

The CHOSEN



We are so excited for the choice you have made to invest in your relationship with God. We hope that this guide through not just scripture but a visual representation of the scripture called "The Chosen" will help you find a deeper relationship with God. As you go through this devotional we want you to find a rhythm that works for you.

We have paired this devotional along side the popular tv series, "The Chosen" to help you move through scripture. We encourage you to read through the scriptures that are depicted first. Once you have read them, enjoy watching the episode and let God use it and the scripture you read to speak to you. We have included some questions for after you have watched the episode and some space to journal your thoughts.

In "The Chosen", see Jesus through the eyes of the Sanhedrin [An assembly of either 23 or 71 elders appointed to sit as a tribunal in every city in the ancient Land of Israel.], the disciples, and children. "The Chosen" is set up as a multi season drama that's less like a straight re-telling of Biblical events and more like a mixture of "This is Us" and "The Bible" series. "The Chosen" is an opportunity for a fresh look at the Gospels for those who have been reading the stories for years and those that are new to the Bible all together.

If you are worried that "The Chosen" might take a few too many liberties with the story, think about it like this. They tell you that it is fictionalized, and they do an amazing job to make it true to the heart of the Gospel. They encourage their audience to read along in the Bible yourself and think about how it might have looked.

We encourage you to use this as a guide in your journey of deepening your walk with God. We are always here to answer any questions or help you on your journey. If you need anything reach out to us at info@destinychurch.de

Where to watch "The Chosen" series "The Chosen" Website (FREE)

www.watch.thechosen.tv

Amazon Prime Video (Season 1 and 2 currently)

www.amazon.de

Scan the QR code to get direct links to watch "The Chosen" online.



EPISODE 1

“I Have Called You By Name”

Read prior to watching episode 1:

- Isaiah 43:1-7 (Israel's Only Savior)
- Luke 8:1-3 (The Parable of the Sower)
- John 20:11-16 (Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene)

“Adonai” is translated “Lord”. It is the word that the Jews used to refer to God, in place of His revealed name, “Yahweh”. In order to “not take the name of the Lord in vain”, the Jews developed the practice of never actually speaking that name, but instead calling Him “Adonai”. You will notice in many versions of the Bible that LORD is in all caps in the Old Testament – this is to indicate to us that the actual word there is “Yahweh”.

NOTE: The first three episodes have much less biblical material than episodes 4-8. They are really setting the stage for all that is to come in these later episodes. Keep that in mind as you watch episodes 1, 2, & 3. The first three are good... but some really awesome stuff comes later. So get ready and have fun!

Questions for thought:

1. How did Jesus appear to you, and was He what you thought He would be like?
2. Were there any aspects of the character of Jesus that didn't match up with how you thought about Him before watching?
3. What did you think of how Matthew the tax collector and Simon Peter were portrayed?
4. Redeemed, called by name, how can we remind ourselves of this truth and live it out practically?

EPISODE 2

“Shabbat”

Read prior to watching episode 2:

- Exodus 20:8-11 (The Sabbath in The Ten Commandments) • Exodus 31:12-18 (The Sabbath)
- Proverbs 31:10-31 (The Wife of Noble Character)
- Luke 14:1-14 (Jesus at a Pharisee's House)
- John 1:43-50 (Jesus Calls Phillip and Nathanael) • John 9:1-12 (Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind)

We meet two disciples of Jesus in this episode, James and Thaddeus, at the Shabbat dinner at Mary's home. These are two disciples about whom almost nothing is known – this James is not “James, the brother of John” (we'll meet him later). This James is presumably “James, the son of Alphaeus”, although that is not clear in the episode. Thaddeus is mentioned in Mark 3 and Matthew 10, but he's replaced by “Judas, the son of James” in Luke's list of disciples – these are likely the same guy, called by a different name.

Questions for thought:

1. We rest and honor family, our people and God on the Sabbath, we refresh our souls. Rest is a restorative gift. How are you utilizing it? How could you be utilizing it more?
2. Which Sabbath was Jesus a part of? Which Sabbath would you have been at?
3. Simon Peter and Andrew were in a tough position, what do you think about how they handled it?
4. When a miracle happens, are you one to question every detail, or just enjoy and celebrate it?

EPISODE 3

“Jesus Loves The Little Children”

Read prior to watching episode 3:

- Luke 18:15-17 (The Little Children and Jesus)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (Love the Lord Your God)
- Psalm 133:1-3 (A song of ascents. Of David.)
- Mark 8:27-30 (Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah)
- Luke 4:14-29 (Jesus Rejected at Nazareth)
- Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)

As you watch this episode, it is important to note, there is no evidence that Jesus ever had a little camp outside Capernaum, where no one else saw him except some children, who snuck out to Him without their parents' knowledge, and whom He taught without their permission. In fact, as we will see later, Jesus was likely well-known by at least some in Capernaum for many years prior to His public ministry. Be that as it may, this episode is very endearing and shows a very tender side of Jesus.

