

# Group Guide

*For listening, discussion & reflection*

SEASON 3 / EPISODE 1



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 1

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Matthew 5:21-24
- Matthew 5:38-40
- Matthew 6:25-33
- Matthew 5:43-45
- Matthew 7:12
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Numbers 6:24-27

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, James & John, Andrew & Peter, Thomas, Rema, John the Baptist, Matthew and parents, Joanna, Joseph and Jairus

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode opens with a Roman soldier arresting a man. We find out it is Matthew's dad... Sets the stage of a sad showdown. Matthew is disowned. Why? (*Hold off on sharing how the episode ended!*) Matthew expresses his skepticism over what has God done for "our people in 100 years? In 50 years?" When have you ever felt overlooked by God? How does it impact your relationships?
3. We see and hear Jesus teaching the Sermon on the Mount. What parts stood out to you? Could you tell that the disciples were moved by Jesus' words? What proved they were moved?

## EPIISODE 1

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. The Judas-Jesus interaction/job interview - your thoughts? How did this play out for Judas later as he left his home?
5. Joanna gives a valuable piece of fabric to Jesus' ministry. She is deeply moved by the sermon as well. Later she takes Andrew to see John the Baptist. What did John mean when he told Andrew, "In all that he said to those 1000s of people, there was something just for you. There always is." How have you experienced that when reading the words of Jesus?
6. Joseph the Pharisee is recording what's happening in Capernaum. Who is Jairus and what does he recommend that Joseph do with what he's writing? Why? Why didn't Joseph seal his scroll before he gave it to Jairus for "the cellar?"
6. Andrew and Matthew each acted on what they heard from Jesus' sermon. What were the results of each? Why is forgiveness so powerful?
7. What do you need to DO to respond to Jesus' words?

## QUOTES

**"If you want to help me, listen to him. Go home and do what he says. That's what I want."** (John the Baptist)

**"I require... that you seek to be like me. Are you ready to do hard things?"** - (Jesus to Judas)

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# Group Guide

*For listening, discussion & reflection*

SEASON 3 / EPISODE 2



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 2

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 5:23-24
- ▶ Luke 9:1-6
- ▶ Matthew 10:5-14
- ▶ Matthew 10:28
- ▶ John 13:29
- ▶ Psalm 139:14
- ▶ Job 1:21
- ▶ Psalm 3

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus and disciples, Rema, Mary Magdalene & Tamar, Quintus, Atticus & Gaius, Matthew's parents

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This episode featured Jesus sending His disciples out two by two. They had various reactions. What do you remember? How do you see yourself in some of their responses?
3. How can we retain the mission of Jesus to His disciples to preach and share His good news?
4. Simon Peter and Eden begin making plans for a family. Then the disciples are sent out, and they must wait. What does this say about how Jesus can interrupt our hopes and plans? How should we respond?

## EPISODE 2

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Jesus matched Matthew and Simon the Zealot up. Why was that significant? How can we grow in relationships with those we may struggle with?
6. Jesus' conversation with Little James was profound. What was Jesus' reason for not healing him? What can we learn about moments in our lives when Jesus doesn't do what we want Him to?
7. Simon the Zealot and Atticus have a rooftop conversation. Simon is concerned about his past actions may impact his future ministry. How often does your past impact your feeling worthy for being used by God?
8. Peter demonstrates leadership as he gathered the disciples for prayer before they leave on their journeys. They prayed Psalm 3 from memory. What is the value of having scripture memorized during moments of important life decisions?

### QUOTES

**"I want you to learn what it means to fully rely on your Father in heaven and for those around you. This is what it means to follow.. and to lead."** (Jesus)

**"You will do and say great things because of your pasts."** - (Jesus to Matthew & Simon the Zealot)

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# Group Guide

*For listening, discussion & reflection*

SEASON 3 / EPISODE 3



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 3

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Isaiah 61:1-2
- 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Luke 4:16-30
- 2 Kings 5:1-154
- Deuteronomy 18:20

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Rabbi Benjamin, Aaron, Raphim, Lazarus, Mary & Martha

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This episode begins (and has flashbacks) with Jesus as a boy. Why is it helpful to remember that Jesus was raised by Mary and Joseph? What was meaningful to you about the portrayal of their relationships?
3. The episode documents Jesus' return to Narazeth as described in Luke 4:16-30. What did you think of the scenes of the "hometown boy" being famous?
4. What was significant about Jesus reading Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue? Jesus found and read that passage. What did Jesus claim after reading it? Why was what Jesus claimed so impossible for them to accept?



