

THE CHOSEN

VIEWER'S GUIDE

Assembled by CrossPointe Church 2021

*Discussion questions borrowed from
saintleos.org/chosen*

THE CHOSEN VIEWING SCHEDULE

Below you will find the suggested viewing schedule of The Chosen Season 1. For best results, we recommend viewing the episode BEFORE the sermon on Sunday. Each week you will watch the episode, discuss with others, and then attend Sunday morning for a message based on the story or Scripture theme from which the episode is based.

Sunday, September 12th — Series kickoff and introduction to *THE CHOSEN*

WATCH EPISODE 1 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, September 19th — *Episode 1: I Have Called You By Name*

WATCH EPISODE 2 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, September 26th — *Episode 2: Shabbat*

WATCH EPISODE 3 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, October 3rd — *Episode 3: Jesus Loves the Little Children*

WATCH EPISODE 4 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, October 10th — *Episode 4: The Rock on Which it is Built*

WATCH EPISODE 5 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, October 17th — *Episode 5: The Wedding Gift*

WATCH EPISODE 6 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, October 24th — *Episode 6: Indescribable Compassion*

WATCH EPISODE 7 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, October 31st — *Episode 7: Invitations*

WATCH EPISODE 8 DURING THE WEEK

Sunday, November 7th — *Episode 8: I Am He*

Sunday, November 14th — *Conclusion of series*

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen Season one is an 8-episode creative telling of the story of Jesus. This television series gives you a glimpse into the possible backstories of famous Bible characters like Peter, Nicodemus, Matthew, and of course, Jesus Himself. For the next 10 weeks, we will be structuring our Sunday morning experiences in a way that tells the story of Jesus so that it coincides with each of episode of The Chosen. For the best experience, we recommend watching each episode, discussing it with a Life Group, and of course attending Sunday morning worship gatherings to get an even fuller picture of who Jesus is. Below are some options and ways to engage.

VIEWING PLANS

INDIVIDUAL PLAN - You're going to watch the season on your own time and at your own pace. You can download the app on any app store. Just search for *The Chosen*.

GROUP PLAN - You'd like to participate and experience the story of Jesus with others.

- **Life Groups** — We have various life groups around the area. You can sign up to join a Life Group at crosspointema.org/life-groups. We recommend that groups watch each episode and then discuss the episode and Jesus together.
- **On-Site Watch Party** — Every Tuesday night, from 6:30-8p we will host a viewing of each episode followed by 30-45 minutes of discussion in break-out groups. This is a safe environment to invite friends. The discussion groups will simply focus on "Who is Jesus?"

FAMILY PLAN - This is something that the whole family can get involved in! Consider watching Season 1 with your kids and talking about the episode with them. Check out the resources section to get guides and activity books for the whole family!

RESOURCES

The Chosen is a free video series. You can access each episode by downloading the app. Just search *The Chosen* on the App Store or Google Play.

To go deeper, pick up *THE CHOSEN VIEWER'S GUIDE* at Guest Services in the Lobby. This will give you a suggested viewing schedule, an overview of each episode, some cultural information, and discussion questions.

You can also visit thechosengifts.com to buy Blu-Ray/DVD copies of season 1. They also have activity books, Bible study guides, and all kinds of swag for you to enjoy. There are a few copies of the Bible Study guide for sale (\$15) at Guest Services in the lobby at church.

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE ONE DISCUSSION GUIDE¹

QUICK SUMMARY:

In episode one, we are introduced to Mary Magdalene, who we know very little of from the Bible. We know she was cured of seven demons and not much else. However, she was there at Jesus' crucifixion and His resurrection, so we can imagine she was a dedicated disciple.

Mary of Magdala may not be a Bible character you have personally empathized with before. You may also not have imagined what the normal life was like for Jesus' disciples: their daily work, troubles, family. That will all change after watching this episode!

Isaiah 43:1 John 3:1 Luke 8:1-3 Mark 16: 9

CULTURAL TIDBIT:

Jewish tax collectors were despised by Jewish people because they were seen as traitors to the Jewish people.

Mary was cured of "evil spirits" by Jesus (Luke 8:1-3). While the attempted exorcism from Nicodemus is a fictional story, there is evidence of Jewish exorcisms during this time. There is very little in the Old Testament about Jewish exorcisms, however King Saul suffered from an "evil spirit" and David was sent to play his harp to help Saul (1 Samuel 16:14-23).

