



The CHOSEN

Season Three. Discussion Guide



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

Get the official app of The Chosen



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>

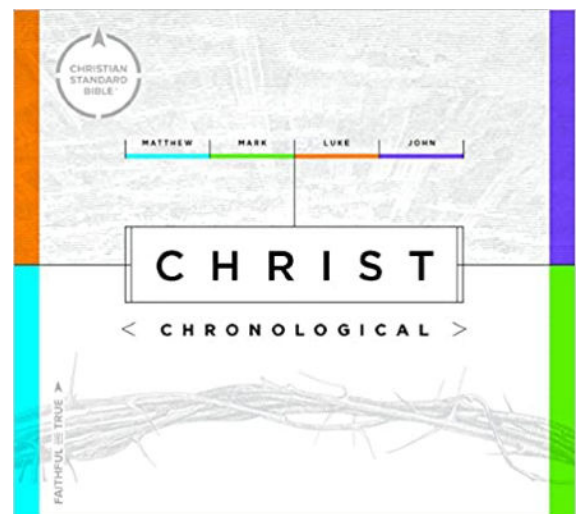
SPECIAL NOTE

Thank you for your interest in season three of The Chosen. There are eight episodes in this season, and all will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at Victory on Monday's at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. starting on March 6 and running each week except for Monday, April 10 when the building is closed. Our showing will conclude on Monday, May 1st.

Our thanks to Sherry Olson and Dave Palmquist for assembling this study guide, parts of which are borrowed and adapted from other sources. May your understanding of, and walk with Jesus, be deepened as you watch, pray and discuss the wonders of the life of Jesus and His first followers.

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*.





The Chosen Season 3

Episode 1: Homecoming

Jesus delivers the most life-altering sermon in history. The result? More followers, more enemies, and disciples ready to follow Jesus anywhere. Simon and Eden reunite, Matthew faces his past, and Andrew visits John the Baptist in prison.

Episode 2: Two by Two

Jesus is a problem for the Romans. With pilgrims from everywhere setting up a tent city at the gates of Capernaum to see Jesus, tensions rise. Jesus officially sends the twelve apostles on an exciting but dangerous mission, causing Little James to ask why he hasn't been healed

Episode 3: Physician, Heal Yourself

Jesus returns to his childhood home for the big Jewish new year celebration. His childhood friends and family are all buzzing with what they've heard about Jesus... until he tells them the truth of who He is.

Episode 4: Clean, Part 1

Two by two, the disciples carry out Jesus' mission to heal, cast out demons, and preach his words. But upon returning, they struggle with understanding what happened while Simon and Eden struggle to reconnect.

Episode 5: Clean, Part 2

As tensions mount at home, Simon and Gaius work together to fix the water problem in Capernaum. Meanwhile, Jairus and Veronica are equally desperate to find Jesus as the only hope for their crises.

Episode 6: Intensity in Tent City

Andrew and Philip discover their previous mission resulted in devastation that will require a return. Simon Z is finally forced to confront his past, but then two disciples of John the Baptist come to Capernaum with an important question for Jesus.

Episode 7: Ears to Hear

Andrew and Philip return from their trip with desperate news: they need Jesus' help to solve a huge crisis in the Decapolis. Jesus leads them on a trip to the dangerous region, where they face opposition from all sides. Literally. Meanwhile, John is assigned to bring an angry Simon to Jesus.