## EPISODE 3

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Rabbi Benjamin accused Jesus of being a false prophet and invoked Deuteronomy 18:20. How accurately was this portrayed from Luke 4? What about this scene of Jesus being condemned to death impacted you?
6. How did you feel seeing the anger in Jesus' friends and the people of Nazareth's faces? Have you ever gotten angry with Jesus? What is the root of our anger with Him?
7. Jesus is shown going to a sealed tomb, which we learn is Joseph's. What is profound about that moment? (Remember that it is not recorded in scripture, but that the creativity displayed can teach us much). Think about:
  - Jesus and His own tomb.
  - Jesus will later instruct people to roll away the stone from Lazarus' tomb. (John 11:39)
8. What do you think the bridle will be used for?
9. Jesus told Mary and Lazarus at the tomb, "There's no turning back now. Not after today." Are you willing to follow Jesus with that kind of resolve?

### QUOTES

**"YOU'RE here for salvation?!"** (Rabbi Benjamin)

**"This isn't going to happen. Not today."** - (Jesus)

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# Group Guide

*For listening, discussion & reflection*

SEASON 3 / EPISODE 4



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 4

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 6:9-13
- ▶ Luke 8:40-56
- ▶ Leviticus 13:45-46
- ▶ Luke 8:2-3
- ▶ Leviticus 15:7-12
- ▶ Ephesians 4:15

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Disciples, Eden & Simon, Tamar & Mary Magdalene, Gaius, Zebedee, Veronica, Jairus and family

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The disciples return from their mission. How did this portrayal of their surprise, delight and confusion strike you? Why was James concerned about "more fuss and scrutiny?"
3. Andrew said he felt "powerful." He was told that feeling was "dangerous if that is the feeling we hold onto." How can our *feelings* in ministry distract or disrupt us?
4. There is unresolved tension between Simon and Eden. How did this make you feel uneasy about during the episode? How does tension in Christian relationships spill over and impact others?

## EPISODE 4

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Joseph of Arimathea (Rabbi Joseph; seek Mark 15:43) and Jairus admit their belief in Jesus to one another. Why was it dangerous for them? What did the Sanhedrin edict later declare? Why was it difficult for these Jewish religious leaders to acknowledge Jesus?
6. Eden meets Veronica, and we learn that she has had a bleeding disease for 12 years. It's setting the stage for her encounter with Jesus. How did feel seeing her back story portrayed? What did you learn?
7. Capernaum's main cistern has been damaged and must be fixed. When something we depend on "breaks," we feel powerless. What has left you feeling powerless or at your wit's end lately?
8. Ministry costs money. We see the need for financing. The women discuss how to help. (Luke 8:2-3) Why do our finances cause such stress? How can we learn to depend upon God's gracious provision? What must be sacrificed at times for ministry?
9. Some hurtful things are said in multiple conversations. How can we learn to "speak the truth *in love*?"

### QUOTES

**"If people knew something that would help, I wouldn't want them to withhold it."**

(Veronica to Eden about water)

**"Five words: You are right. I'm sorry."** (Gaius to Peter)

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# Group Guide

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SEASON 3 / EPISODE 5



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 5

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Matthew 9:14-26
- Matthew 6:16
- Jeremiah 2:13

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Eden, Simon, Gaius, Veronica, Joseph, Jairus and family

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. What is the reason that Zebedee sold his boat? Why did he feel free to do so? What did he want to use the olive grove to do? Is it hard or easy for you to give or release something in order to bless the work of Jesus? Why?
3. Simon and Gaius are working to fix the water supply. They talk about religion. What does Jeremiah 2:14 mean, and how might it apply to what we do in our own lives?
4. Jesus is asked about fasting. He said, "When you fasted before, what did you pray for?" They responded, "Your arrival." Jesus said, "Exactly." What did He mean? Did it help your understanding to see the wineskin verse demonstrated?

