



The CHOSEN

Season 5. Episode Five. 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 and the Disciples – Jesus and His disciples share the Last Supper, also known as the Passover meal, together as Jesus gives them His final teachings and warnings. Jesus reveals that one of them will betray Him.

Thomas – The disciple who wonders if his anger over the death of his fiancé will cause him to betray Jesus.

The Disciples – The twelve followers of Jesus who try to figure out which one of them will be the betrayer, who is the greatest among them, and what Jesus' words about the future mean.

Anonis – The brother-in-law of Caiaphas and the son of the former high priest Annas, who is jealous of Caiaphas.

Barnaby – A Follower of Jesus who taunts the Pharisees.

Claudia – The wife of Pilate, who is emotionally distraught over what she believes is going to happen soon.

Rabbi Shmuel – A Pharisee who has become convinced that Jesus is a false prophet and works to stop Jesus. He is a member of the Sanhedrin and informs the high priest that Judas may be turned against Jesus.

Rabbi Yusef – A Pharisee who strongly believes that Jesus may be the Messiah. He is a member of the Sanhedrin and uses his position to defend Jesus.

Caiaphas – He is the high priest and official leader of the Sanhedrin. He makes the decision to arrest Jesus and offers a long prayer that condemns Jesus.

Mary of Magdala – She is a disciple of Jesus who listens closely to His words. She seeks to find help to protect Jesus and is kidnapped by strangers claiming to be friends.

Atticus – He is a member of the Roman police with authority over Roman soldiers and is very concerned about a possible riot among the people over Jesus. He challenges Pilate's response to Jesus.

Pilate – The Roman ruler overseeing the city of Jerusalem and is under pressure to maintain peace. He wants to help his wife but can't leave Jerusalem during Passover.

Kofni – He blames Jesus and Thomas for the death of his daughter, Rhema, and seeks to expose Jesus as a false prophet. He has a small group of followers and face imminent arrest.

Nicodemus – He is a highly respected scholar of the Torah and is open to the idea that Jesus is the Messiah.

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Introduction

This episode once again opens with the Last Supper, where Jesus' disciples debate who will betray him, with suspicions falling on Thomas and Judas before Jesus rebukes them for arguing over greatness. Meanwhile, Caiaphas accelerates plans to arrest Jesus despite the approaching Passover, claiming he has operatives ready to circumvent legal timing requirements. Pilate's wife experiences disturbing visions urging them to flee the city, while Atticus warns Pilate to prepare for difficult decisions.

Jesus explains the symbolism of the cursed fig tree—representing false fruitfulness like the corrupted temple—then shocks his disciples by revealing he will be crucified on the first day of Passover. The Sanhedrin intensifies their plotting, with Rabbi Shmuel identifying Judas as a potential asset for a nighttime arrest. The episode culminates with Mary's kidnapping by the man who had been taking notes on the group, ultimately revealing Nicodemus as the shocking orchestrator.

Some of the teachings from Jesus in this episode come from Scripture, including direct quotes about what it means to be great, judging the twelve tribes of Israel, the end times, and faith. However, Jesus' teachings on the fig tree are much more expansive than what is in scripture, and the conversations with the disciples are not found in scripture, except for his prediction of the crucifixion. Most of the rest of the episode includes dialogue that is not found anywhere in scripture. However, the dialogue depicted could have taken place.

Discuss

1. As the disciples discuss who will betray Jesus, the subject of who is the greatest comes up. How do we avoid falling into the trap of rating how well we follow Jesus compared to other Christians?
2. Do you think the first 12 disciples Jesus chose will be greater than other Christians? Why or why not?

Discuss

3. What was Jesus' reason for cursing the fig tree? How does our current walk with Jesus today compare to that fig tree? What might you do differently in your life, if anything?
4. Pilate's wife is visibly shaken and is convinced something bad will happen soon. What do you think is the source of her discomfort? Do you believe that God communicates to non-believers today?
5. What do you think of the long prayer from Caiaphas as he closed the meeting with the Sanhedrin? Who do you think he was directing his words toward, and is this the way God intends for us to pray?
6. If heaven was no longer promised to you, would you still follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we've reflected on these moments before Jesus' crucifixion, help us to examine our own hearts with honesty and humility. Guard us from the pride that seeks greatness over service, and from the deception that produces leaves without fruit. Give us courage to follow Jesus faithfully, not for what we might gain, but because of who He is. May we trust in Your goodness even when we don't understand Your ways, and help us to be people of genuine faith rather than mere appearance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

