

Small Group Guide

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The CHOSEN

Prequel to Season 1
The Shepherd

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Luke 2:1-18
- ♦ Micah 5:2-3
- ♦ Isaiah 9:2-7
- ♦ Isaiah 35:3-6

CHARACTERS:

The Shepherds, Mary and Joseph

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) What was the significance of the lame shepherd at the beginning of Jesus' story?
- 2) How did you feel as the prophecies foretelling the Messiah were being read?
- 3) What details in the story helped you in your understanding of the importance of the birth of Jesus and his later ministry on earth?
- 4) As you read through Luke 2:1-11, how could you imagine the lame shepherd entering into the story of the first Christmas?

QUOTE:

*"Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy."*
(Priest reading the prophecy from Isaiah 35)

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The CHOSEN

Episode 1:
I have Called You By Name

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Isaiah 43:1
- ♦ John 3:1
- ♦ 1 Corinthians 9:5

CHARACTERS:

Quintus, Gaius, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Simon, Andrew, James, and John

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Describe your impressions of Nicodemus and his helplessness before the demon-possessed Mary Magdalene (called “Lilith” in this episode)
- 2) What ways can you identify with Mary?
- 3) What parts of your past life has God redeemed, and which are you most grateful for?
- 4) Jesus said, “I have called you by name; you are mine.” How does that make you feel? How does that impact your life?
- 5) Like Mary, Jesus delivered us for a purpose... What is your purpose?

QUOTE:

“What if it’s more beautiful and strange than we could ever imagine?” (Nicodemus)

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The CHOSEN

Episode 2:
Shabbat

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ John 1:43-51
- ♦ Genesis 2:1-3
- ♦ Proverbs 31:10-31
- ♦ Luke 8:1-3

CHARACTERS:

Quintus, Gaius, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Simon, Andrew, James, and John

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Why do you think Nicodemus was so shocked about the news that Mary was now in her right mind?
- 2) How did you feel seeing Mary after she had been delivered from the 7 demons by Jesus?
- 3) How does this episode impact your view of Matthew as a tax collector?
- 4) Mary hosts her first Shabbat (Sabbath) meal, and Jesus invites Himself to it. How did it make you feel seeing her turn to God and be so welcoming to others?
- 5) How does Jesus invite Himself into your life and plans? What is your response?

QUOTE:

"I don't understand it myself. I was one way and now I'm completely different." (Mary)

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The CHOSEN

Episode 3:
Jesus Loves the Little Children

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Mark 10:14, Matthew 18:3-5
- ♦ Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- ♦ Matthew 6:9-15
- ♦ Luke 4:18-19

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Abigail, Joshua, other children

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Jesus was both playful and purposeful as He related to the children. What does that say about how we are to relate to others?
- 2) Jesus' responses to some of the children's questions seem incomplete. How does this relate to how He responds when we ask for things in prayer?
- 3) Jesus lovingly welcomed the children and taught them biblical truths. What does this say about His character?
- 4) How can we use the example of Jesus and the children to be more welcoming in our lives?

QUOTE:

"I hope my next students ask the same questions. I hope when the time comes they will tell others about me like you have." (Jesus)

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The CHOSEN

Episode 4:
The Rock On Which It Is Built

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Matthew 3:1-7
- ♦ Luke 5:1-11
- ♦ Matthew 4:18-22
- ♦ Matthew 13:47-52

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Matthew, James, John, Simon, Andrew, Zebedee, John the Baptist, Nicodemus

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) What more do we learn about Matthew's character? What do you think about the portrayal of him seeing Jesus at the sea?
- 2) Andrew longs for Simon to meet Jesus. How does this make you feel about introducing people to Jesus?
- 3) How did you feel watching Zebedee encourage his sons to go with Jesus?
- 4) Why do you think Nicodemus wanted to know if John had performed miracles?

QUOTE:

Eden: *"Where is your faith?"*

Simon: *"Faith isn't going to get me more fish."*

Eden: *"You have not pursued the Lord lately. You're off to try to fix it again... No more talking, Maybe God can get your attention now."*

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Episode 5:
The Wedding Gift

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Luke 2:41-52
- ♦ John 2:1-12
- ♦ 1 Kings 19:19-21
- ♦ Proverbs 30:4

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Mary (mother of Jesus), John the Baptist, Nicodemus, Simon, Thomas, etc.

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) In what ways do you think Jesus' parents struggled in raising him?
- 2) What did you think of Eden's response to Simon's calling?
- 3) We saw the servants draw out water before Jesus performed the miracle. In what ways may God call you to step out in faith before doing something miraculous?
- 4) Jesus reassures Thomas that while it is good to ask questions, we won't always understand the answer (or get the answer we want). How do you feel about that?

QUOTE:

Thomas: *"From the instructions you have provided I see no logical solution to the problem."*

Jesus: *"It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas."*

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The CHOSEN

Episode 6:
Indescribable Compassion

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Matthew 8:1-4
- ♦ Mark 2:1-12
- ♦ Luke 12:36-48

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Simon, Andrew, James, John, Tamar, The Leper, The Paralytic

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) In what ways did Jesus show compassion in this episode?
- 2) What is the difference between empathy, compassion, giving, and good will?
- 3) What are some modern-day equivalents of leprosy, and what stigma do they carry?
- 4) How can you connect with people in your life that are not part of the “in crowd”?

QUOTE:

*“If God did something that you felt contradicted the Torah would you tell him to get back in that Box you have carved for him or would you question your interpretation of the Torah?”
(Nicodemus)”*

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The CHOSEN

Episode 7:
Invitations

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ Numbers 21:4-9
- ♦ John 3:1-21
- ♦ Matthew 9:9-13

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) If you feel comfortable, please share how you have experienced being “born again”.
- 2) How do you recognize the effect of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- 3) Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? What did he have to sacrifice to follow Jesus?
- 4) Nicodemus broke down and wept with Jesus. How have you experienced that kind of love and compassion that Jesus showed Nicodemus?
- 5) What did you think of Simon’s reaction to Jesus calling Matthew to follow Him?

QUOTE:

“If I have told you of earthly things and you do not believe, how can I tell you heavenly things?” (Jesus to Nicodemus)

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The CHOSEN

Episode 8:
I Am He

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- ♦ John 4:1-42
- ♦ Luke 4:38-39
- ♦ Hosea 6:6
- ♦ Daniel 7:13-14

CHARACTERS:

Jesus, Nicodemus, Simon, Eden, Andrew, Mary Magdalene, Simon's mother-in-law, the Samaritan woman

THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stood out to you most about this episode? (What person/event captured your imagination? What quote impacted you?)
- 2) Which character stood out to you most? (Why were they interesting to you? How can you identify with them?)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Jesus mentions several times that he is not trying to make his followers' lives "easy" nor was he there to deliver them from an oppressive government. What is Jesus' purpose in calling disciples (including today's followers)?
- 2) Jesus revealed his purpose to few people originally. What is the significance of the social status of the people Jesus called?
- 3) What was so significant about Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman? How can we model that in our lives?

QUOTE:

Samaritan Woman: *"I am rejected by others."*
Jesus: *"I know. But not by the Messiah."*