



**Season One
Study Guide**



The Chosen is a television show about the life of Christ. Season 1, released in 2019, garnered attention for several reasons: it is the first TV show of its kind, presenting the life of Christ over multiple seasons; it was crowd-funded, bringing in more donations than any other media project ever; it is the first series to be launched in every country simultaneously via its own app; and it is being praised for its engaging storytelling.

The show's creator, Dallas Jenkins, has a degree in Biblical Studies. In creating the show, Jenkins put together a panel of expert consultants to ensure biblical and historical accuracy in the script he was co-writing for the show. On the panel were a Messianic Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and an evangelical professor of biblical studies.

Jenkins' stated goal in creating the show was to help people know Jesus better and love Scripture more. To reach that goal, he and the other scriptwriters took the gospel accounts and added what are, in their opinion, plausible details about the lives of the biblical figures found there. They added backstories to well-known characters and fleshed out other characters who might receive only a passing mention in Scripture. The intended result is that viewers see the people in the Bible as real people who dealt with the same types of issues we all have to deal with. In *The Chosen*, the disciples have families and friends, they have reputations to uphold, they have a sense of humor, and they struggle with finances and other concerns.

As with all storytelling based on historical events, some artistic license is evident. In *The Chosen*, there is often a tremendous amount of artistic license. In retelling the gospel accounts, the writers have inserted or modified some characters, storylines, and details of the inspired original. The changes are designed to give each episode a feeling of being grounded in real life. One example of these artistic choices is that the disciple Matthew is depicted as a young man on the Asperger's/autism spectrum. There is no direct biblical evidence that Matthew had this disorder, but it is a plausible detail, so the writers felt comfortable using artistic license to insert this additional trait to Matthew's character. Since no one is claiming that the show is God's Word or that it is on par with the Bible, the creators of *The Chosen* believe such license is acceptable, and even expected in a medium such as television. As long as viewers remember that what they are seeing is art and not real life—and they compare what they view with Scripture—there is no danger of confusion. We should all know intuitively that, for all its historical accuracy and attention to cultural context, *The Chosen* is simply one idea from one group of people about what they think it might have been like to be near Jesus.

Dramatizations of biblical events such as are presented in *The Chosen* provide an opportunity for sharing the gospel with those who otherwise might not be exposed to the Bible. For believers, such dramatizations can promote spiritual growth, reminding us that the Bible is more than just a story—it relates actual events in the lives of real people who had emotions, relationships, and concerns similar to ours.



Characters in Season 1

Abigail is the little girl that stumbles on Jesus' home in the field and senses that he is a good man. She is very knowledgeable in the Scriptures. Abigail is not specifically mentioned in the Bible.

Andrew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. He was the brother of Simon Peter and a fisherman by trade. Andrew is first introduced in the Gospel of John (John 1:40-42), where he is described as a disciple of John the Baptist. After hearing John the Baptist proclaim Jesus as the "Lamb of God", Andrew followed Jesus and later brought his brother Peter to Him. Andrew is also mentioned in the feeding of the 5000, bringing a boy with five loaves and two fish to Jesus (John 6:8-9). Despite not being as prominent as some of the other apostles in the New Testament, Andrew played a crucial role in the early Christian church.

Dinah and Ezra, are not mentioned by name in the Bible. They are the parents of the groom. They are a poorer working family that struggles to cover the expenses of the wedding.

Eden is not associated with Simon Peter's wife in the Bible. The Bible does mention that Simon Peter had a mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:30-31, Luke 4:38-39), which indicates that he was married. However, the Bible does not provide the name of Simon Peter's wife, nor any details about her.

Gaius, is the Roman centurion that serves as Matthew's protector. He attempts to persuade Matthew not to go see the Praetor Quintis. The Bible does not mention a specific centurion named Gaius. Centurions are mentioned in the following scriptures: Luke 7:1-10, John 18:1-11, John 19:23-34, Matthew 27:54, and Mark 15:43-45.

Jacob, also known as Israel, is a significant figure in the Bible. He is the son of Isaac and Rebekah, and the twin brother of Esau. Jacob's story is foundational to the history of Israel, as his twelve sons became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel.

James, one of the Twelve Apostles, was a brother of John the Apostle. James the son of Zebedee was part of Jesus' inner circle, who witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus and the raising of Jairus' daughter. He was the first apostle to be martyred, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 12:1-2), where Herod Agrippa ordered his execution by the sword.



John, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. He is traditionally identified as the brother of James, son of Zebedee, making them known as the "sons of thunder," a nickname given to them by Jesus (Mark 3:17). John and his brother James were among the first disciples called by Jesus. He was present at several pivotal moments in Jesus' ministry, including the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33-42). John is also notably present at the Crucifixion, where Jesus entrusts the care of his mother, Mary, to him (John 19:26-27).

