Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 1

"I Have Called You by Name"

Episode Passages – Luke 8:1-15 and Mark 16:6-11

Study 1

Conversation Starter

What were your expectations before watching this first episode?

Episode Questions

1. Do you have a passage that brings you comfort when you are going through a difficult time?
2. Which character(s) has surprised you the most by the way they are depicted in the episode?
3. Do you notice any similarities when you compare people from first century society to people in modern day society?
4. Jesus called Mary by name; it was very personal. When have you experienced Jesus pursuing you on a personal level?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read Luke 8:1-15 and Mark 16:6-11
- **Self-Check**
    - Take some time this week to timeline key events in your life where you experienced Jesus pursuing you.
    - Are you currently running from Jesus regarding some area or situation in your life? How can remembering Jesus' kindness toward you in the past, influence your decision making in this situation?
- **Continuing the Conversation** – This episode depicted God's individual pursuit of each person He has created. Who can I share this incredible news with who is outside of my faith community?
- **Pray** – Thank God for His relentless pursuit of you. Ask God to help you see where you may be running from Him. Ask Him for courage to turn toward Him with all of the situations you are currently dealing with. Ask God to give you confidence and the words when sharing about faith in Christ.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 2

"Shabbat"

Episode Passages – Deuteronomy 5:12-14, Matthew 17:24-27, and Matthew 18:15-17

Study 2

Conversation Starter

What stood out to you about how Jesus was depicted in the episode?

Episode Questions

1. When have you tried to solve your own problems without Jesus (like Peter in the episode) and had things go completely sideways?

2. Since trusting in Jesus, what are some specific ways your life has gone from being one way, to being something completely different?

3. The Hebrew Sabbath celebrates God's work and inspires soulful rest. How do you celebrate God's work in your life? How do you find rest for your soul?

4. What characteristics did you see in Jesus that would be good for Christians to practice today?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read Deuteronomy 5:12-14, Matthew 17:24-27, and Matthew 18:15-17

- **Self-Check**

    - Think about some ways you can celebrate God's work in your life. Would you journal to Him, take a walk alone with Him, what could you do?

    - Where are some areas in your life that God may encourage you to slow down and allow your soul to find rest? Would He encourage a less rigorous schedule, less TV and Internet time, or something else?

- **Continuing the Conversation** – This episode showed people remembering and celebrating God's incredible creative work. Who can I share this powerful story with who may not have heard about their Creator?

- **Pray** – Thank God for creating and redeeming you. Ask God to help you see where you may need to celebrate Him more and treat your soul to some rest.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 3

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Episode Passages – Luke 18:15-17; Mark 9:42; Mark 3:13-19

Study 3

Conversation Starter

When you first heard of Jesus, how did you picture Him?

Episode Questions

1. Do you talk to Jesus as carefree as the children did in the episode? Why or why not? Do you feel Jesus is as receiving toward you as He was the children? Explain.

2. Jesus said in the episode, "Everyone has a much larger job than just their trade." Do you see yourself as having a "larger job" in this life?

3. The Jewish rabbis mistakenly thought the Messiah would be a great military leader when He arrived. How has your understanding of Jesus become more accurate over time?

4. In the episode, Jesus challenged the behaviors and ways the Hebrew people treated others. Do you think today's Christians should assess how they are treating others?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read Luke 18:15-17; Mark 9:42; Mark 3:13-19

- **Self-Check**

    - Waiting for God to judge evil can be frustrating when you are the one who has been wronged or hurt. Is there someone you are "punishing" as payback for a wrong they've caused you? What could be a more God honoring response?

    - What could you do to begin or to restore your childlike trust in Jesus Christ?

- **Continuing the Conversation** – Jesus stated that His Father sent Him to announce good news to the poor, announce prisoners would be freed, and the blind would see. Who could I share this incredible news with that may not have heard about Him?

- **Pray** – Thank your heavenly Father that He did not send Jesus only to the wealthy and people of status. Ask God to show you ways you can copy Jesus' willingness to engage with all peoples.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 4

"The Rock On Which It Is Built"

Episode Passages – John 1:19-28; John 21; Luke 5:1-11

Study 4

Conversation Starter

What is your perception of how Peter is portrayed in this series so far?

Episode Questions

1. When you have gotten yourself (and / or family) into a desperate situation from not following Christ's ways, do you tend to eventually seek Him for a miracle or do you feel you must "fix" things first? Can you share a story?

2. Do you believe God allows adverse circumstances into your life to draw you back to Him? When have you experienced this?

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. Do you believe miracles happen in modern times? When miracles happen, what part did God play and what part do believers play?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read John 1:19-28; John 21; Luke 5:1-11
- **Self-Check**
  - When you have a serious need like Peter did in the episode, and God does not perform a miracle for you, what does that do to your faith?
  - 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?
- **Continuing the Conversation** – Matthew's faith and John the Baptizer's faith is stirred by Jesus' miracle. Is there someone you know whose faith would be stirred if they heard about God doing something miraculous in your life?
- **Pray** – Thank Jesus for His "no strings attached" help and compassion on you as His follower.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 5

"The Wedding Gift"

Episode Passages – John 2:1-11; Luke 2:41-52

Study 5

Conversation Starter

What did you hear or see that first created a curiosity about Jesus in you?