DIVE DEEPER:

1. It's interesting to see how the religious and political environment looked in Jesus' day. What kind of people did Jesus spend the least and most time with?
2. Redeemed, called by name. How can we remind ourselves of this truth and live it out practically?
3. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
4. Who was the more identifiable character for you: Nicodemus or Mary Magdalene? OR was it Matthew, Simon, or Andrew? Why?
5. How are the portrayals of Matthew and Peter's characters different from your idea of their lives?
6. Did Simon Peter's marriage surprise you? Why?
7. What did you think about the timing of the appearance of Jesus?
8. What were the filmmakers saying about Jesus' intentionality and timing?
9. In what ways can you identify with Lilith/Mary Magdalene?
10. What do you think an encounter with Jesus looks like? How can an encounter with Jesus change you?
11. What has Jesus delivered you from and for?
12. Who is someone in your life who needs to "come and see" Jesus? Pray for that person, then go make the introduction. Trust Jesus to do the convincing.

¹ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE TWO DISCUSSION GUIDE²

QUICK SUMMARY:

How did Jesus worship God as a young adult Jewish man? Find out in this episode as we see Nicodemus pursue the woman who was miraculously healed after his failure. All of the Jews observe the weekly Shabbat dinner, which features a surprise visitor to Mary's house!

Genesis 2:1-3

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Proverbs 31:10-31

Mark 3:16-18

John 1:46

Revelation 3:20

DIVE DEEPER:

1. When a miracle happens, are you one to question every detail, or just enjoy and celebrate it?
2. We are to rest and honor family, our people, and God on the Sabbath, to refresh our souls. Rest is a restorative gift. How are you utilizing it? Could you be utilizing it more, if so, how?
3. Simon Peter and Andrew were in a tough position. What do you think about how they handled it?
4. How has your understanding of the role (and hatred toward) tax collectors been enhanced?
5. Matthew said that his father said he has no son. How did this impact your view of Matthew?
6. Why do you think Jesus chose to go to the Shabbat he went to? Why didn't He choose the Shabbat Nicodemus was at? What does this say about Jesus' ministry?
7. Jesus invited Himself into Mary's Shabbat observance. How does that resonate with you?
8. Who is the last person you invited into your home or life for the purpose of telling them about what God has done in your life?

² Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE THREE DISCUSSION GUIDE³

QUICK SUMMARY:

Do you embrace a childlike faith? This beautiful episode of *The Chosen* introduces us to some children, who demonstrate for us how to listen to Jesus. The bold and simple faith of childhood is on display. They are naturally entranced by His kindness and gentleness with them; and they learn a great deal from His simple message of love and grace.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Isaiah 61:1-2

Luke 4:18-19

Luke 18: 15-17

Mark 10:14

Matthew 6:9-15

Matthew 18:3-5

CULTURAL TIDBIT:

In this episode, Jesus is seen washing His feet before entering His home. As a faithful Jewish man, Jesus followed the Jewish tradition of washing one's feet before entering a home. Foot washing is found throughout the Old Testament and was a sign of hospitality, service, and purification.

DIVE DEEPER:

1. Jesus' responses to some of the children's questions seemed evasive or incomplete. Why do you think that is? And how does this relate to His responses to our questions?
2. Jesus' gift reminded Abigail that He did not come only for the wealthy. How does that make you feel about Jesus?
3. What does that mean about how we as His disciples treat people?
4. Why do you think Jesus welcomed these children?
5. What does this say about how much He desires to welcome YOU?
6. "Adults need the faith of children." How can we intentionally make space for this in our faith and life?

³ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE FOUR DISCUSSION GUIDE⁴

QUICK SUMMARY:

When a man is trying to provide for his family, desperate times call for desperate measures. Simon Peter reaches his lowest and most desperate point before Jesus intrudes in the best way possible. After watching this episode, you will never see of the miracle of the fish the same way.

Matthew 13:47-52

Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 3:1-7

Luke 8:10

Luke 5:1-11

John 1:29-34

DIVE DEEPER:

1. Sometimes we forget how intense the teachings of Jesus were. His parables and teachings were not sanitized, feel-good messages. What do you think the impact of this miracle would have meant in the context of Jesus' time?
2. How did the weaving of Peter's backstory (all creative license) make you feel about the development of Peter's character?
3. The night of the Sea of Galilee amplified the encounter with Jesus in the morning. Have you ever experienced Jesus coming to you after a "dark night" in your life? Share if you feel comfortable doing so.
4. Andrew met Jesus through John the Baptist and is confident He's the Messiah. What do you think about his longing for Simon Peter to know Jesus?
5. Who is your "Peter?"
6. What was the role of John the Baptist? (Luke 1:8-17, Luke 3:1-9) How is this also our role as the church?
7. Jesus told the fisher brothers that they would become fishers of men. What did that mean for them? Is that our mission as well? Why or why not?

⁴ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE FIVE DISCUSSION GUIDE⁵

QUICK SUMMARY

In this beautiful, happy episode, we first see Jesus in a definitive moment of His childhood, which provides us important clues to His career ahead. Fast-forward to adulthood: He has begun to call followers, but at first they're confused. Yes, they believe; what do they do next?

