

Cypress Creek Church



We are so excited you joined us in our Fall Message Series Small Groups **"The Chosen"**.

It is an amazing, Biblically centered, quality video series that tracks the life of Jesus through the Gospels. It is a free video resource and we have provided a Discussion Guide with the Biblical text to dig into Jesus' life and learn more about what He did while He was here on earth. There are eight (8) episodes in The Chosen series, and our plan is for you to watch it as a group or family then be ready to discuss it together.

We believe this will be a significant moment for our church and community, and we want to encourage you to begin inviting friends, co-workers and others into your group during this time! And pray with us! What might God do when we focus completely on the simple story of Jesus.

The Chosen Small Groups begin September 13, 2020

Listed below are the 8 episodes. You can combine episodes and discussions to have 6 weeks of small groups in your home. It is up to you!

Season 1 Episodes of The Chosen

Episode 1 – I Have Called You By Name (54 minute video)

Episode 2 – Shabbat (38 minute video)

Episode 3 – Jesus Loves The Little Children (30 minute video)

Episode 4 – The Rock On Which It Is Built (48 minute video)

Episode 5 – The Wedding Gift (54 minute video)

Episode 6 – Indescribable Compassion (51 minute video)

Episode 7 – Invitations (37 minute video)

Episode 8 – I Am He (59 minute video)

Introduction

God chooses imperfect people who are willing to have an encounter with Jesus. If you are imperfect, and are willing to have an encounter with Jesus, you too will be chosen.

The Chosen is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all Biblical and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the Gospels. The original names, locations and phrases have been transliterated into English for anything spoken.

How to Watch "The Chosen" Look for file or link on Small Group The Chosen Page

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Discussion Guide

Episode 1 – I Have Called You By Name

- **Welcome** to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!
- **Open** your Small Group or Family with Prayer
- **Watch Episode 1** (video - 54 minutes)
- **Characters:** Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Andrew
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)
Isaiah 43:1-2 But now, this is what the Lord says..."Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting?
 2. Nicodemus was "the teacher of teachers" of Israel. What was his relationship with other Jews? With the Romans?
 3. What did you think about how enticing wealth was for Matthew and yet how hated he was for his willingness to work for Rome and extort his fellow Jews? How did the Romans treat Matthew?
 4. What did you think of Simon Peter's character in this episode?
 5. Mary Magdalene remembered the Bible verse her Dad taught her (Isaiah 43:1) and then Jesus said it to her again. What parts of your "before" has God redeemed, and which are you most grateful for?
 6. How does "I have called you by name, you are mine" impact you today?
 7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. If this episode moved your heart, think of someone you can invite to your group or share with someone about "The Chosen" and how they need to watch it.
 2. This is a good time to check with each other about their relationship with God.
 3. Commit to reading your Bible this week and praying.
 4. Come on Sunday at 9:30a & 11:15a to Cypress Creek Church for the Message Series "The Chosen".
 5. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 2 – Shabbat

- **Welcome to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!**
- **Open your Small Group or Family with Prayer**
- **Watch Episode 2** (video - 38 minutes)
- **Characters:** Quintus, Gaius, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter & Andrew, James & John
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)
Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Shabbat - Shabbos, or the Sabbath, is Judaism's day of rest and seventh day of the week. On this day, religious Jews, Samaritans, and certain Christians remember the biblical story describing the creation of the heavens and the earth in six days and look forward to a future Messianic Age. The fourth commandment tells us, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). Do we practice the Shabbat or Sabbath one day a week in our personal life?
 2. What was going through Nicodemus' mind regarding Mary's healing?
 3. Matthew said that his father said he has no son. How did this impact your view of him?
 4. Simon (Peter) said to his wife, Eden, "I've got this." When was time in your life that you thought you could control your circumstances only to see them spin out of your control?
 5. Mary hosts her first Shabbat meal (Sabbath). How did that impact you? Seeing her turn to God and be so welcoming to others?
 6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Who is the last person you invited into your life/home for the purpose of telling them about what God has done in your life? Think about who you can get with or invite to your group.
 2. Have a plan to make one day a week a Sabbath for you.
 3. Take the Next Steps spiritually by participating in the Growth Track at Cypress Creek:
<https://cypresscreek.church/growth-track>
 4. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children

- **Welcome** to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!
- **Open** your Small Group or Family with Prayer
- **Watch Episode 3** (video – 30 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus and the Children
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)

Mark 10:14 When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.”

