

## **The Chosen Series Summary:**

See Jesus through the eyes of the Sanhedrin, the disciples, and children. In the time of the Bible, but in our language and style of TV programming. The Chosen is set up as a multi season drama that's less like a straight re-telling of Biblical events and more like a mixture of 'This is Us' and 'The Bible' series. The series has been crowdfunded instead of paid for by a network. It gives us a fictional perspective on Bible events through the eyes of those around Jesus.

Worried that the Chosen might take a few too many liberties with the story? They tell you that it is fictionalized, but they try to make it true to the heart of the Gospel. They encourage their audience to read along in the Bible yourself and think about how it might have looked. I saw nothing heretical in the first season, and even when things didn't line up with my perspective exactly, it helped me think of things in a different way. Their goal is to make eight seasons.

The Chosen is a fresh look at the Gospels for those who have been reading the stories for years or for those who are just curious about who Jesus is and was.

## **1- The Chosen Episode One: I Have Called You By Name**

### **Quick Summary:**

We are introduced to Mary Magdalene and a few of the disciples. It took me a little bit to get into this episode, but by the end of it my interest was piqued. Mary was never a Bible character I had really personally empathized with before, and imagining the disciples living a normal life before Jesus was jarring in a good way. I'm going into the rest of the series with an open mind and heart, excited to see the gospel as a story in a package I haven't experienced it in yet. (PS- the Gospels don't tell us a lot about Mary besides the fact that she had means and that Jesus drove demons from her)

### **Read for Bible Study:**

Luke 8:1-15 (Mary, Seed Parable, Parable Meanings) Mark 16: 6-11 (Jesus appears to Mary first)

### **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 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) What did you think of how Matthew the tax collector and Simon Peter were portrayed?
- 3) Redeemed, called by name. How can we remind ourselves of this truth and live it out practically?

## **2- The Chosen Episode Two: Shabbat**

### **Quick Summary:**

The Sabbath from different perspectives. In this episode we see Jesus perform a miracle that the holy leaders cannot. We also get a little more background on the difficulties of being Jewish and living under Roman rule. A moving episode.

### **Read for Bible Study:**

Deuteronomy 5:12-14 (The Sabbath) Matthew 18:15-17 (Resolving conflict, tax collectors) Matthew 17:24-27 (Jesus and Tax Collectors)

### **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 1) We rest and honor family, our people and God on the Sabbath, we refresh our souls. Rest is a restorative gift. How are you utilizing it? How could you be utilizing it more?
- 2) Which Sabbath was Jesus a part of? Which Sabbath would you have been at?
- 3) Simon Peter and Andrew were in a tough position, what do you think about how they handled it?
- 4) When a miracle happens, are you one to question every detail, or just enjoy and celebrate it?

## **3- The Chosen Episode Three: Jesus Loves the Little Children**

### **Quick Summary:**

A group of kids learn from Jesus for a week. The bold and simple faith of childhood is on display. Begging the question- do you embrace a childlike faith? This was my favorite episode! There was very little action- it was all about Jesus and the kids. I loved the boldness of the children. May we all venture to be as abundantly filled with hope and faith.

### **Read for Bible Study:**

Luke 18: 15-17 (Let the children come), Mark 9:42, Mark 3:13-19 (the disciples appointed)

### **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Is it strange for you to think of Jesus as personable?
- 2) What does it say to you that Jesus so intentionally made time for children? What about the amount of time that he spent with them?
- 3) "Adults need the faith of children." How can we intentionally make space for this in our faith and life?
- 4) It was easy for Abigail to tell her friends about Jesus- how easy is it for you?

## **4- The Chosen Episode Four: The Rock on Which it is Built**

### **Quick Summary:**

The last of the original episodes. During this hour we see Jesus teach about what it means to be fishers of men- and trust that God will take care of us. I personally loved this episode for multiple reasons. It showed a woman being the spiritual leader of her household. "Where is your faith?" Simon's wife asked him. He did not even realize how bitter and jaded he had become. This happens so easily and is such a relevant message for today. It also showed Jesus doing a miracle and relaxing on the beach.