John the Baptist was a prominent figure in the New Testament, known for his role as a prophet who prepared the way for the ministry of Jesus Christ. He is mentioned in all four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. John's primary mission was to announce the coming of the Messiah and to call people to repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He was a cousin of Jesus, as his mother Elizabeth was a relative of Mary, Jesus' mother. He lived a simple life in the wilderness, wearing camel's hair clothing and eating locusts and wild honey. John baptized many people in the Jordan River, including Jesus himself.

Joseph of Arimathea is a figure mentioned in the New Testament who played a significant role in the burial of Jesus Christ. He was a wealthy and respected member of the Jewish council, also known as the Sanhedrin. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, though he kept his faith hidden because of his position on the council.

Joshua the Brave is the young boy that Abigale brings back with her to meet Jesus after her first encounter. Like the character Abigail, Joshua the Brave is not an actual character named in the Bible.

Killah and Abner, are not characters mentioned in the Bible. They are the parents of the bride and are not happy with their daughters choice of a husband. They represent an upper-class family.

Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus Christ who is mentioned by name in the New Testament more than most of the apostles. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and burial, and she was the first person to see Jesus after His resurrection, as recorded in John 20:1-18. Jesus had cast seven demons out of her, as mentioned in Luke 8:2. Despite misconceptions, the Bible does not identify her as a prostitute. She is considered a saint in many Christian traditions.



Matthew, also known as Levi, was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. Before following Jesus, he was a tax collector, a profession looked down upon by many Jews at the time. His life changed when Jesus called him to be a disciple, as recorded in Matthew 9:9. He is traditionally believed to be the author of the Gospel of Matthew, one of the four Gospels in the New Testament. This Gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus and includes the Sermon on the Mount, among other teachings and miracles of Jesus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council, as mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible. He is most prominently featured in the Gospel of John (John 3:1-21), where he visits Jesus at night to discuss Jesus' teachings. During this conversation, Jesus delivers the famous message, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Nicodemus also appears later in John's Gospel, defending Jesus (John 7:50-52) and helping to prepare Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39-42).

Quintus, is a Roman Praetor who governs the Roman forces in the city of Capernaum. The Bible does not mention Quintus by name.

Rabbi Joseph is a young Pharisee who reports that he has seen Mary healed, and in her right mind. Rabbi Joseph is not mentioned in the Bible.

Rhema, is the young woman that is a business partner of Thomas. She tries to keep him from worrying about what might go wrong. She is not mentioned in the Bible.

Simon Peter was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. He was a fisherman by trade, and his brother Andrew was also an apostle. Peter is often considered the leader of the apostles and was with Jesus during events witnessed by only a few apostles, such as the Transfiguration. After Jesus' death, he served as the head of the early church in Jerusalem. He is traditionally regarded as the first bishop of Rome and therefore, the first Pope. His life and teachings are recorded in the New Testament of the Bible, particularly in the Gospels and the Book of Acts.

Tamar is an Ethiopian woman who grew up in Egypt. Tamar is not a character mentioned in the Bible

Thomas, also known as Didymus, was one of the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus to be part of his inner circle. He is often referred to as "Doubting Thomas" because of his initial skepticism about Jesus' resurrection. Thomas is mentioned in the Gospel of John primarily. One of the most well-known stories about Thomas is when he doubted the resurrection of Jesus.



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Season One

Zebedee was the father of two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, who were known as the "Sons of Thunder." Zebedee was a fisherman, and he worked in partnership with his sons in the fishing business on the Sea of Galilee. Zebedee is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke as the father of James and John. When Jesus called James and John to be his disciples, they immediately left their father Zebedee and their fishing business to follow Jesus. Zebedee supported his sons in their decision to follow Jesus and become his disciples.



The Chosen Episode 1

I Have Called You By Name

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1

Isaiah 41:9-10

1 John 4:16-18

John 3:1

Luke 8:1-3

Mark 16:9

Discussion Questions

1. Fear is one of the key themes addressed by this episode. Fear often enters our lives. How does the words of Isaiah comfort you when you feel afraid? Isaiah 43:1
2. Mary's father asks her "What do we do when we are scared?" What do you do when you are "scared"?
3. Mary Magdalene was afraid, Nicodemus was afraid, Peter & Andrew were afraid, Matthew was afraid....what were each of these people afraid of, respectively? What are some fears do you deal with?
4. Why does Mary not initially feel safe with Jesus, and run from Him? What has made you run from God in the past?
5. In this episode we see that sometimes God directs us clearly, guides us quietly, or grows us silently. Have you ever been "called by name" in one of these ways?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for creating us, for wanting to have a relationship with us, for making us your chosen. Our thoughts, words, and actions show that we are unworthy to be called, but you pursue us relentlessly. The words of Isiah reminds us "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine." Thank you for sending Jesus to search for us, to rescue us. Let us be open to the direction or quiet guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Give us the strength to conquer our fears and grow as a child of God.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 2