Questions for thought:

1. There are many endearing things in this episode. Jesus is portrayed as clearly loving these children, treating them with dignity, and having plenty of time for them. Also we see Abigail, finding first one friend (Joshua the Brave) and then multiple friends and bringing them to Jesus. What friend or family member would you bring to meet Jesus?
2. Is it strange for you to think of Jesus as personable?
3. What does it say to you that Jesus so intentionally made time for children? What about the amount of time that He spent with them?
4. “Adults need the faith of children.” How can we intentionally make space for this in our faith and life?

EPISODE 4

“The Rock On Which It Is Built”

Read prior to watching episode 4:

- Genesis 15:1-5 (The Lord’s Covenant With Abram)
- Luke 3:1-20 (John the Baptist Prepares the Way)
- Matthew 13:47-52 (The Parable of the Net)

During this hour we see Jesus teach about what it means to be fishers of men - and trust that God will take care of us. I personally loved this episode for multiple reasons. It showed a woman being the spiritual leader of her household. “Where is your faith?” Simon’s wife asked him. He did not even realize how bitter and jaded he had become. This happens so easily and is such a relevant message for today. It also showed Jesus doing a miracle and relaxing on the beach.

Questions for thought:

1. Jesus provided for Simon’s physical need - but the miracle was more than that. He changed Simon’s mindset, called him to something more! Not to riches, but to spreading the good news for the sake of others souls. What soul work have we been called to?

2. 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 evangelical Christian culture?

3. Sometimes we forget how intense the teachings of Jesus were. His parables and teachings were not sanitized, feel-good messages. What do you think the impact of this miracle would have meant in the context of Jesus’ time?

EPISODE 5

“The Wedding Gift”

Read prior to watching episode 5:

- John 2:1-11 (Jesus Changes Water Into Wine)
- Luke 2:41-52 (The Boy Jesus at the Temple)

In this episode, we see a flashback of Jesus as a child, and his mother calling him into his time of ministry at a family wedding. The miracle of turning water into wine. Again, I enjoyed seeing Jesus in a different context than my mind would have imagined him. It's important to remember that “The Chosen” is a movie adaptation of the Gospels. It is not meant to replace the reading of God's Word, and there are many inconsistencies (most of them minor) with how it presents the biblical stories. The point of watching is not to learn what “actually happened”. The point of watching is to enjoy, to make the stories come alive, and to spark in your heart a desire to dig into the Scriptures. But of course the Bible is always our final authority about what really happened!

Questions for thought:

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. This passage is often viewed as Jesus correcting / directing his mother, but that's not the path the show runners took. What do you think that might have looked like?
3. Jesus reassures Thomas that while it's good to ask questions, that we won't always understand the answers, or even get answers. How do you handle this?

EPISODE 6

“Indescribable Compassion”

Read prior to watching episode 6:

- Matthew 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins)
- Luke 13:1-5 (Repent or Perish)
- Matthew 6:2-8 (Giving to the Needy)
- Luke 18:9-14 (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector) • Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man)

In this episode, Jesus heals and urges people to remember to be vigilant with their faith, remembering that no one person is greater than any other. We are all God’s beloved creation. While the following of Jesus is growing, His enemies are also growing in number. This episode was awe-inspiring, a beautiful reminder.

Questions for thought:

1. Which part of this episode was the most different from how you imagined it being after reading the passage in Scripture?
2. Who would you equate with a tax collector today? A Roman soldier? A Jewish citizen?
3. “We can do both”, walking the road that has been laid out for us and also keeping our eyes open. What did you think of Nicodemus’ speech? It’s easy to cling to our God shaped boxes.
4. There was a LOT of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy, and goodwill?

EPISODE 7

“Invitations”

Read prior to watching episode 7:

- Numbers 21:4-9 (The Bronze Snake)
- Psalm 2:12

Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him. He talks to Nicodemus. And we also see an act of faith from Moses. Notice how they portrayed the exchange between Nicodemus and Jesus.

Questions for thought:

1. Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? Especially in comparison to how timid Nicodemus was.
2. If you feel like sharing - what is your story of being born again?
3. It can be shocking to read stories like the bronze snake. God demands obedience and faith. What daily habits can we develop and strengthen to become as quick to obedience as Matthew was?

EPISODE 8

“I Am He”

Read prior to watching episode 8:

- Genesis 32:22-32 (Jacob Wrestles With God)
- Genesis 33:18-20 (Jacob Wrestles With God)
- Daniel 7:13-15 (The Interpretation of the Dream)
- Matthew 9:9-13 (The Calling of Matthew)
- Matthew 19:16-26 (The Rich and the Kingdom of God)

This episode is a full hour. We see Jesus gather the disciples to begin His season of earthly ministry. As the episode continues, He talks to the woman at the well.

Questions for thought:

1. Obedience at the risk of derision and opposition from others, even from our usual way of life seems impossible. Discuss the different ways people reacted to Jesus' directions, the directions of family, and from peers.
2. Jesus mentions several times that he's not trying to bring people 'easy', nor is he here to deliver them from their oppressive government. What is Jesus' purpose in coming and in bringing His disciples to follow him?
3. Do some self reflection, has there ever been a time in your life where you were as excited about Jesus as the woman at the well was? How can we bring back some of that excitement?
4. How does the portrayal of Photina's time with Jesus in the movie help you understand what is recorded by John in his gospel? What do you learn from Jesus' interaction with her that is helpful for your life?

