

The Chosen

Introduction

The Chosen, the television series about the life of Jesus, is a “character-based Bible study” which seeks to connect participants more deeply to Jesus by seeing Him through the eyes of the people who actually met Him. They were chosen by Jesus and their decision to follow Jesus impacted and changed their lives. Each of us are also chosen and it can do the same for us.

The linkage between the Old Testament and the New Testament follows the age- old pattern of how God’s people were chosen from the beginning in the Garden of Eden. God created Adam and Eve to be united with Him in a relationship of love. They were united with Him through the gift of His grace – God’s divine life within their soul. Adam and Eve deviated from His plan by disobedience and through the loss of grace, separated themselves from Him. They needed to repent and be rescued to receive God’s forgiveness. This cycle of sin – of rejecting God and His love – repeats itself over and over again in the Old Testament stories and is confirmed and fulfilled in the New Testament as Jesus is the “Way” by which God’s chosen ones are rescued and redeemed.

By beginning each episode of the series with a flashback scene from the Old Testament (or a period before Christ’s birth) and then proceeding to the New Testament depiction of Jesus’s life with the people of His time, we can begin to understand the continuity of God’s plan for His chosen people throughout the ages...and how it remains real in our lives today.

Compiled from “*The Chosen: An Interactive Bible Study, Season 1*”

Season 1: Episode 1, Part 1 (26 minutes)

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you.”

1) Read the following Scripture passage aloud: Isaiah 43:1

(Each student needs their own Bible to read and reflect on the Scripture passage.)

The word redeem means to free or buy back or to ransom. Jesus redeemed us from Satan, sin and death, not by giving money, but by spending what was of the highest value. He gave Himself for each one of us in His Passion and Death on the Cross.

- 2) Allow the students to re-read the same passage again, this time silently.
Reading the passage two times allows us to be clear on all the details so that we become more familiar with what is happening.
- 3) What “stood out” for you in the passage? Allow the students a minute to think about this. Ask 2 or 3 students to share their response aloud.
- 4) Watch Episode 1, Part 1
A brief overview:
Mary Magdalene is taught as a child to repeat: “Fear not, I have called you by name.”
Mary Magdalene’s life now: the woman of seven demons
Simon and Andrew’s debts
Matthew, the tax collector
- 5) What “stood out” for you in the Episode? If needed, some or all the list from the brief overview above could be named for students to help think about what was most impactful for them.
- 6) Go back and re-read the Scripture passage again.
After the process of reading the Scripture passage, writing down what “stood out” for you, and watching the Episode, what now stands out the most for you?
- 7) Further discussion questions:
 - What do you fear the most?
 - How would repeating these words often help you to overcome fear:
“But now, thus says the Lord, I who created you...and formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1b).
 - In certain circumstances, you may not have time to repeat the words of Isaiah. What simple way can you turn to Jesus to help you resist fear?
 - Jesus called Mary by her real name.
“Satan knows our name but calls us by our sin. Jesus knows our sin but calls us by our name.” (Father John Riccardo) How are these two ways of calling a person very different?

8) Close the session in a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus.

“Thank God for His intimate involvement in the lives of the people we read about in Scripture, and that He desires to be intimately involved in your life as well. **Thank** Him for choosing to communicate with you through the Bible. **Thank** Him for sending His Son, Jesus. **Ask** for His help both to understand His Word and to know and love Jesus more.” *(The Chosen, Session 1)*