Episode Questions

1. Who has been praying for you through your life hoping for you to find purpose in following Jesus? Have you found that purpose? How has it changed your path?

2. In the episode, Mary Magdalene was quite content not knowing where Jesus was leading them. How do you deal with not knowing where Jesus is leading you?

3. The request to make more wine, seems somewhat trivial. What lesson can we learn from this story when asking God for help?

4. In the episode, Thomas witnessed his first miracle and begins his journey of belief. How much "seeing" do you need in order to believe?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read John 2:1-11; Luke 2:41-52
- **Self-Check**
  - Who could I bless this week like Jesus blessed the people at the wedding at Cana?
  - How can picturing Jesus having fun with His followers improve how you interact with Him? Are you having enough fun as you journey with Christ?
- **Continuing the Conversation** – Is there a "doubting Thomas" in your life that you could have a faith conversation with?
- **Pray** – Thank the heavenly Father for permitting us to ask *anything* in Jesus name.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 6

"Indescribable Compassion"

Episode Passages – Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 12:36-48; Matthew 6:1-18

Study 6

Conversation Starter

Who were you and what were you like before you started following Jesus?

Episode Questions

1. What have you seen during your spiritual journey that keeps you walking with Jesus?
2. In the episode Peter tries to drive Matthew away because he doesn't like him. How do you relate to other Christians who are very different from you? Are you able to show Christians different from you that you are "for" them?
3. How open are you to new understandings of God? When was a time you thought one way about God and then came to a new or different understanding about Him?
4. In the episode, the children asked Matthew if he was lost and he said, "Yes." What do you think he meant? When was a time you felt lost?

Personal Next Steps

Renew and Refresh – This week read Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 12:36-48; Matthew 6:1-18

Self-Check

- Do you pull back from people with certain types of brokenness? How can you minister to them if you remove yourself from them?
- Do you feel improper if you talk to God in a casual or less formal way? Do you think being more formal causes God to respond better?

- **Continuing the Conversation** – If these episodes have inspired you to want to draw closer to God, can you think of someone who might feel the same way after watching them?
- **Pray** – Thank your heavenly Father for accepting and loving us even with all of our brokenness.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 7

"Invitations"

Episode Passages – John 3:1-21; Numbers 21:4-9

Study 7

Conversation Starter

Share a time when you received an invitation to something you didn't want to attend. Talk about a time you were excited to receive an invitation to something.

Episode Questions

1. When have you felt like Matthew when he said, "...when you realize no one in the world cares what happens to you, you think only about yourself..."?

2. When did you understand that you receive eternal life by believing that Jesus' death on the cross was full payment for all of your sin? Did you struggle believing it was that simple?

3. In the episode, Nicodemus struggled with leaving a life of status to follow Jesus. Matthew struggled with leaving a wealthy lifestyle. When have you felt this type of tug of war when you sense Christ's invitation to follow Him?

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read John 3:1-21; Numbers 21:4-9
- **Self-Check**
  - Jesus taught Nicodemus that people who believe in His sacrifice receive eternal life. In the episode, Jesus kept inviting people to follow Him. While many Christians enjoy knowing they have eternal life, the question remains, are they following Jesus - *here and now*. How could you follow Jesus more closely this week?
  - Do you struggle to believe that Jesus would invite *you* to help Him build His Kingdom? What can you do to reassure yourself of His belief in you?
- **Continuing the Conversation** – Who do you know that needs to hear the incredible news about belief in Jesus' sacrifice and receiving eternal life? Think about having a conversation with this person and ask for God's wisdom and timing.
- **Pray** – Thank your heavenly Father for the gift of eternal life. Thank Him also for Jesus' example for living life today. Ask Him to help you follow Christ more closely.

Season 1

The Chosen – Episode 8

"I am He"

Episode Passages – Mark 2:13-17; John 4:1-42

Study 8

Conversation Starter

Who is has been your favorite character in the episodes so far? How come?

Episode Questions

1. When you are faced with interacting with someone who you see as "really broken" like the woman at the well, is your instinct to engage with that person or to distance from that person? Do you have hope for their potential or stay skeptical for their life change?

2. Jesus gave the Pharisees a homework exercise: "Go learn what this means. God desires mercy more than sacrifice." (Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13) What does that mean to you and how you follow Jesus today?

3. In the episode, Jesus explains He asked Simon to make sacrifices in order to follow Jesus. What sacrifices have you made to follow Jesus? Are making sacrifices to follow Jesus as difficult in reality as they are in our minds?

4. On their journey through Samaria, the disciples were questioning Jesus every time something did not go as they expected. Do you wrestle in your faith to trust God and not doubt Him on everything in your life that doesn't go as expected? Explain.

Personal Next Steps

- **Renew and Refresh** – This week read Mark 2:13-17; John 4:1-42
- **Self-Check**
  - Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law freeing him to journey with Jesus. What would you like Jesus to "heal" in your life to free you to follow Him closer?
  - The Samaritan woman was elated to interact with the Messiah. What are ways you can stir excitement in your interactions with Jesus?
- **Continuing the Conversation** – Nicodemus was very close to embarking on his spiritual journey with Jesus and His followers but couldn't quite go. Who could you encourage to take their next step of faith?
- **Pray** – Thank Jesus for His "no strings attached" help and compassion on you as His follower.