

# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode One.** Discussion Guide

**For Churches**



## For the Leader

Dive deeper into Season 4 of *The Chosen* with your group!

We've created these episode guides to help you lead meaningful discussions following each episode of *The Chosen*.

As you watch, discuss, and pray together, we hope these questions help your group unpack what they've seen and dig deeper into the Bible.

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode One - Discussion Guide

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A look at the crushing, corrupting power of power—and its limits, too.

### Watch

#### ***Before you watch this episode . . .***

If you're going to watch the episode together as a group, you might want to take a moment to remind everyone where Season 3 left off. Big thing to remember: John the Baptizer is in prison. You can even tease the theme of the discussion—the crushing, corrupting power of power and its limits, too — asking them to keep this in mind.

### Introduction

After watching each episode of Season Four of "The Chosen," it's important to delve deeper into the themes, characters, and events that unfold in this captivating series. By engaging in thoughtful discussion of the following questions, we can enrich our understanding and appreciation of the narratives and messages portrayed. These questions will stimulate conversation, encouraging us to reflect on the emotional, spiritual, and historical layers woven into each episode. Let's explore these questions together to deepen our connection with the story and its profound impact. Be listening for what God may be saying to you as you listen to, and share, with one another.

### Discuss

1. You knew the death of John the Baptist was coming — especially if you've been able to spend time in the Scriptures. What was it that ultimately cost him his life?

*If you're looking for a way to sum it all up for the group, maybe go with this:  
John challenged the powers of the world — and it cost him his life.*

*Read Luke 3:1-20 to see his confrontational preaching and the story of his death.*

2. The episode ends with the prophetic blessing that John's father, Zechariah, spoke over him as an infant. Let's listen to it together. Break to read Luke 1:68-79. That's filled with a lot of victory talk, which is jarring in the wake of John's death. Is darkness truly being swallowed up by light? Is there reason to have hope, even when we don't see victory yet?

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## Discuss

3. Let's place the story of The Chosen alongside our own. Where have you seen the powers of the world crushingly at work in your world—and how do you not lose hope, that you might show John-like resolve?
4. Though power corrupts and crushes, we often want to possess it ourselves. (See Judas at the start of the episode, for example.) Why is it so tempting for us to grasp for power as followers of Jesus? And are there ways for us to push against the pull?
5. Think about your own funeral or memorial service. Share what is something that you want said, sung or experienced by those who attend.
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. Share how you might relate these verses to your life right now.
7. How might a believer's death be part of God's plan for their lives?
8. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. Is there something going on in your life for which you need God's thoughts and ways to guide your understanding?
9. Has life been more joyful or sorrowful for you? Share a time when your life experience was a combination of both.
10. Read Luke 9:23. What does it mean for you to take up your cross daily and follow Jesus?

## Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
2. If you were to ask God's help in living life in a new way in light of this episode, how would you sum up this new way of life?



*Adapted from The Chosen Season 4 Discussion Guide.*





# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode Two.** Discussion Guide

**For Churches**



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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Two – Discussion Guide

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A look at seeking — and offering — forgiveness

### Watch

***Before you watch this episode . . .***

A lot happens in Episode Two, you can tease the theme of the discussion that will follow the episode — seeking and offering forgiveness.

### Icebreaker

Share a memory of a most meaningful funeral you have been at.

### Discuss

1. For the long-standing feud between Peter and Matthew to come to an end, two things had to happen: (1) Matthew needed to ask for forgiveness, and (2) Peter needed to grant it. Let's talk about the act of seeking forgiveness. Matthew struggles to do it — and we do, too. Why is it so hard for us to seek forgiveness?
2. Matthew eventually asks for forgiveness, and there's no way around it: he completely botches it. What should asking for forgiveness look like — and what shouldn't it look like?
3. Let's shift to the act of offering forgiveness. Peter struggles to offer it — and we do, too. Why is it so hard for us to extend forgiveness?
4. When Peter seeks Jesus's counsel about the situation with Matthew, Jesus tells him a parable. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** How does Jesus's parable confront each reason you might have to withhold forgiveness from someone?
5. What should offering forgiveness look like — and what shouldn't it look like?

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## Discuss

6. **Read Matthew 18:15-20 and Ephesians 4:32.** Share a time when you have intentionally asked someone to forgive you something, or a time when someone asked you to forgive them. How did it go?
7. Discuss how saying "I'm sorry" is part of repentance from the offending party, whereas forgiveness is something that can only be given as a gift from the offended party.
8. Is there anyone that you need to forgive or to ask for forgiveness?
9. **Read 1 John 4:4.** Should we be afraid of evil? What should be our response to evil? To the threat of evil?
10. What does the process of grieving look like? (referencing John the Baptist's death)
11. What is the meaning of Matthew 19:29: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."
12. How might you be able to celebrate someone else's success or promotion without comparing yourself to their station of circumstance?

## Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
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# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode Three.** Discussion Guide

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Three - Discussion Guide

A look at the dark trajectory of upward mobility

### Watch

#### *Before you watch this episode . . .*

This episode ends in devastating fashion, and folks will surely want to talk about it. The challenge for you as a leader is that the fallout from what happens is shown in the next episode, which will be the focus of the next group discussion. Maybe tell them this, while also telling them the questions that follow do still manage to speak to this episode's ending.

**NOTE:** When this episode ends, please stay silent until the credits are done. This episode ends on a strong emotional note. We will deal with the ramifications of the ending of this episode next week/episode.

### Discuss

1. James, John, and their mother, Salome, are obsessed with gaining a higher status among others. Upward mobility is an obsession of ours, too. Why?
2. Some characters already hold higher status: the Pharisees, Roman rulers, Quintus, Gaius — even the disciples, in their being "chosen." What are the challenges and temptations that come with upward mobility — for them, and then also for us?

Don't be afraid to explore the dark trajectory of upward mobility. Because we're so often careless with the power we hold, lives can be lost, literally and spiritually. We see this with Quintis and also the Pharisees. And remind the group that James and John once wanted to "call down fire" on their enemies in an earlier season. (See Luke 9:54)

3. Let's turn a little more positive: are there ever circumstances in which the desire for upward mobility is okay? What circumstances come to mind?
4. If you were to naturally or rightly gain higher status — and with it, power and influence — what are some ways to avoid abusing your power and influence?

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## Discuss

5. Share a time when you were still able to worship God as God despite unanswered prayer or hard circumstances.
6. Why do you think some prayers are answered and others are not?
7. **Read Matthew 7:7-8.** How was Salome (mother of James & John) using Jesus' words to seek position for her sons? How might **Matthew 6:33** inform your understanding of this?
8. Do you think Jesus intentionally chose to heal on shabbat?
9. Was Jesus "rude and dismissive" of the religious leaders, as Rabbi Acheevah accused?
10. What do you think about the question: "Who sinned so that this man was born blind?" What was Jesus' response to that question? (**Refer to John 9:1-3**)

## Pray

*Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:*

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
2. If you were to ask God's help in living life in a new way in light of this episode, how would you sum up this new way of life?



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# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode Four.** Discussion Guide

**For Churches**



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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Four - Discussion Guide

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A look at how to comfort someone in the grief  
— and how not to

### Watch

***Before you watch this episode . . .***

As we mentioned at the start of the last discussion guide, a large part of this episode shows the fallout from what happened at the end of Episode Three. It won't at all surprise the group that the main theme for this discussion is how you should — and maybe shouldn't — comfort someone knee-deep in grief.

### Discuss

1. This episode finds the disciples stumbling their way through helping one particular disciple in his grief. Name the good and the bad in their efforts — and for each effort, why is it good (or bad)?
2. In this episode and — slight spoiler alert — in an episode to come, Scripture and theological propositions are used to offer comfort to someone in grief. Both have power to help and to heal, but how do you use them thoughtfully and carefully?
3. Anger is a natural part of grief, but it can grow unhealthy. How do you know when someone's grief has led to an unhealthy anger, and how can you help them find their way out of it?
4. Digging a little deeper into the previous question, anger can lead to resentment. Remember Peter's confession about his own grief? "I resented [Jesus's] miracles for others." How can we help someone in grief push back against resentment over God's good (even miraculous) work in the lives of others?

*As you lay out the question, it might be worth it to point out how hard it must have been for a few of the disciples in particular — one very much in particular — to watch Jesus perform a miracle for a Roman soldier.*

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## Discuss

5. Why do you think Jesus did not raise Ramah from the dead?
6. Why do some people think that God does not love them when He does not act in the way they expect or want?
7. **Read Isaiah 55:8-9.** How might this verse inform your prayer life?
8. What is the best way to handle grief?
9. What did you first think Gaius wanted to see Matthew about?
10. What is the significance of a Gentile having faith in Jesus (e.g., Gaius)?
11. Why was it a big deal that John and James asked to sit next to Jesus in His kingdom?
12. What was the symbolism between the first press of olive oil, Jesus, and then Gaius hugging Jesus?

## Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
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# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode Five.** Discussion Guide

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Five – Discussion Guide

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Confronting the seemingly impractical nature of some of Jesus' teachings

### Watch

Episode 5 forces us to confront the seemingly impractical nature of some of Jesus' teachings. As you discuss the biblical passages that inspired the episode, you may resist the natural meaning of what Jesus is saying because of the uncomfortable implications. The challenge is to avoid domesticating Jesus' words while being honest about how hard it sometimes is to trust that Jesus' way is best.