Episode 8: Sustenance

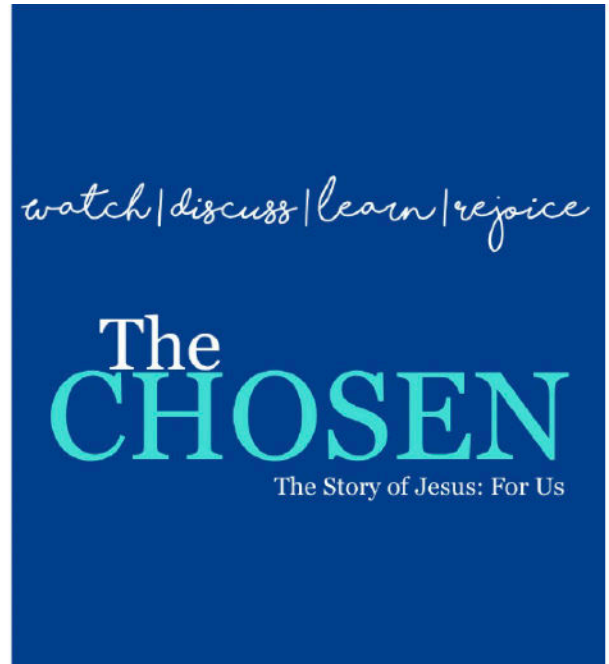
Thousands arrive to first argue with, then listen to Jesus as he preaches. Shmuel and Atticus hear what's happening and journey towards the Decapolis to catch Jesus in the act of a possible revolt. Meanwhile, as the preaching extends to the next day, the disciples realize they have a significant problem: the thousands are hungry, and there's no food.

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 1

Homecoming



EPISODE 1

Scriptural References:

Isaiah 61:1 go to Jesus's words in Luke 4:18
Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount

Before watching the episode:

- *Adonai* (plural), *the Lord*. The Jews did not allow themselves to say the name of God out loud.
- Four letter names (tetragrammaton) had only consonants and no vowels. Writers would eventually take the vowels from the Hebrew, *Adonai*, and apply them to the four letter name and it was then pronounced *JAHWE*, or as English says today, *Jehovah*.
- When *Adonai* is used a few times here that is a reference to Lord.

Episode 1 begins with a flashback to a time when Matthew's parents, Alphaeus and Elsheva, disown him for being a text collector, betraying his people, the Jews to the Romans, and collecting their past due taxes. It is important to remember because of what happens at the end of the episode. His mother quotes Proverbs 3:5: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart . . .*

Watch episode:

- Sermon of the Mount – Matthew 5-7.
- Leave your gift at the altar, go and reconcile - Matthew chapter 5.
- Do not worry – seek first the kingdom of God – Matthew chapter 6.
- Lord's Prayer – Matthew chapter 6.
- Do not judge - Matthew chapter 7.

Reactions after Jesus' sermon:

- Judas Iscariot and his friend and co-worker, Haddad, asks him *what does He have for you?*
- Jesus asks Judas – *Are you ready to do hard things? Then, Follow Me!*
- Jesus is tired, sends everyone home to rest. Sends Peter home to his wife, Eden.

The people often greeted and said farewell by saying Shalom, meaning peace. Notice now, that many of the comments turn to *Thank you, and I love you.*

Joanna is married to Chuza, who works in Herod's house. She brings news of John the Baptist in prison at Machaerus, a fortress east of the Jordan river. Andrew wants to visit John.

Thomas starts seriously courting Ramah, who was first seen at the wedding of Cana.

Peter, heads home to see his wife, Eden. They are interrupted by Nathanael, who needs a room. Peter and Eden start having problems. Peter's fault?

Tamar, Ramah, and Mary share a small "apartment."

Andrew wants to help John the Baptist in prison. John says you can help me by listening to Him and do what He says.

Andrew apologizes, Matthew apologizes. They are forgiven!
Better now?
Mary says: "A lot."

Questions:

1. Jesus was tired after the sermon. He sent His disciples home for a time. Is there a time we need to rest, get away from people, relax? Sundays? Physical/spiritual rest? Preachers – Mondays?
2. Read Isaiah 61:1. What does freedom to the captives mean? Did Jesus explain it in His discussion with the Pharisee?
3. Judas leaves his house – twice – and gives his door post a hand kiss. What is that about? What is the difference between a mezuzah and a phylactery?
4. Judas and his fictional sister, Deborah, say goodbye with different ideas: defeat the Romans and set us free. She doesn't want the family name of Iscariot to ever be forgotten. What do you think?

Notes:

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 2

Two by Two



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 2

Scriptural References:

Matthew 10 – sending out 2 x 2

John 12:6 – Judas Iscariot

1 Timothy 6:10 – love of money

Psalms 3

Before watching the episode:

- Crowds in Capernaum, waiting for Jesus.
- Matthew and his parents, Alphaeus and Elisheva, reconciling confession, contrition, and forgiveness.
“We saw Him too!”
“He chose you!”
“To this day, I don’t know why.”
“Forgive him. Say it!”
“Thank you, Abba!”