### **Read for Bible Study:**

John 1:19-28 (John the Baptist is questioned by Pharisees), John 21 (Miraculous Catch), Luke 5:1-11 (Jesus calls the fisherman)

## **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Jesus provided for Simon's physical need- but the miracle was more than that. He changed Simon's mindset, called him to something more! Not to riches, but to spreading the good news for the sake of others souls. What soul work have we been called to?
- 2) John the Baptist was considered a heretic, and crazy. If the religious leaders of Jesus' day were constantly missing the point- is it possible that we are missing some of the main points in our evangelical Christian culture?
- 3) Share a moment in your life where the miracle of the fished has metaphorically happened for you. When you've thought there was absolutely no way that something would work, but God made it happen.
- 4) 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?

## **5- The Chosen Episode Five: The Wedding Gift**

### **Quick Summary:**

In this episode, we see a flashback of Jesus as a child, and his mother calling him into his time of ministry at a family wedding. The miracle of turning water into wine. Again, I enjoyed seeing Jesus in a different context than my mind would have imagined him.

### **Read for Bible Study:**

John 2: 1-11 (Jesus turns water to wine), Luke 2: 41-52 (The boy Jesus at the temple)

## **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Instead of condemning John, Nicodemus sat down and said "Tell me about your ministry." When's the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said "Tell me more."?
- 2) This passage is often viewed as Jesus correcting/ directing his mother, but that's not the path the showrunners took. What do you think that might have looked like?
- 3) Jesus reassures Thomas that while it's good to ask questions, that we won't always understand the answers, or even get answers. How do you handle this?

## **6- The Chosen Episode Six: Indescribable Compassion**

### **Quick Summary:**

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. This episode was awe-inspiring. A beautiful reminder

### **Read for Bible Study:**

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus heals the man let down through the roof), Matthew 8:1-4 (Jesus heals a leper), Luke 12: 36-48 (The parable of the servant), Matthew 6: 1-18 (Giving to the needy and prayer)

## **The Chosen Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Which part of this episode was the most different from how you imagined it being after reading the passage in Scripture?
- 2) Who would you equate with a tax collector today? A Roman soldier? A Jewish citizen?
- 3) “We can do both”, walking the road that has been laid out for us and also keeping our eyes open. What did you think of Nicodemus’ speech? It’s easy to cling to our God shaped boxes.
- 4) There was a LOT of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy, and goodwill?

## 7- The Chosen Episode Seven: Invitation

### Quick Summary:

Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him. He talks to Nicodemus. And we also see an act of faith from Moses.  
#GetUsedToDifferent

This episode dragged a little for me in comparison to the others but it was still very engaging. I loved how they portrayed the exchange between Nicodemus and Jesus.

### Read for Bible Study:

John 3:1-21 (Jesus teaches Nicodemus), Matthew 9: 9-13 (Jesus calls Matthew), Numbers 21:4-9 (Moses and the bronze snake)

### The Chosen Discussion Questions:

- 1) Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? Especially in comparison to how timid Nicodemus was?
- 2) If you feel like sharing- what is your story of being born again?
- 3) It can be shocking to read stories like the bronze snake. God demands obedience and faith. What daily habits can we develop and strengthen to become as quick to obedience as Matthew was.

## 8- The Chosen Episode Eight: I am He

### Quick Summary:

This episode is a full hour. We see Jesus gather the disciples begin His season of earthly ministry. He talks to the woman at the well. This episode definitely made me excited for future seasons.

### Read for Bible Study:

Mark 2:13-17 (Jesus eats with sinners), John 4:1-42 (The story of the Woman at the Well)

### The Chosen Discussion Questions:

- 1) Obedience at the risk of derision and opposition from others, even from our usual way of life seems impossible. Discuss the different ways people reacted to Jesus’ directions, the directions of family, and from peers.
- 2) Jesus mentions several times that he’s not trying to bring people ‘easy’, nor is he here to deliver them from their oppressive government. What is Jesus’ purpose in coming and in bringing His disciples to

follow him?

**3)** Do some self reflection, has there ever been a time in your life where you were as excited about Jesus as the woman at the well was? How can we bring back some of that excitement?

**4)** Who were the first told about Jesus' birth? Who did He first tell about His ministry? What were their social status'?

<https://downthehobbitholeblog.com/2020/the-chosen-discussion-questions/>