### Discuss

1. Read Matthew 5:38-48. This may be one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus. Taken at face value, are there parts of this teaching that feel impractical, unnatural, or risky? Have you ever experienced or served someone going the extra mile? If so, describe that experience.
2. Read Matthew 20:1-16. Is the kingdom of God unfair? Unjust?
3. What was Jesus thinking when he saw Lazarus not feeling well?

*In the original context of the Law of Moses, the phrase "an eye for an eye" was meant to guide judges as they assigned punishments in legal cases. It was meant to guard against imposing excessively harsh punishments on the poor and marginalized (e.g. a life for an eye) and excessively lenient punishments on the wealthy and powerful (e.g. a coin for an eye). Over time, however, individuals began to use this phrase as a justification for engaging in acts of retaliation and vengeance. This is what Jesus is trying to correct.*

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## Discuss

4. What did Jesus mean when he said it's important to learn the uncertainty of poverty?
5. What did Jesus mean when He said to His mother: "There is a bitter answer to a bitter question — human hearts don't follow the master's hand like wood. The human heart is such to protect itself from bitter news."
6. Why did Jesus call Judas as a disciple? What was the purpose for choosing Judas as a disciple?
7. How did the Sanhedrin rationalize the killing of Jesus?
8. How did Judas rationalize taking some money for himself?

## Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
2. If you were to ask God's help in living life in a new way in light of this episode, how would you sum up this new way of life?



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SCAN ME



# The CHOSEN

**Season 4. Episode Six .** Discussion Guide

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Six - Discussion Guide

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Knowing & Not Knowing Others — Relationships are at the center of Episode 6.

### Watch

Episode 6 ramps up the drama, with Jesus and His disciples heading to Jerusalem. Violence breaks out when the religious leaders are unhappy with His teachings. Getting a message that Lazarus has died, Jesus and His disciples head back to their home. We start seeing some troubling signs from Judas, and understand some of his motivations.

### Discuss

1. Why do you think Yusif asked his father to never give up on him?
2. Why does Jesus allow hardships? Read 1 Peter 1:7 and James 1:4-6 for insights.
3. Who do you talk to about the deep questions you have about life and faith?
4. What do you think was Judas's motivation for Jesus' mission?
5. Why did the Jewish leaders and people want to stone Jesus?
6. How does God handle your grief?

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# Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

1. If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?
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# The CHOSEN

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Seven - Discussion Guide

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Awakening From the Sleep of Death and  
Darkness

### Watch

Episode 7 of The Chosen Season 4 finally gives us the moment we've been waiting for: Jesus raising Lazarus up from the dead (John 11). The Gospel of John suggests that this was a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry and this episode does an excellent job of conveying that sense of weightiness.

### Discuss

**Read John 11:1-44 passage before talking through the questions.**

1. About what year was the opening scene? Hint: Paul was writing a letter to the Church in Colossae.
2. What was Mary Magdalene writing about?
3. What does it mean that Jesus experienced the death of His friend Lazarus yet said He was glad this happened when they weren't there? Why? (Read John 11:14-15)
4. What questions rise in your heart by Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead?
5. What questions might you have for your suffering and grief?
6. Read Psalm 13 (only 6 verses). Do you find this scripture comforting? Explain.

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## Discuss

7. Why did Jesus weep at Lazarus' tomb?
8. If Jesus was God, why did He not act so as not to weep himself?
9. What questions might Lazarus' resurrection raise for the disciples? For Thomas? For Little James? For Mary Magdalene?
10. Respond to this statement: Jesus acknowledges that what He and the Father allow to deepen faith can be crushing. Then Jesus says to Thomas: "Stay with Me, Thomas, and you will understand in time."
11. Respond to this saying: "All disease is healed, even if not till heaven."
12. Flash forward: Who was the first to see Jesus raised from the dead? Where was this?

## Pray

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**Season 4. Episode Eight .** Discussion Guide

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# The CHOSEN

## Season 4 Episode Eight - Discussion Guide

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Belief vs. Cynicism - We see several examples of genuine belief/devotion

### Watch

Episode 8 draws together the storylines and themes of the preceding season while also building anticipation and suspense for what's to come — all while adapting key biblical moments like the plot to kill Jesus (John 11:45-57), the anointing of Jesus' feet (Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8), the sheep and goats teaching (Matthew 25:31-46), the plot to kill Lazarus (John 12:9-11), and the retrieval of the donkey in preparation for the Palm Sunday triumphal entry (Matthew 21:1-7).

### Discuss

1. Where have you seen that bridle before? What was the historic event of the people of Israel at which the bridle was used?
2. Was Caiaphas' prophecy from God? (John 11:49-51)
3. What is the symbolism between Mary anointing Jesus feet with oil and the preparation for the Passover lamb?
4. What do you imagine Jesus was thinking as he was entering Jerusalem?
5. Read Zechariah 9:9. What are the comparisons to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem?
6. Why do you think the writers started and ended this episode with a donkey ride into Jerusalem?

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# Pray

***Here are 2 questions to guide your groups closing prayer:***

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