



The CHOSEN

Season 5. Episode Four. Discussion Guide

For Churches

For the Leader

Dive deeper into Season 5 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.

Main Characters

Jesus – This episode features fewer direct biblical quotes from Jesus than usual. While some elements align with Scripture—like Jesus' words about loving one another at the Last Supper, telling Judas to act quickly, cursing the fig tree, and returning to Bethany—other scenes are not biblically recorded, including the Dayenu celebrations with disciples and women, Jesus confronting Judas, and his discussion with John about Jephtha.

The Disciples – Scripture records the disciples sharing the Last Supper with Jesus and entering Jerusalem, plus their failure to understand his warnings about what lay ahead. Beyond the Lord's Supper, most disciples have no recorded dialogue between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. The conversations and events with disciples shown in this episode, except those at the Last Supper, are not found in Scripture.

Caiaphas – Caiaphas is the high priest during this time, but the Bible does not record his meeting with Rabbi Gadara as shown in this episode.

Pharisees and Sadducees – The Scriptures do record the Pharisees and Sadducees do come and try to entrap Jesus with their questions. There is a plan to put Lazarus to death recorded in the Scriptures.

Mary of Magdala – The Scriptures do not record any of the conversations or actions of Mary of Magdala as portrayed in this episode.

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Mary Mother Of Jesus, Martha & Mary, Joanna – These women are all biblical characters, but the Scriptures do not record them having a meal with the Dayenu with Jesus.

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Introduction

The scene opens with Jesus and the disciples reciting the Dayenu, a Passover song about the Exodus. Big James adds verses about the Messiah coming in their lifetime, moving Jesus to tears. The scene alternates with a similar celebration at Lazarus' house in Bethany.

During the meal, Jesus reveals one disciple will betray Him. He gives food to Judas and tells him he's free to leave. After a tense exchange where Judas suggests Jesus can still prevent his fate, Jesus tells him to act quickly. Following Judas' departure, Jesus gives the disciples a new commandment to love one another sacrificially as He has loved them.

The middle part of this episode focuses on the Pharisees conspiring about what to do about Jesus, with various interactions among those who are for and against Jesus. An interesting scene unfolds when Jesus meets with Judas individually, as Judas attempts to convince Jesus to reveal to everyone that He is the Messiah. Tension continues to build throughout this episode as Friday looms ahead; the Pharisees will not back down, and Jesus continues to foreshadow His departure through conversations about His final meal with the group.

While the Bible records various events between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, it lacks specific details about participants and timing. The Chosen creates a narrative around these biblical events, including plausible discussions among disciples that aren't explicitly recorded in Scripture. The four gospels sometimes present the same events in different sequences, with only Luke claiming to arrange events chronologically.

Discuss

1. It's clear that some people were expecting a different type of Messiah than who Jesus was. In what ways do we sometimes want a different version of Jesus than the one revealed in Scripture?
2. Rabbi Shmuel attempts to define Mary Magdalene by her former life despite knowing she follows Jesus. Mary responds, "This woman is from Magdala by the sea, possessed by the Creator of the universe." Why shouldn't we let others use our past to define us?

Discuss

3. Jesus makes a point to John about God never asking Jephthah to sacrifice his daughter to thank God for his victory. Why do we sometimes make vows to God that God never asks us to make? Does this interaction make you rethink some of the ways that you have read Scripture in the past?
4. Judas believes Jesus is the Messiah and should reveal himself publicly, drawing on Judas' business expertise for guidance. How do we sometimes let our natural abilities drive our decisions rather than trusting in God's plan?
5. Have you ever felt like God didn't fully grasp your situation, and that things would improve if He followed your approach? How challenging is it to follow Jesus when we disagree with the path He's leading us down?
6. What did you think of the women's version of the Dayenu they shared with Jesus? Discuss whether it would have been enough for us if Jesus had only raised Lazarus but never died on the cross.

Prayer

Jesus, the Messiah, You are more than we hoped for and yet different than we often expect. Forgive us when we try to reshape You into our own image. Help us trust You even when Your path feels confusing or hard. Teach us to love like You—sacrificially, fully, and without fear of our past. May we walk in the freedom You offer, and may our hearts be transformed by the truth of who You are. Amen.

