

# The CHOSEN



## Season Two. Discussion Guide

“But now, this is what the Lord says –  
He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are Mine.”

Isaiah 43:1



VICTORY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

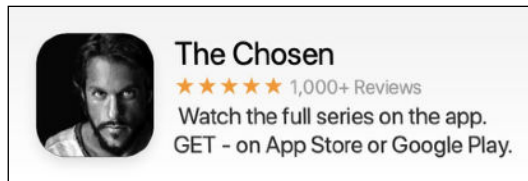
## SUGGESTED GROUP FORMAT

- Greet as you gather
- Open with prayer
- Show DVD
- Discuss using the following pages
- Close with prayer
- Thank everyone for coming!

## HELPFUL LINKS

Watch The Chosen Episodes

Via The Chosen App  
Apple Store or Google Play



The Chosen website  
<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch>

The Chosen YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheChosenSeries>

Wear The Chosen and go deeper with study materials:  
<https://thechosengifts.com>



## **The Chosen Season 2**

### **Episode 1: Thunder**

Tension builds among the disciples as they wrestle with the increasing fame of Jesus in Samaria. Jesus rebukes Big James and John for their prejudice and, after a near-violent encounter, gives them a new nickname.

### **Episode 2: I Saw You**

A mysterious visitor seeks to meet Jesus, but the disciples are hesitant. Tension builds between Simon and Matthew. As the group heads to a new city, word arrives that Jesus' fame is growing.

### **Episode 3: Matthew 4:24**

A long, exhausting day turns into night as the disciples help Jesus deal with a large crowd hoping to be healed. Around the campfire, over dinner, the group tried to get to know each other better. But tensions erupt.

### **Episode 4: The Perfect Opportunity**

As Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, a new enemy follows them, while a familiar enemy awaits.

### **Episode 5: Spirit**

After stirring the water, Jesus is now pursued by Simon the Zealot, Atticus and Shmuel. John the Baptist visits the group and tells Jesus his dangerous mission. Meanwhile, back at the camp, Mary Magdalene is devastated by an encounter with a mysterious and dangerous stranger.

### **Episode 6: Unlawful**

Matthew and Simon try to get along as they search for Mary in dark places. The group fears for Mary as they struggle with lack of food and bad news about John the Baptist. Meanwhile, Jesus continues to upset Pharisees across multiple regions.

### **Episode 7: Reckoning**

After learning of Jesus' whereabouts, Quintus sends Gaius to arrest Him. The disciples lose control as they argue about how to respond. While seeking information about where Jesus has been taken, Andrew and Philip encounter old friends.

### **Episode 8: Beyond Mountains**

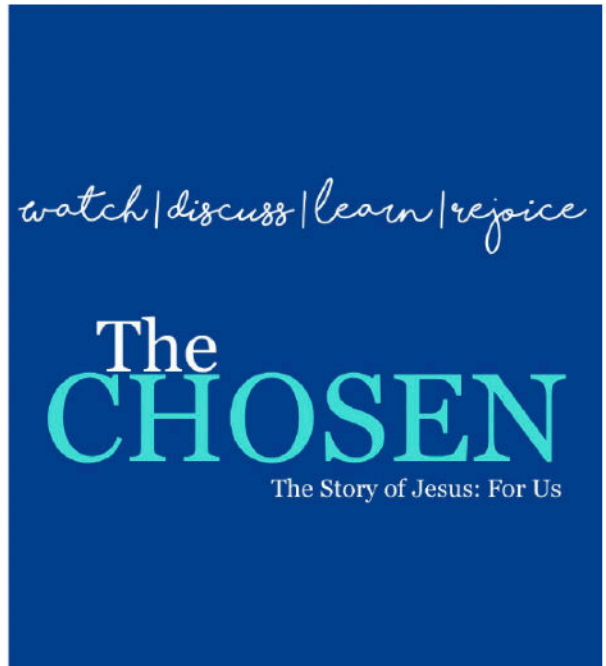
While Jesus and Matthew prepare the content of the big sermon, the disciples spread the word while fighting amongst themselves. A high-ranking Sanhedrin member is shocked by Shmuel's reports on Jesus. Thousands arrive for the sermon, including familiar faces.