## EPISODE 5

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Jairus comes to get Jesus. On the way to heal his daughter, Jesus is jostled by the crowd, and Veronica is healed. What did Jesus say healed her? Why is faith so deeply important to Jesus? How did you feel when Jesus thanked her (and later Jairus) for their faith. Can you imagine Jesus looking into your eyes and thanking *you* for trusting in Him? (Read Hebrews 11:6)
6. Why did Jesus instruct Jairus and his family, and His three disciples to not tell anyone about the miracle?
7. What holds you back today from completely trusting in and placing your faith in Jesus? What might you need to do so?
8. The tension between Simon and Eden continues. What do you now suspect is the reason? As the episode ends, Eden is watching the disciples play in the water. How does it make you feel when you see others celebrating when you yourself cannot?

### QUOTES

**"I have business to attend to. Someone else has faith like yours."** (Jesus to Veronica)

**"Trust me and trust Him."** (Jairus to his wife)

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# Group Guide

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SEASON 3 / EPISODE 6



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 6

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 27:17-19
- ▶ Matthew 15:31
- ▶ John 1:29
- ▶ Luke 7:18-35
- ▶ Matthew 9:23-24

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Gaius, Atticus, Pilate & wife, Mary Magdalene & Tamar, Pharisee, Simon the Zealot & Zealots, Barnaby & Shula, Disciples, Peter & Eden

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode opens with Pilate's wife having a dream about Jesus in Gethsemane. Were you aware that she tried to dissuade Pilate from judging Jesus? What did you think of the portrayal of Pilate and the pressure upon him to keep the peace?
3. Why were the disciples sharpening knives? What were they worried about? Can you think of ways that you are sometimes misguided in your effort to "protect" those you love?
4. Tamar and Mary share a powerful moment. What did you learn about each woman and her past? Why is it so difficult to heal from past trauma or shame? How does faith in Jesus heal and give hope?

## EPISODE 6

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. Quintus orders Gaius to get rid of the tent city. Why was he concerned about it? Why do you think this episode portrayed Gaius the way it did? Are you sometimes surprised at people who express interest in Jesus, and why?
6. Andrew and Phillip are told that they "ruined everything" with their preaching back in the Decapolis. How so? How can our clear communication about Jesus cause unrest and conflict in some and hope and wonder in others?
7. The disciples of John the Baptist come and question Jesus. Why was John seemingly disappointed? What was the message of Jesus to take back to him? What can we learn from this message when we are disappointed with Jesus' apparent neglect of our needs even as He meets the needs of others?
8. Simon the Zealot avoids being murdered... by praying and promising the zealots that he has found the Messiah. How are they impacted by seeing Jesus at work and hearing Him? How does Jesus transform enemies into allies?
9. What did you think of the way Jesus handled the Pharisee accusing Him of blasphemy?
10. Why was the quiet, private miracles of Shula and Barnaby's healing so moving and significant? What about their attitude do you want to emulate in your own faith walk?
11. Eden finally tells Peter about her miscarriage, and the episode ends with Peter distraught, saying, "Why, why?" What is one thought you have about how to communicate and minister to others during deeply grievous moments?

### QUOTES

**"The miracles are so much better when the Pharisees are around."** (Peter)

**"I am sorry for the shame you feel. It must be very painful. Jesus forgave you. But you choose to hold onto it.."** (Tamar to Mary)

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# Group Guide

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SEASON 3 / EPISODE 7



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 7

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Luke 14.15-24
- Matthew 1:1-17
- Isaiah 43:19
- Mark 7:31-37
- Isaiah 42:1-4

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Gaius, Atticus, Mary Magdalene, Tamar, Pharisee, Disciples, Leander, Deaf man, Decapolis crowd

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. The episode opens celebration as the Jews celebrate Purim (Esther 3:1-6). In such festivity, we see Simon (Peter) yelling and breaking a pot. The episode concludes with Peter breaking down and telling John about Eden losing the baby. **Stop for a moment and pray as a group, as this episode is powerful and will need your heart to be soft to receive hope in Jesus.**
3. Why is Simon's situation so painful? How is it also personal to you? When have you been disappointed by Jesus?
4. How does John (who had been frustrated to have to wait on Simon) pivot and begin to minister to Simon? How can we also learn to die to ourselves and see others' need?