Shabbat

Scripture

Genesis 2:1-3

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Proverbs 31:10-31

Mark 3:16-19

John 1:46

Revelation 3:20

Discussion Questions

1. Simon Peter told his wife “I’ve got this.” Have you experienced times in your life where you thought you could control your circumstances only to have things spin out of control?
2. Nicodemus asked the question, “Who is responsible for suppressing our worship now?” Is there something that is distracting or suppressing our/your worship these days?
3. What did you think about Jesus inviting himself to Mary’s Shabbat observance? What would your response be if Jesus invited himself into your home?
4. Sharing meals with friends and family are an important part of our culture. Who was the last person you invited into your life/home to share what God has done for you?
5. The Shabbat was not just a day of abstinence from work, it was also about entering into a communal experience in the presence of God. Are there things in your life that need to change in order to “rest” the way God intended?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you give us, food, shelter, friends, and family. We thank you for your presence in our lives helping us through good times and difficult ones. Jesus we ask you to guide us in how to take the time in our busy lives to slow down and just rest in your presence. Rejuvenate us, giving us the strength to face the daily obstacles in our lives.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 3 *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Isaiah 61:1-2

Luke 4:18-19

Luke 18:15-17

Mark 10:14

Matthew 6:9-15

Matthew 18:3-5

Discussion Questions

1. According to Matthew 18:1:4, what quality do children have that we should seek to emulate?
2. Jesus' responses to some of the children's questions seemed evasive or incomplete. Why do you think that is? How does this relate to His responses to our questions?
3. Jesus was both playful and purposeful as He related to the children. Does that change your view of the type of relationship you can have with Him? What does this say about how we should relate to others?
4. What would it take for you to trust Jesus with the complete faith of a child?
5. Jesus reminded Abigail that He did not come only for the wealthy. What does that mean about how we are to treat everyone as His disciples?

Prayer

Lord thank you for being by our side no matter what we are facing, what we are doing, or what we have done. Help us to keep a child-like faith, not childish or immature but pure in its wonder and joy. Father we want to have the pure faith of a child holding on to the hand of a loving parent. We confess that many times we think we are doing fine on our own. Help us to remember to turn to you and trust you completely. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way and the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us as we journey through our lives. Father we are so grateful for your love. Thank you for accepting us just as we are, children of yours.

In Jesus' name we pray.



The Chosen Episode 4

The Rock on Which it is Built

Scripture

Matthew 13:47-52

Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 3:1-7

John 1:19-28

Luke 5:1-11

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus provided for Simon's physical need, but the miracle was more than that. He changed Simon's mindset, calling him to something more. Not to riches, but to spreading the good news for the sake of other souls. What have we been called to do?
2. Share a moment in your life where a miracle has happened for you. When you thought there was absolutely no way that something would work, but God made it happen.
3. Have you ever cried out to God in anger because you were not seeing His help? Do you think it is "ok" to express your anger and disappointment to God? How do you imagine God responds?
4. Jesus could have told Peter he had to get himself out of his own jam; after all, Peter's troubles were brought on by himself. How does Jesus' rescuing Peter from his bad choices shape how you see Jesus helping you?
5. John the Baptist was considered a heretic, and crazy. If the religious leaders of Jesus' day were constantly missing the point, is it possible that we are missing some of the main points in our faith?

Prayer

Guide us, Lord, to live according to Your Word, so that we may stand firm in times of trial and uncertainty. Strengthen our faith and help us to trust in Your promises, knowing that You are unchanging and ever faithful. We pray that our lives reflect Your love and truth, and that we may be a beacon of hope to others, showing them the strength and stability that comes from a life built on You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 5

The Wedding Gift

Scripture

John 2: 1-12

Luke 2: 41-52

Jeremiah 33:10-16

1 Kings 19:19-21

Proverbs 30:4

Discussion Questions

1. Instead of condemning John, Nicodemus sat down and said “Tell me about your ministry.” When’s the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said “Tell me more.”?
2. The wedding miracle passage is often viewed as Jesus correcting/ directing his mother, but that’s not how it is portrayed in this episode. How do you think this scene might have looked?
3. Just as the servants had to draw the water before they saw the miracle, what are ways you can step out in faith because of God’s promises?
4. Jesus reassures Thomas that while it’s good to ask questions, we won’t always understand the answers, or even get answers. How do you handle this?

