pharisees are seen plotting and squabbling about Jesus. Why are they so concerned about Him? What do you like about them? What do you dislike?
7. Phillip and Andrew are hit hard by the news of John the Baptist's arrest. Jesus also is emotional over it. Mary is missing. The food supply is short. Things seem bad. How do we respond when things seem to be falling apart around us? Why were the disciples shocked by Jesus' decision to "pray" about things? Why is it hard for us to see prayer as a first step toward dealing with life's issues?
8. The episode began with a flashback to David. It ends with the disciples eating grain. What was Jesus teaching about the Sabbath and our relationship to it?

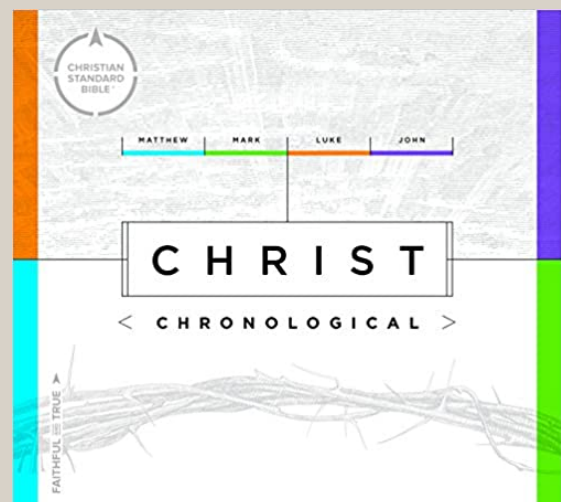
QUOTES

"What if you were cut off from Jesus by something in your past? Would you want help getting back to him as soon as possible?" - *Matthew*

"Did you really think he would never struggle or sin again?" - *Jesus*

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

- A frequently asked question about the series is "How do I know what is in the Bible and what creative dialogue or story has been added to help us grasp the overall narrative?" We'd encourage you to consider reading through the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. A wonderful way to do this is with the *CSB Christ Chronological Bible*. Visit dontgo.be/gospels for a link to the Amazon page for this wonderful resource.



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EPISODE 7

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 6:5
- Luke 6:37
- Matthew 6:9-13

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus and disciples; **Pharisees:** Shmuel, Yanni, Yousef; **Romans:** Quintus, Atticus, Gaius;

Others: Tamar & the Paralytic

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode begins with Peter and Andrew, James and John out fishing - because Jesus sent them to do so. The disciples seem to be struggling with whether they will have "enough." How/why do you find it hard to trust Jesus in moments of need?
3. Peter tells Andrew that he should fish because Jesus told them to. "Do as he says or bad things will happen." How does this reveal a sad reality to their thoughts about Jesus at this point in their relationship? Do you ever struggle with similar thoughts? How/why?
4. We see Andrew in this episode consumed with fear and worry. Why?

EPIISODE 7

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Jesus' followers were concerned that the Romans and/or Jewish leaders could ruin Jesus' plans. What thoughts do you have about whether their fear was justified? How do we demonstrate that attitude today?
6. Atticus said he'd seen Jesus do miracles but that Jesus didn't strike him as being scary or crazy ... and *that* scared him. What do you think he meant?
7. Why were the Pharisees intent on condemning Jesus at this point in His ministry? Why were the Romans concerned about Jesus' activities?
8. Andrew criticized Mary for leaving Jesus (and them) after she had experienced such radical deliverance. Jesus demonstrates such quick forgiveness to the repentant heart. Why do we struggle to forgive in the same way?
9. Andrew's fear is paralyzing his perspective. Jesus tells him, "You can't just shut down when you're fearful. What will you do when I'm no longer here?" How have you struggled with fear and its impact on your life? How have you seen fear impact others and the church?
10. Jesus' constant calmness (and his modeling solitary prayer) convinces the disciples to ask Him to teach them how to pray. How did this scene impact you?



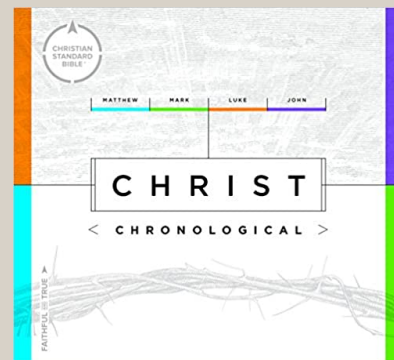
QUOTES

"I can't keep what I know inside." - Tamar

"Get used to different, brother" - Peter

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

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SEASON 2 / EPISODE 8



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 8

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Psalm 139:13-16
- Matthew 5:1-16
- Matthew 7:12

KEY CHARACTERS

Jesus and disciples; Salesmen: Judas

Pharisees: Rabbi Shammai, Shmuel, Yanni

Romans: Atticus, Gaius; **Others:** Tamar, Ramah, Mary, Mary (Jesus' mother), Eden

The Big Idea:

What is your one BIG idea from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you first share with someone about this episode and how God spoke to you through it?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode begins two salesmen negotiating a deal for land. What role did they have in this episode? What did you think when one of them turned out to be Judas?
3. Simon the Zealot comes back to camp from a run, and is told, "Obsession with exercising smacks of Hellenism." Do you ever wonder about our culture's attitude toward physical fitness or lack of it?
4. The last few episodes led to this one as Jesus has been preparing for the Sermon on the Mount. What roles/contributions did you see the disciples making? How can we motivate one another in our churches today to serve?

EPISODE 8

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. You see Mary teaching Ramah to read from Psalm 139. Why did that passage seem to cause deep reflection in Mary?
6. In speaking of the anticipated turnout for the sermon, John said, "What if no one shows up?" Mary said, "What if everyone shows up?" Which response do you tend to identify more often with and why?
7. The Pharisees continue to plot, and we see their own internal divisions as they seek to undermine the school Hillel, Nicodemus and Shimon. Rabbi Shammai's summation of the charges so far against Jesus are:
 - self identifies using a divine title
 - claims authority to forgive sin
 - violates Sabbath and teaches others same
 - eats with tax collectors and sinners

What do you think about the attitude of the Pharisees about Jesus? How are they right? How are they wrong?

8. How did you feel about Jesus taking Matthew with him to help prepare the sermon? How did it help you have a new perspective of the Sermon on the Mount?
9. Jesus told Matthew, "I don't want passive followers." What kind of follower does Jesus want? Have you ever been a passive follower of Jesus? What changed for you?
10. When you saw all the planning and preparation for the Sermon (construction, handing out fliers, finding land), and then saw the crowd walking to the location, what are some conclusions you can draw?

11. How did it hit you when Jesus spoke the Beatitudes ("blessed are you") and you saw scenes from His disciples for each one? Which beatitude did He speak to Matthew? Which one might He speak to you today?

QUOTES

"If someone wants to find me, those are the groups [of people] they should for." - Jesus

"I want a life I can be proud of - that will be remembered throughout history." - Judas

HELPFUL LINKS

- www.northstarfamily.org - Church Web
- www.dontgo.be/pray - Prayer Requests
- www.dontgo.be/groups - Small Groups List

HOMEWORK

- This is the first time we've given "homework." We want to ask you to read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 in *one sitting*. Then for three days after you read it, write down what you remember about it, how God spoke to you, and some adjustments you need to make as you follow Jesus more closely.

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