Watch episode:

- Peter says to Eden: Let’s study! I have much to learn. Later: It’s time, I’ve been thinking about our family.
- Zee, Simon the Zealot, is trailed by Atticus and accused of being a traitor to the Order: Zealots.
- Tamar, Ramah, and Mary talk about Thomas: Love comes from marriage. Would Ramah marry Thomas?
- People followed Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount to Capernaum. He sends them out 2 x 2 to heal and preach that the Kingdom is at hand. Twelve Apostles — sent ones.
- Little James (James the Lesser in some versions) wonders why he has not been healed. Jesus says: We can still praise God in spite of our suffering and burdens.

Reactions to Capernaum:**Notes:**

- Pilgrims there . . . cohortes just talking “Jewish” stuff.
- Redraw city boundaries.

Questions:

1. Would you have been ready and willing to go out to all areas of the Jews without taking anything along like the apostles? Learn to “fully rely on your Father in heaven.” Are unknowns overwhelming?
2. “Do not fear those who kill the body.” Do we “die” for our faith in Jesus?
3. Calm down — everyone asks a question one at a time. Who was the first to ask a question?
4. None of you are what you were! (Matthew and Zee — a former tax collector and former Zealot.)
5. Does Gaius really like Matthew? Will Gaius become a believer someday?

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 3

Physician, Heal Yourself



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 3

Scriptural References:

Leviticus 23:23-32

1 Kings 17:1-16

2 Kings 5:1-14

Opens with Jesus and Lazarus as toddlers playing.

Watch episode:

- Jesus comes home and sees His mother, Mary. Where are James and Jude, Jesus' brothers?
- Disciples sent out 2 x 2 doing "signs and wonders."
- I'm going to need the "box." The time is short. Are you sure? What's the "box"?
- Celebrating New Year — Rosh Hashanah (head of the year). On the Jewish calendar, it was in the fall, around our September. The Biblical name is "Yom Teruah" — day of shouting. It begins a 10-day period of celebrating, ending with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.
- Great meeting between Jesus and Lazarus, Mary, Martha. Greatest Rabbi, Messiah?
- Jesus speaks at the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah. Meshiach = Messiah.
- Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor . . . the year of the Lord's favor." The fulfillment is today. Here, now. The day of vengeance is in the future. I am here for salvation, release from spiritual debt. We are the Chosen people – we don't have any spiritual debt!
- Elijah sent to a widow at Sidon, a Gentile. She needed God. Elisha and Naaman, a Gentile Syrian soldier. He trusted and his leprosy was cleansed. Recognize your need. That's what I meant. I am the Law of Moses. I think I was pretty clear. This isn't going to happen. Not today.

Watch episode (continued):**Notes:**

- Brokenhearted - sad or hurt. The box: mule's bit and bridle. Judah used this to leave Egypt. Handed down for 40 generations, to remember our freedom in the Promised land. There is no turning back, not after today. What is the bridle for? You will know soon enough.

Questions:

1. What does "*Laylah tov*" mean in Aramaic.
2. Read Isaiah 61:1-3, and/or Luke 4:14-30, a prophecy quoted and fulfilled by Jesus as He explained in the synagogue. Do you understand it and what He meant?
3. Each episode has had powerful segments. Can you remember some of them? Which were the most powerful to you?
4. Whose tomb was Jesus at when He was remembering His childhood?

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 4

Clean, Part 1



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 4

Scriptural References:

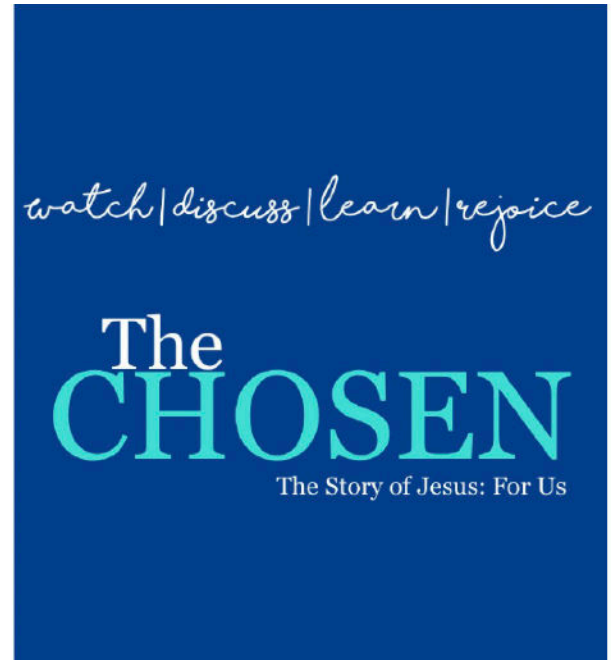
Mark 6:7-13,
Leviticus 15:1-5, 25-27

Watch episode:

- Healings take place by the power of God through the disciples. (inaudible)
- Teaching The Lord's Prayer.
- Jairus received a request for the details of the Sermon on the Mount from Rabbi Schmuel. Jairus is telling the rabbi that he thinks Jesus has fulfilled so much of Scripture. They will not say anything to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem about his beliefs.
- Peter returns to his wife, Eden. She moves furniture and decorates. He is glad to be home. Eden? She has to go to get water, with Veronica. Peter not showing her very good attention, right? Eden says things have been getting tough lately.
- Jairus' daughter gets sick. "Am I being punished by God for believing in this Nazarene?"
- The 3 ladies go to Matthew's house. Tamar is honoring her ancestors with her story (jewelry) – animism? Zebedee comes with a sample of his olive oil. Light green or dark green olives?
- He gave us power but no understanding – disciples "arguing" about their mission trip? Andrew notices that Eden is upset.
- Sanhedrin upset that Messiah is besmirching their reputation. They pass a resolution against such a preacher. Jesus is dangerous.
- Peter and Eden argue, and Jesus shows up at their door. Simon has a few things he has to work out himself. He is exasperated. At an impasse – over water and his home life.
- Gaius' marriage counseling advice: "Five words: You are right, I'm sorry."

Questions:**Notes:**

1. What do you think of the disciples' feelings about their trip and their "disagreements?"
2. Peter and Eden having problems. Whose fault, is it? Peter, Eden, their house as a meeting room, people asking for help, Veronica?
3. Gaius and Peter seem to become "friends" a little bit. What do you think?
4. How much New Testament reference is there to certain things that take place in this episode?



EPISODE 5

Scriptural References:

Matthew 9:14–25

Matthew 9:22: *“Jesus turned and saw her. Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you.”*

The woman with the “issue of blood” touched the *tzitzit* (braids or tassels) of Jesus’ tallit (prayer shawl).

Numbers 15:37-38: *The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.’”*

Before watching the episode:

- As tensions mount at home, Simon, and Gaius work together to fix the water problem in Capernaum. Meanwhile, Jairus and Veronica are equally desperate to find Jesus as the only hope for their crises.
- Characters: Eden, Jairus and Michal, daughter Neely, Simon Peter, Little James, Philip, Andrew, James and John, Zebedee, Nathanel and Thaddeus, Veronica, Tamar, Mary Magdalene, Gaius, Rabbi Yussif, Judas, Simon the Zealot

Questions:

1. What is the impact of Zebedee's change from fishing to producing oil?
2. The introduction of Veronica's faith to us is provided in her chance encounter with Nathanel and Thaddeus. How was this faith affirmed by Jesus?
3. Respond to the action of Peter and Gaius working together at the town well. What is so very strange about this?
4. What is going on with Eden?
5. Have you ever fasted? Or thought about it? What was Jesus trying to teach them, using the image of the bridegroom, and the wineskins? (the ways of the kingdom that I am bringing into this world will not fit into old containers or frameworks.)
6. Jesus introduces the concept that he will be gone. Why do you think he doesn't explain it to them?
7. Jairus' faith brings him to Jesus to ask for healing. How does Jesus affirm that?
8. Peter witnesses to Gaius about the one true God. What did He say?
9. Faith: one thread. Who uttered that? It was your faith! How did Veronica bless Jesus?
10. Veronica's healing was so public: Why did Jesus desire to keep the healing of Jairus's daughter quiet?
11. *Let's go swimming!* Besides the fun of it, what were they doing to satisfy Jewish law?