Nicodemus interrogates John the Baptizer while Jesus and his students make their way to a wedding celebration in Cana. During the ceremony, Jesus' mother Mary makes a special request.

1 Kings 19:19-21 Proverbs 30:4 John 2:1-12 Luke 2:41-52

CULTURAL TIDBIT:

*"Blessed are You O Lord, our God, King of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine" is a traditional Jewish blessing.*

The chuppah is a canopy beneath which the Jewish marriage ceremonies are conducted. The four openings symbolize hospitality to one's guests and the new home of the couple.

DIVE DEEPER

1. How did the weaving of Peter's backstory (all creative license) make you feel about the development of Peter's character?
2. During the wedding feast, the writers help us imagine what the disciples might have discussed about Jesus. In the scene Peter states, "I do not know why he picked me," and dismisses himself as unqualified to follow Jesus. How have you been like Peter in this scene?
3. Have you ever felt like Simon Peter or Andrew when they said the following? If comfortable please share about it.

*Simon says to Andrew, on their way with Jesus and other disciples to the wedding of Jesus's childhood friend in Cana: "I don't want to let Him down."
Andrew responds, "I don't want to do it wrong."*

4. How have you reacted when someone has told you they encountered Jesus?

⁵ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE SIX DISCUSSION GUIDE⁶

QUICK SUMMARY:

In this episode of the greatest adventure in history, Jesus' followers are asking questions, learning about their charismatic rabbi, slowly gaining faith, and witnessing some very incredible things! Their excitement is growing; people are paying attention. Jesus heals and urges people to remember to be vigilant with their faith, remembering that no one person is greater than any other. We are all God's beloved creation. While the following of Jesus is growing, His enemies are also growing in number.

Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 5:14-6

Luke 12: 36-48

Luke 18:1-14

Mark 2:1-12

DIVE DEEPER:

1. *In order to take such extreme measures, what must the four men who carried their friend have believed about Jesus?*
2. *Let's talk about leprosy. Leprosy was one of the major diseases in the time of Jesus. It was the sickness that renders a person no longer worthy of dignity, love or community.*
3. *Are there any "similar" situations in our society today that would cause a person to no longer have dignity?*
4. *How do you think Jesus would treat them?*

⁶ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE SEVEN DISCUSSION GUIDE⁷

QUICK SUMMARY

"Invitations," is quite possibly the most beloved episode of the series. It includes the portrayal of the most famous chapter in the Bible, John 3 - the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. This episode starts with a 1300 year flashback to a little known story of Moses and the Israelites during the Exodus. Jesus continues to call His followers, forging a core group of people He will prepare for fantastic works ahead. These disciples have various backgrounds, and many personal issues; but they are prepared to follow their kind, brilliant, miracle-working rabbi anywhere He goes.

#GetUsedToDifferent

Psalm 2:11-12 Numbers 21:4-9 Matthew 9:9-13 John 3:1-21

DIVE DEEPER:

1. Nicodemus had some struggles within this episode. How do you relate to Nicodemus? If you feel compelled to share please do so.
2. Simon Peter was questioning Jesus' choice in picking Matthew...

Simon says to Jesus, "Whoa, do You have any idea what this guy has done? I don't get it."

Jesus answers, "You didn't get it when I chose you, either."

Simon: "But this is different."

Jesus: "Get used to different."

Have you ever had a similar conversation with God?

3. If you feel like sharing - what is your story of encountering Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit? Do you feel you have a relationship with anyone in the Trinity?

⁷ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen

THE CHOSEN: EPISODE EIGHT DISCUSSION GUIDE⁸

QUICK SUMMARY

This final episode from Season 1 also begins with a flashback, this time to Jacob's Well. Fast forward to Simon's house for a miraculous visit.

Then Jesus and his students leave Capernaum while under pressure from religious and Roman authorities. The apostles are together, still confused, yet anxious for the Kingdom to come. Jesus makes a surprise stop at Jacob's Well for an important encounter. And with this encounter, His "career" finally becomes public.

Genesis 33:18-20, Genesis 16 Hosea 6:6 Daniel 7:13-14

Matthew 9:9-13, 8:14-15 Mark 2:13-17 Luke 4:38-39 John 4:1-42

CULTURAL TIDBIT:

Samaritan women were regarded by Jews as ritually impure, and therefore Jews were forbidden to drink from any vessel they had handled.

DIVE DEEPER:

1. Who were the first people that were told about Jesus' birth?
2. Who did He first tell about His ministry?
3. What were their social status?
4. What does Jesus think about social status?
5. How should we think of the social status of others?
6. How does this challenge you?

⁸ Borrowed from saintleos.org/chosen