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 1

*Thunder*



### EPISODE 1

#### Scriptural References

Luke 15:3-7

John 1:1-18

John 21:24-25

Mark 3:17

Luke 9:52-56

John 4:28-30, 39-42

John 14:12

#### Characters

Jesus, James & John, Andrew & Peter, Thomas, Rema, Rema's father, Matthew, Samaritans in Sychar, Samaritan cripple and his family

#### Memorable Quote

Rema's father: "I cannot give you my belief or my devotion but my honesty and my daughter are all I have left to give."

Jesus to James and John:

"Strong passion can be good when channeled for righteousness."

#### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. The episode opens with John interviewing the disciples about their memories of Jesus. How would you share about how you met Jesus? Who do you enjoy talking with about Jesus?
3. The disciples were gathered to mourn the loss of John's brother James. He had been martyred (Acts 12:1-2). Why is it good to simply reflect on Jesus during hard times?
4. The disciples consistently seemed to "lose Jesus." How do we seek to control Jesus? How do we try to make Him fit our agenda?
5. There was tension between Rema's father, Thomas and Jesus. Why? How hard is it to trust Jesus over family?

**Questions Continued:****Notes:**

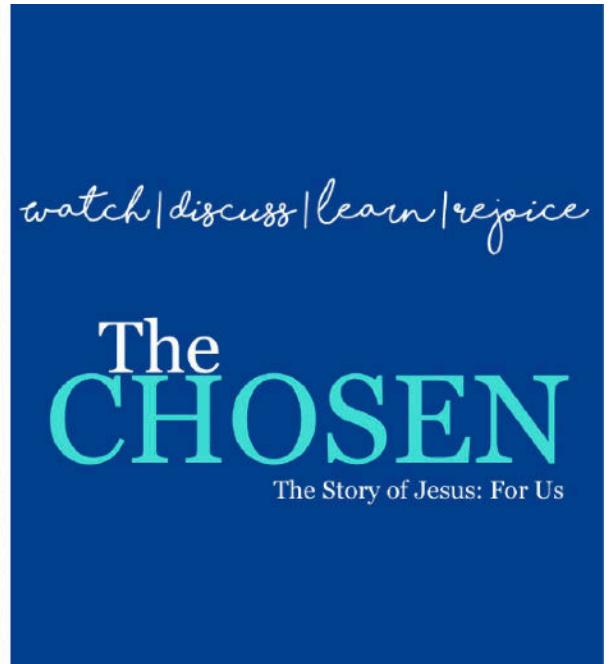
6. Jesus heals the Samaritan cripple without being present. While he stayed there, the cripple told his story. How did Jesus' treatment of him impact you?
7. When Jesus stayed overnight in the Samaritan priest's house, He was asked why he didn't correct the priest when he said one room was haunted. "I don't address everything at once," He replied. How grateful are you that God is patient with our ignorance?
8. We see James and John and their intensity. Jesus rebukes them creatively. He said, "You're not more worthy than they!" Why is that a message we need to hear?
9. What other questions could you ask?

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 2

*I Saw You*



### EPISODE 2

#### Scriptural References

John 1:43-51

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Psalms 27:7-95

Ezekiel 39:6-10

#### Characters

Jesus, Thaddeus, Phillip, Nathanael,  
Andrew & Peter, Thomas, Rema,  
Mary Magdalene, Matthew

#### Memorable Quotes

"I don't know what He sees in me." - Matthew

"I was something else once too. They want  
to define us by our past, our sins." - Phillip

#### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. The episode begins and ends with Nathanael. He thought his life was lost, only to discover something beautiful after meeting Jesus. He told the bartender that he had died of "hubris." What did he mean and why is that significant to the story?
3. Phillip played several roles in the episode, but he played a key role in bringing Nathanael to Jesus. Nathanael said, "I've never seen you talk like this." What will it take for you to talk so compellingly about Jesus to someone?
4. What can you conclude by Jesus' being aware of Nathanael's lowest moment?

**Questions Continued:****Notes:**

5. What joke did Phillip tell Matthew to help him loosen up? What did you think about the way he related with Matthew?
6. Matthew said he felt “outside the circle.” What did he mean, and can you identify?
7. We see another instance of the life of Jesus being written down in Matthew’s journal. Why is that meaningful?
8. Peter advocated for more structure. What was he really wanting?
9. Jesus said, “Each brings something unique to the whole. I want every voice heard. We can all learn something from each other.” It seems to echo Paul’s teaching about spiritual gifts. Why do we need each other?
10. What other observations did you have?



## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 3

Matthew 4:24



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

# The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

## EPISODE 3

### Scriptural References

Psalms 139:8

Zechariah 14:1-5

### Characters

Jesus, Mary, the disciples,  
especially Matthew, Simon

### Memorable Quotes

"I don't think He's waiting for us to be holy. I think He's here because we can't be holy without Him." - Mary

"I was something else once too. They want to define us by our past, our sins." - Phillip

### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. This is a powerful and even uncomfortable episode. It's unique in the series so far in that it captures an evening of ordinary conversation among the disciples as they discuss:
  - speculation about Messiah
  - exhaustion
  - simple questions about life
  - to get to know one another
  - the loss of a father
  - "I tried pork once"
  - swapping stories
  - wanting to know about Jesus' birth
  - frustration with pace
  - questions about life, having expectations of Jesus



## Questions Continued:

## Notes:

3. What did you learn about the disciples, and what do you think the producers were trying to communicate?
4. Little James said, "He's healing the Samaritans. How many would believe in Him if he wasn't healing them?" How has your belief been impacted when Jesus hasn't done what you wanted? How do we know when we are following Jesus for who He is and not for what He can do for us?
5. How do you feel about Simon's treatment of Matthew? How powerful is it that Simon says he can't forgive him for what he's done, when you know Simon will need great forgiveness from Jesus for a later betrayal?
6. Read Matthew 7:1-5. How does this apply to Peter? How does it apply to us?
7. Jesus returned to camp exhausted from ministry. His condition stunned the disciples into silence. Why?
8. Mary washed Jesus' feet. Where does scripture record Jesus washing someone's feet and when?

*News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. - Matthew 4:24*

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 4

*The Perfect Opportunity*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 4

#### Scriptural References

John 5:1-16

Zephaniah 3:17-20

Psalms 69:9

Exodus 20:8-11

Zechariah 8:20-23

#### Characters

Jesus, the disciples, Simon the Zealot, Jesse (the invalid), Shmuel (Pharisee), Atticus (Roman inspector), Rufus (Roman procurator), Zealots

#### Memorable Quotes

"You're not coming back here. That life is over. Everything changes now." - Jesus

"I know a thing or two about prophecies that sound impossible." - Mary

#### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. This episode is rich in providing context and understanding of the Jews' religious culture and history, helping us have perspective on the world Jesus ministered in. Some of the subjects covered are deep and worth further reading for your growth:

- Teachings about the Sabbath
- The Festival of Booths
- The Rise and Concerns of the Pharisees
- The Zealots and their goals

We encourage you to do further research on each of these and revisit them in your group next week.

In the meantime, what can you conclude about each of these based on this episode?

## Questions Continued:

## Notes:

3. Simon the Zealot and Jesse (invalid by the Pool of Bethesda) are creatively connected as brothers by the series. How did the back story give you insight into the misery of Jesse whom John 5:5 tells us had been disabled for 38 years? How might his presence at the Pool of Bethesda indicate his desire to be healed?
4. What was the stated goal of the Zealots? Why were they able to justify murder? How can someone be so passionate for God and be so wrong as to how to please Him? (Freebie: Mark 15:7 hints that Barabbas may have been a Zealot.)
5. As you witnessed the disciples' preparation for the Festival of Booths, what thoughts did you have about the significance of religious tradition/heritage? About how Jews experienced God in community?
6. Jesus knew who He was looking for at the pool. He went seeking Jesse. Who is the Jesse in your life? Why? (Answer from his brother's perspective and from Jesus' perspective.)
7. Who is the Simon in your life? (Answer from his brother's perspective and from Jesus' perspective.)
8. Jesus told Jesse the pool had nothing to offer him. What do you find yourself turning to time and again that cannot satisfy/ provide/help you? In what ways do you turn to a "pool" instead of Jesus?
9. As Jesse carried out his mat, he was confronted by Shmuel who accused him of working on the Sabbath. How did this example of legalism gone rogue impact you? How/when might you be guilty of a similar mindset?