Notes:**Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, We praise and thank you for the amazing interactions our Savior Jesus had with real people, in real time, enduring real problems. We thank you for faith! Increase our faith. We love you Lord God, and we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 6

Intensity in Tent City



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 6

Scriptural References:

Matthew 11:1-9

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet."

Before watching the episode:

- It appears that this episode is full of extra-biblical plot lines that will be resolved in future episodes. There is very little in this episode that reflects specific Biblical scenes in the life of Jesus.
- Andrew and Philip discover their previous mission to the Decapolis resulted in devastation that will require a return. Simon is finally forced to confront his past, but then two disciples of John the Baptist come to Capernaum with an important question for Jesus.
- Characters: The disciples, Gaius and Quintus, Leander (from Naveh), Mary of Magdala and Tamar, Simon the Zealot, Members of the Order, Atticus, Pontius Pilate, Zebedee, Peter & Eden, Avner & Nadad, Barnaby & Shula.

Questions:

1. What is the importance of the appearance of Leander in the dark of night? He comes from the Decapolis. Based on the discussion with the disciples, what do we know of this region?
2. What are your thoughts about the conversation between Mary Magdalene and Tamar? Did you identify with either or both of the women? In what way?
3. Mary, says to Tamar, "I'm afraid I will never be enough." Is there a time that you have felt that way?
4. Tamar opens up and shares her history. How does that resolve the tension between her and Mary? Again, in our lives how does it help to know the "whole" story of a situation?
5. Simon the Zealot encounters the members of "The Order." Why is he being hunted?
6. Jesus reappears and begins healing, followed by preaching, answering questions. What are some of his key points?
7. Gaius is being drawn more and more to the street preacher, in this episode even sending Jesus' religious accusers' home under the guise of breaking up the crowd. Where do you think that's all going?
8. What is happening between Simon Peter and Eden? And between them and Jesus? How have you struggled with how God has intersected with your life in times of difficulty?
9. Talk about your reaction to the portrayal of the miracle of Jesus in the lives of Shula and Barnaby.

Notes:**Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we praise and glorify You. Send us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith in the truth of our salvation. And use us to love and care for others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 7

Ears to Hear



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 7

Scriptural References:

Mark 7:31-37

Luke 16:1-12

Memorable Quote:

"That man wanted you to have his faith."

Before watching the episode:

- Andrew and Philip return from their trip with desperate news: they need Jesus' help to solve a huge crisis in the Decapolis. Jesus leads them on a trip to the dangerous region, where they face opposition from all sides. Literally. Meanwhile, John is assigned to bring an angry Simon to Jesus.
- Characters: Andrew, Philip, Judas, Tamar, Matthew, Thomas, Quintas, All the disciples, Greeks and Jews in The Decapolis.
- The opening scene shows the Jews during the festival of Purim. They read the book of Esther. Purim is celebrating God's deliverance by the hand of Esther. It is the only book in the Bible that doesn't mention God, yet God is clearly at work. Purim occurs one month and one day before Passover, so it is in the early spring. The connection of Purim to what's going on in this episode unclear at this point.

1. In the opening scene what do you think has upset Peter?
2. Note the conflict erupting between Mary Magdalene and Matthew. What happened, and how is it resolved?
3. "Sometimes God sends a dove." Who or what is your 'dove'? Who or what has the Holy Spirit used to bring you to Jesus, or to bring you back to Jesus?
4. Much is made of the tassels that the old man gave to Matthew. These tassels include Tekhelet dye, a highly prized and expensive blue dye used on the tassels and in other expensive or important things. How does The Chosen help us understand the meaning of the tassels?
5. As Jesus approaches the Decapolis, we find Him healing a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. Check out Mark 7:31-37. The Chosen is spot on with this miracle. And yet clearly in the Scriptures Jesus is in an area that either borders a Jewish area or has many Jews living there – it was in the Jewish areas that Jesus would try to keep his miracles quiet. Why would He want to keep His miracles quiet in Jewish areas?
6. What is your reaction to the unfolding of Simon's emotions throughout this episode. What's he going through? Have you ever been through similar things? What do you think of what John tells him after John realizes that Simon almost lost his wife and indeed has experienced the death of his child?

