



The CHOSEN

Season 5. Episode Eight. 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

Thaddeus – One of the twelve disciples. Jesus calls him to follow him while Thaddeus is working as a stonemason.

Jesus - He is the leader of the twelve disciples and is betrayed by one of his disciples.

Zee – Simon the Zealot is one of Jesus' twelve disciples who is trained, and a fierce fighter, having once been a part of the order of Zealots.

The Disciples – The twelve followers of Jesus who are sharing the Passover meal with Him and accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Peter, James, and John – The disciples whom Jesus invited to enter the Garden to pray with Him.

Pilate – He is the Roman governor over Jerusalem who wants to make sure there is not a riot during the Passover Feast.

Atticus – He is the Roman officer over the imperial police who works for Tiberius Caesar. He makes an agreement with Kofni to turn people against Jesus.

Kofni – He is a Jewish man who is driven by hatred and anger to make Jesus pay for the death of his daughter who was actually killed by a Roman solider while following Jesus.

Claudia – She is the wife of Pilate, who has been unable to sleep for some time because of Jesus.

Yusef – A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin who is doing all that he can to speak out for the safety of Jesus. He believes Jesus may be the Messiah.

Caiaphas – He is the high priest and leader of the Sanhedrin.

Nicodemus – A member of the Sanhedrin and highly respected legal scholar. He believes Jesus might be the Messiah and challenges Caiaphas.

Judas – The disciple who betrays Jesus.

Malchus – He is a servant of the High Priest.

Abraham and Isaac – They are the father and son from the Old Testament, who go up a mountain at the request of God. Abraham is to sacrifice his son Isaac, but God intervenes with a ram to stop the sacrifice.

Ezekiel – He is one of the prophets from the Old Testament who had a vision of a valley filled with dry bones left over from a battle. God tells him to prophesy to the bones to make them come alive again.

Joseph – He is Jesus' earthly father who comes to comfort him in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus prays.

Introduction

This episode opens with Thaddeus experiencing a flashback triggered by seeing a stonemason's chisel in Jerusalem. He recalls the day he first met Jesus, when Jesus had replaced his friend Joab as a carpenter at a construction site. During their conversation, Jesus invited Thaddeus to become his disciple, explaining that while earthly buildings pass away, the Kingdom they would build together would last forever. Moved to tears, Thaddeus accepted the invitation.

The scene shifts to the Passover preparations, where the disciples gather and wait for Jesus and Judas to arrive. After the meal and hymn, Jesus leads them to the Garden of Gethsemane, taking Peter, James, and John deeper into the garden while the others wait outside. Meanwhile, political tensions escalate as Pilate expresses concern about Atticus's arrangements, the Sanhedrin debates the legality of their emergency meeting about Jesus, and Judas arrives at Caiaphas's house to coordinate the arrest.

In the garden, Jesus experiences intense spiritual anguish as he prays three times, asking if there's another way, but ultimately submitting to God's will with "not my will, but yours be done." During his prayers, he has visions of Abraham preparing to sacrifice Isaac, the prophet Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones, and his earthly father Joseph offering comfort. Each time Jesus returns to check on his disciples, he finds them sleeping. Finally, Jesus wakes them as Judas arrives with soldiers and temple guards, identifying Jesus with a kiss on the cheek while calling him "Rabbi," to which Jesus responds, "My friend, do what you came to do."

Discuss

1. What is the most painful thing about being betrayed by someone you truly tried to help? What kind of thoughts do you have about that person? Do you think that you can forgive someone who has betrayed you?
2. When Jesus called Thaddeus to follow Him, Thaddeus had to really consider the costs of following Jesus. Have you ever considered the cost of following Jesus in your own life?

Discuss

3. Atticus insists that he is ultimately loyal to no one except Mother Rome. Why can there be no doubt on our part that our loyalty is not to a nation, a political party, or an ethnic group but to Jesus Christ alone?
4. What purpose do Jesus' visions of Abraham, Ezekiel, and Joseph in the garden serve while He is praying?
5. What do Jesus' prayers in the garden reveal to us about His humanity?
6. When Jesus sees the disciples sleeping, He says, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." How does this apply to us today?
7. As Judas approached Jesus to kiss Him, the disciples stared in disbelief. What do you think they were thinking at that time? Do you have anyone close to you who doesn't see Jesus as their Savior, and in essence, is betraying Jesus by denial? How do you treat them?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus's sacrificial surrender in the Garden of Gethsemane, reminding us of the depth of your love and showing us that we can trust Your will even in our most difficult moments. Help us to be faithful disciples who, like Thaddeus, are willing to leave behind the temporary things of this world to follow Jesus and work to build Your eternal Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205 • 480-830-5024 • VictoryLutheran.com