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 5

*Spirit*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

# The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

## EPISODE 5

### Scriptural References

Psalms 139

Luke 3:1-20

Luke 4:31-37

Luke 6:7, 11

Matthew 13:34-35

### Characters

Jesus, Simon the Zealot, Jesse (the invalid), Shmuel (Pharisee), Atticus (Roman inspector), Mary Magdalene, Ramah, Caleb (demon-possessed)

### Memorable Quotes

"Welcome back." - Jesus to Caleb

"I just dropped the basket and ran. I totally ignored the prayers in my hands." - Mary

### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. This episode is rich and deep. What do you think is going on with Mary Magdalene in this episode? How does your past interfere with your present?
3. The Pharisees cross-examine Jesse. Then Atticus also says to him, "I believe it was a miracle," to which Jesse responds, "I know it was a miracle." Do you believe in miracles today? Why or why not?
4. Mary is teaching Ramah to read, using scripture. She is also teaching Matthew on the side. What role does scripture reading play in your life? What fresh commitment can you make to reading the Bible? What has held you back to this point?

**Questions Continued:****Notes:**

5. Simon the Zealot saves Mary from Caleb's attack. What did you think about that encounter with the demon and how Jesus responded? What do you believe about demons and their activity today?
6. Why should we not be afraid of demons?
7. Simon the Zealot asks Jesus, "Why do you need someone like me?" Jesus responded, "I have everything I need. But I wanted you." How does that impact you in reference to Jesus' wanting you?
8. Jesus and his cousin John the Baptist share a powerful conversation. John's impatience with his perception of Jesus' slowness shows. How do we demonstrate impatience with Jesus' timing?
9. Jesus is emotional upon John's departure. What does this scene reveal about each character?
10. Why do you think Schmuel the Pharisee so set on discrediting Jesus? Do you ever see a similar attitude in people today?

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 6

*Unlawful*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 6

#### Scriptural References

Psalms 20:7

John 8:1-3

1 Samuel 21:1-6

Luke 6:6-11

Matthew 12:1-18

Psalms 19:7

#### Characters

Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Ramah, David, Abiathar, Matthew, Peter, Pharisees (Schmuel, Yanni), Elam (man with withered hand)

#### Memorable Quotes

"What if you were cut off from Jesus by something in your past? Would you want help getting back to him as soon as possible?" - Matthew

"Did you really think he would never struggle or sin again?" - Jesus

#### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. So much is going on in this episode!
  - The search for Mary by Peter and Matthew
  - Mary's restoration
  - John the Baptist's arrest
  - Pharisees plotting
  - Healing of man with withered handWhich of these stories within the story was most powerful to you and why?
3. While the search for Mary Magdalene and her fall from grace are not a part of scripture, what IS true about how Jesus searches for the lost and restores the sinner? Support your thoughts with scripture. How have you experienced forgiveness from the Lord?