Notes

Closing Prayer:

Spirit of God, we praise You for the new understanding that you are giving us through The Chosen. In this episode we have learned how vulnerable and misunderstood the disciples and others were as You were working faith in their lives. Thank you for their struggle and for their triumph that You brought to their lives, willing to sacrifice themselves for the Kingdom of God. Work Your faith in us. On our pilgrimage in life remind us of Your saving, comforting presence. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

GROUP GUIDE

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 8

Sustenance



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 8

Scriptural References:

Matthew 11:28

Psalm 77

Many parables of Jesus are referenced in this episode—check them out:

Parable of the Sower/Soils

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32

Parable of the Treasure/Pearl

Matthew 13:44-46

Parable of the Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-32

Before watching the episode:

- Characters: the Disciples, the Greeks & Jews in the Decapolis, the man with a broken leg, Eden, Zebedee and his wife, Mary Magdalene, Rabbi
- Thousands arrive to first argue with, then listen to Jesus as he preaches. Shmuel and Atticus hear what's happening and journey towards the Decapolis to catch Jesus in the act of a possible revolt. Meanwhile, as the preaching extends to the next day, the disciples realize they have a significant problem: the thousands are hungry, and there is no food.
- A huge backstory to this episode is the tension and struggle in the hearts of both Eden and Simon. None of this, of course, is in Scripture . . . and yet it would seem that it is a struggle in every Christian's life at one point or another. If you caught it, neither Simon nor Eden is struggling with faith — they both not only believe but KNOW that Jesus is the Messiah and can heal and even raise the dead. Their

struggle is with the question WHY Jesus has withheld His power from them.

- In this episode we also get the “feeding of the 5000” — the only miracle of Jesus (aside from the resurrection) which appears in all four gospels. It is obviously a key miracle. Why? Well, at least one reason is that it is a turning point in the ministry of Jesus . . . but we don’t see that emphasis in The Chosen.
- The miracle takes place about two years into Jesus’ public ministry, about one year before His death (The Chosen gets that right, placing it in the springtime, near Purim and Passover – notice the full moon in one of the scenes). News has reached Jesus that John the Baptist has been beheaded (Matthew 14:1-12). Jesus withdraws to a lonely place and crowds follow Him (Matthew 14:13-15) and so Jesus feeds them (Matthew 14:16-21). John 6:15 is KEY – It tells us that the crowd then wanted to make Jesus king and so Jesus had to withdraw...and thus begins Jesus’ year of ‘ministry in hiding’ with His disciples. He makes His disciples get into a boat, the storm ensues, Jesus goes out to meet them. Peter walks on water, (Matthew 14:22-34). With this miracle, then, Jesus’ ministry changes dramatically – He must hide from the Jewish crowds for the next year!

Closing Prayer:

Lord, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.” (Mark 9:24 NIV). On our pilgrimage in this life Lord, remind us again of your abiding presence. Thank you for your gift of faith. Remind us of your salvation extended to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Help us be bold, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to share this incredible Good News. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Questions:

1. A (or the) major theme of Season 3 is faith. So very early in this episode Jesus speaks the words in Matthew 17:20. Talk about his commentary, “It’s not about the size; it’s about who your faith is in.” What are some of the ways in which we talk about faith (example: ‘a person of great faith’) where we are putting too much emphasis on faith and not enough emphasis on ‘who your faith is in’.
2. The women come alongside Eden. They listen. They encourage her to grieve. It is very valuable to have friends come alongside in the journey of grief. Describe a time when you received such help.
3. Jesus says, “God wants His house full and everyone who believes in me is invited.” And “So many cities are in need of repentance and righteousness.” How is He changing the focus of religion?”
4. Psalm 77 is used by Rabbi Yussef to counsel Eden. Examine it and point out how it is valued in this episode.
5. As we watched the disciples in the boat, rowing in the storm, what feelings did you have? This incredible miracle of Jesus and Simon walking on water gives opportunity to learn a valuable lesson.
6. Jesus says to Simon, “Why do you think I allow trials?” What is your understanding of God allowing us to go through trials?