## EPISODE 7

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. The Decapolis is in “full-scale meltdown” because Andrew and Philip had preached there. What parable did they tell? Why did it turn to region upside down and cause riots?
6. How can we learn to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and also be more shrewd in our communication of the gospel to others? What happens when we’re not wise in our communication?
7. We see a flashback that explains why Matthew has prayer tassels hidden in a box. What is the storyline here, and what does it mean when he ties them to his garment? What visible display of your faith in God might you need to make? What practical thing reminds yourself of your faith in Jesus?
8. Simon discovers that Gaius has a sick servant boy - who is really his son by a slave woman. How does that explain his interest in Jesus? How can we be sensitive to people’s interest in Jesus when they’re experiencing trials or hardships?
9. Mary Magdalene told Matthew, “Sometimes God sends a dove.” What did she mean? Has God ever sent you a “dove?” How did you realize that?
10. Close your group by thinking about someone you know that is disappointed with Jesus. (It could be you!) How can a hard heart prevent healing? Pray for others/ one another to have soft hearts and to allow Jesus to speak and heal disappointment.

## QUOTES

**“Life was easier when I fished.”** (Simon)

**“John, I love you, but that’s not the approach I take to people in pain.”** (Jesus; see also *John 21:7, 20*)

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# Group Guide

*For listening, discussion & reflection*

SEASON 3 / EPISODE 8



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## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 8

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- Psalm 77
- Luke 17:5-6, Matthew 17:20
- Jeremiah 6:16, Isaiah 43:18-1
- Matt 13:1-9
- Luke 10:21-22
- Matt 11:28-30
- Matt 21:28-32
- Matt 13:44-46
- Luke 9:12-17
- Luke 13:18-19
- Matthew 14:22-34
- Psalm 13:2

#### CHARACTERS

Jesus, Disciples, Eden, Zebedee & Salome, Mary Magdalene, Rabbi Shmuel, Rabbi Joseph, Leander, Decapolis crowd, Lame man, King David & Bathsheba, Asaph

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. This episode is significant for the amount of scripture. Take some time and read the scriptures out loud in your group to focus you on the scriptural content.
3. Psalm 77 has a central role in this episode, beginning and ending it with King David. How does this Psalm apply to the episode overall, and specifically how is it used in Simon and Eden's situation?
4. What role does scripture have in your life - in re-centering you, providing correction, hope, encouragement, comfort, etc. Name one recent situation where scripture played a significant role in your life.

## EPISODE 8

### QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. In this episode, Jesus does damage control in the Decapolis from Andrew and Philip's mission there. What was significant about how Jesus dealt with conflict? What did you notice about how He was portrayed as assuming authority as moderator?
6. The Pharisees traveled to the Decapolis to "catch" Jesus teaching heresy. They seem more concerned about prayer tassels and Jews associating with Gentiles than understanding who Jesus really was. How can we miss the big picture of what God is doing around us when we focus on control?
7. Zebedee, Salome, and Mary Magdalene minister to Eden. What is at the root of her and Simon's struggles? How does disappointment with God cloud your own perspective at times?
8. Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5000 is shown. What did the disciples learn? What lessons did you learn from watching it?
9. Rabbi Joseph (of Arimathea) ministers to Eden through scripture (Psalm 77). Why does using scripture provide substance in hard times?
10. Jesus invites Peter to walk on water. How did this moment impact you? How can Jesus' power amidst our lack of faith (and in storms) restore your own soul?
11. What else spoke to you during this episode?

## QUOTES

**"How is this the second most amazing things I've seen today?"** (Phillip, as Jesus walked on water)

**"I'm afraid that He will choose *them*."**

(Simon, when asked by Andrew what he is afraid of before the feeding)

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