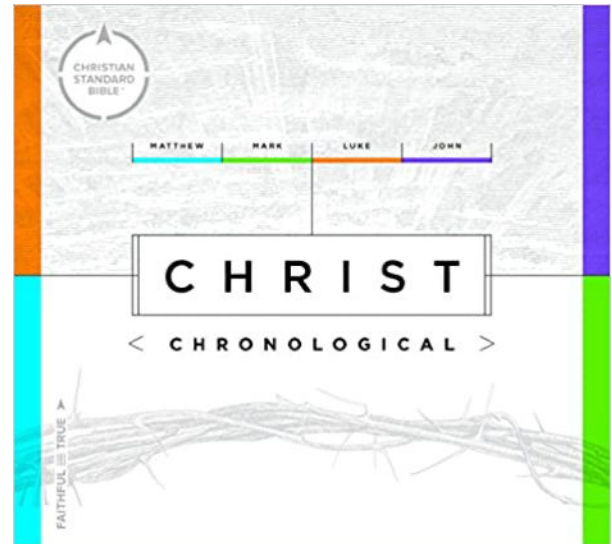


### Questions Continued:

4. Mary said to Peter, “He already fixed me once. I’m broke again. I can’t face Him.” It’s a common fear after our failure. Have you ever felt that, and how did you press through it? What would you tell someone who feels that they can’t face Jesus because of their failure?
5. Some have expressed concern about the creative license with dialogue and story that The Chosen sometimes displays. Why is it important to be able to distinguish between what is in the scriptural narrative and what is not?
6. The Pharisees are seen plotting and squabbling about Jesus. Why are they so concerned about Him? What do you like about them? What do you dislike?
7. Phillip and Andrew are hit hard by the news of John the Baptist’s arrest. Jesus also is emotional over it. Mary is missing. The food supply is short. Things seem bad. How do we respond when things seem to be falling apart around us? Why were the disciples shocked by Jesus’ decision to “pray” about things? Why is it hard for us to see prayer as a first step toward dealing with life’s issues?
8. The episode began with a flashback to David. It ends with the disciples eating grain. What was Jesus teaching about the Sabbath and our relationship to it?

### Additional Resource:

A frequently asked question about the series is “How do I know what is in the Bible and what creative dialogue or story has been added to help us grasp the overall narrative?” We encourage you to consider reading through the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. A wonderful way to do this is with the *CSB Christ Chronological Bible*.



### Notes:



## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 7

*Reckoning*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

# The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

## EPISODE 7

### Scriptural References

Matthew 6: 5-15 (The Lord's Prayer)

Matthew 4:12-17

(Jesus preaches after John's imprisonment)

Luke 5:16 (Jesus and prayer)

Matthew 10:24-39 (Jesus brings peace and division)

### Characters

Jesus, Matthew, Simon, John the Baptist, Shmuel, Quintis, Atticus

### Memorable Quotes

"It's an act of faith, not reason."

### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. Take note of how the disciples obey Jesus and His commands in this episode. Why is this?
3. What is Jesus preparing for? What is He stressing about it?
4. If you had been preparing something with Jesus and He was arrested, which disciple or Pharisee do you think you would have responded like?
5. What about the miracles that Jesus has performed has made the religious leaders so upset?
6. What was significant about Andrew and Philip's encounter in the marketplace?

**Questions Continued:**

7. After the Romans take Jesus away, the disciples very quickly devolve into bickering with one another and making rude comments. What do you think they were feeling that made them act that way?
8. When you feel under pressure, do you ever find yourself fighting with others and making rude comments more easily?
9. How is this series helping you understand life in the first century – and the many forces at play – better?

**Notes:**

**Pray** – Thank God for Jesus' patience with you even when you don't understand His leading in your life. Ask Him to help you when you're doubting His lead.

## GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

## EPISODE 8

*Beyond Mountains*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

# The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

## EPISODE 8

### Scriptural References

Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount)

Mark 3:13-19 (The disciples are called)

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Prince of Peace – used in reference to wearing blue)

### Characters

Jesus, Andrew, James, John, Andrew, Simon, Simon the Zealot, Shmuel, Yanni, Matthew, Mary, Mother Mary

We catch a glimpse of the battle between the two schools of the Pharisees – that of Hillel and that of Shammai

Take note of the opening – as we find later on, it is our introduction to Judas

### Individual or Group Questions

1. What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?
2. Why can't the disciples all agree on how to help prepare for the sermon event?
3. How does Jesus want to begin His sermon? Why is it a map?
4. What is Mary focusing on? Why?
5. Which of the beatitudes feels the closest to you? What about the hardest or farthest from you?
6. Jesus says the Sermon on the Mount is *a manifesto of revolution and radical shift*. What did He mean by this?
7. Many of the disciples look down on Matthew. Why? But what special gifts has he been able to contribute?

**Questions Continued:****Notes:**

8. Were you surprised when we learned who Judas was – or did you see it coming? What do you see in his character so far?
9. There are several places in the New Testament where Jesus may be reacting to a teaching that was specific to either Hillel or Shammai. As this episode indicates, Hillel was usually the more lenient of the two. How is this religious disagreement shaping responses to Jesus?
10. Even though God could accomplish his purposes by himself, in Episode 8 we saw how Jesus chose to depend on the contributions of His disciples to achieve His mission. In what ways do you think Jesus continues to depend on what we contribute to achieve His mission?

\*The Chosen Season 2 Finale aired on July 11, 2021.

The Chosen Season 3 is set to begin filming near the end of 2021 and will be released in the same method as Season 2 when the episode is ready.

As of the finale of season 2 airing, season 3 has not been fully crowd funded yet. You can help pay it forward by going to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> or by sharing about the show on social media.