Prayer

Father, help us to trust in You with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. Guide our paths and make our faith steadfast, even in the face of trials and challenges. We thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness and for the assurance that You are always with us. May our faith grow stronger each day as we walk closely with You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 6

Indescribable Compassion

Scripture

Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 6: 1-18

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 12: 36-48

Luke 18:1-14

Discussion Questions

1. Leprosy was one of the major diseases in the time of Jesus. It was a sickness that rendered a person no longer worthy of dignity, love or community. Are there any situations in our society today that would cause a person feel as if they had no dignity, love or community? How do you think Jesus would want us to respond to them?
2. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy, and good will?
3. What is holding you back from the kind of bold faith the leper had?
4. In order to take such extreme measures, what must the four men who carried their friend, believed about Jesus ?
5. What do you think Nicodemus was thinking when the healed man walked passed him?
6. Why do you think Nicodemus wanted to meet Jesus privately?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with a humble hearts. We ask that You strengthen our faith, especially in times of doubt and difficulty. Help us to trust in Your power and promises, no matter the circumstances. Fill us with the assurance of Your presence and Your love. May we always remember that You are with us, guiding and supporting us. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. May our faith be unwavering, rooted in the knowledge of Your unchanging character and Your eternal promises.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 7

Invitations

Scripture

Psalms 2: 11-12

Numbers 21: 4-9

Matthew 9: 9-13

John 3: 1-21

Discussion Questions

1. In the opening scene we see Moses and Joshua. Moses tells Joshua he has learned to do what God says without questioning. He also tells him the believing in the power of Adani is an act of faith not reason. Do you struggle with faith and reason like Joshua?
2. Reflect on Nicodemus' journey to Jesus. How did he go from being a devout Pharisee to sitting in front of Jesus?
3. When Nicodemus and Jesus meet, they have a discussion about being born again in the Spirit. Jesus compares the wind to the Spirit. How do you recognize the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. Jesus invited Nicodemus to come and follow him. Nicodemus wanted to accept the invitation but it meant giving up his position and more. Have there been times in your life that you have been called and struggled to accept the invitation?
5. What do you think Jesus meant when he told Nicodemus "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him"?
6. Matthew was able to leave everything behind and follow Jesus. Do you think it was easier for Matthew than it was for Nicodemus? Why or why not?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to embrace your call with all our heart. Lord, we ask that You ignite a passion within us to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. May our souls long for You and Your ways above all else. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness, as Jesus taught us. Guide our steps and align our desires with Your will. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, empowering us to live a life that reflects Jesus' love, grace, and truth. May Christ live in us and through us. Strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus daily, no matter the cost. Help us to trust in His guidance and to find joy in walking the path He has set before us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



The Chosen Episode 8

I Am He

Scripture

Genesis 33: 18-20

Genesis 16

Hosea 6: 6

Daniel 7: 13-14

Matthew 9: 9-13

Matthew 8: 14-15

Mark 2: 13-17

Luke 4: 38-39

John 4: 1-42

Discussion Questions

1. In the opening of this episode, Jacob makes the comment, they did not choose their God, but rather their God chose them. How are you encouraged by knowing that it was God who chose you?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' statement that God desires mercy more than sacrifice?
3. How can the strength of our independence keep us from getting closer to God?
4. Gaius wanted Matthew to turn away from following Jesus. Who (or what) has been a Gaius in your life seeking to turn you away from Christ?
5. What were your feelings about Nicodemus as he watched the disciples gather with Jesus as they prepared to leave Capernaum?
6. Why do you think Nicodemus left a bag of gold for Jesus and his disciples to find? How are we sometimes guilty of giving something instead of giving ourselves?
7. The disciples were asked to travel throughout the region, telling people about Jesus with no provisions of their own. What do you imagine your response would be if He asked the same of you?

Prayer

Father, we come before You seeking wisdom and discernment to understand the calling You have placed on our hearts. Help us to trust in You and submit to Your guidance. Open our hearts and minds to hear Your voice clearly. Grant us the courage and faith to step into the calling You have for us, even when the path is uncertain. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, empowering me to fulfill the purpose You have set before us. May our life bring glory to Your name and further Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Links

https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM

<https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/>

<https://www.yeschat.ai/gpts-9t557MsdGgY-Biblical-Characters>

Resources

The Chosen, An Interactive Bible Study – What Does It Mean To Be Chosen?
Amanda Jenkins, Dallas Jenkins, and Douglas S. Huffman

Helpful Guide To Understanding The Chosen – Season 1
Rick Gillespie-Mobley

St. Leo's Church Study Guide – The Story Of Jesus For Us
<https://www.saintleos.org/the-chosen--video-series-study.html>