Matthew 18:3-5 Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.”
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. How did Jesus’ treatment of the children impact you?
 2. In this episode, Jesus is seen praying routinely (meal times, bed time) and passionately. What is your prayer life like?
 3. Why do you think Jesus welcomed these children? What does this say about how much He desires to welcome **you**?
 4. What would it take for you to trust Jesus afresh – with the absolute faith of a child?
 5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Jesus desires to spend time with you. Will you read your Bible this week and pray?
 2. Come on Sunday to Cypress Creek Church for the Message Series: “The Chosen”.
 3. Take the Next Steps spiritually by participating in the Growth Track at Cypress Creek:
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 4. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 4 – The Rock On Which It Is Built

- **Welcome** to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!
- **Open** your Small Group or Family with Prayer
- **Watch** Episode 4 (video - 48 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus, Matthew, James & John, Andrew & Peter, Nicodemus, John the Baptist, Joseph of Arimathea, Zebedee, Eden
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)

Matthew 3:1-3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

Matthew 13:47-52 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you understand all these things?" "Yes," they said, "we do." Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What problem does Peter's wife, Eden, see with her husband?
 2. What was the role of John the Baptist? How is this our role as the church?
 3. The night on the Sea of Galilee amplified the encounter with Jesus in the morning. Have you ever experienced Jesus coming to you after a "dark night" in your life? Would you share?
 4. Nicodemus questioned about Jesus performing Miracles. What miracles did you see happen in this episode?
 5. What more do you learn about Matthew's character? What do you think about the portrayal of him seeing Jesus at the lake?
 6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Jesus said to Peter, "Follow Me" and Peter said "I will". Will you follow Jesus? Then, Jesus said, He will make us "Fishers of Men" and we are to gather as many as possible. Are you willing to be "Fishers of Men"?
 2. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 5 – The Wedding Gift

- **Welcome to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!**
- **Open your Small Group or Family with Prayer**
- **Watch Episode 5** (video - 54 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Nicodemus, Simon, Thomas
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)

John 2:1-12 (The Wedding at Cana)

Luke 3:3-6 Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him! The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.'"

- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. How do you think Jesus' parents struggled in raising Him?
 2. Nicodemus came to John the Baptist asking many questions wanting to "know his name". John's response was "All your life you have been asleep?" What did John the Baptist mean? John referred to the Bible verse listed above (Luke 3:3-6)
 3. What did you think of Eden's response to Peter's calling?
 4. Just as the servants had to draw the water before they saw the miracle, what are ways you can step out in faith because of God's promises?
 5. Jesus asked Thomas to Follow Him. This is the same "Doubting Thomas" in John 20 after Jesus had died. What did you think of his character?
 6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. As Jesus performed miracles of turning water into wine and healing Mary Magdalene, what miracle are you believing for in your life?
 2. Pray and Read your Bible this week.
 3. Take the Next Steps spiritually by participating in the Growth Track at Cypress Creek:
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 4. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 6 – Indescribable Compassion

- **Welcome to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!**
- **Open your Small Group or Family with Prayer**
- **Watch Episode 6** (video - 51 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Simon, Andrew, Tamar, The Leper, James, John, The Paralytic
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)

Mark 1:41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched the Leper, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." (The Leper)

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus heals the Paralytic)
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which characters were most moving?
 2. The Bible says in Matthew 4:23 that Jesus healed every kind of disease and illness. This applies to us today. What healing are you believing Jesus for? Even Jesus said to Tamar "Your Faith is Beautiful".
 3. Name the miracles that have happened so far in "The Chosen".
 4. How can you connect with people in your life who aren't part of the "in" crowd, as Jesus did?
 5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Jesus shared in this episode the parable "Be Ready for the Lord's Coming" - Luke 12:36-48. The Bible says in verse 40, "You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." Question: Will you be ready when Jesus Returns? Will you stay committed to God your whole life?
 2. Pray and Read your Bible this week.
 3. Take the Next Steps spiritually by participating in the Growth Track at Cypress Creek:
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 4. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 7 – Invitations

- **Welcome to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!**
- **Open your Small Group or Family with Prayer**
- **Watch Episode 7** (video - 37 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus, Nicodemus, John, Matthew, Mary Magdalene
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)
Numbers 21:4-9 (Moses and the Bronze Snake)
John 3:1-21 (Jesus and Nicodemus)
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Reflect on Nicodemus' journey to Jesus. How did he go from being a devout Pharisee to sitting in front of Jesus? What character qualities did he exhibit?
 2. If you feel comfortable sharing – how have you experienced being “born again?”
 3. Stories like that of the bronze snake can be shocking to us today. What caused the Israelites to suffer? See Numbers 21:4-9 above.
 4. This episode is called “Invitations”. Who did Jesus invite to follow Him? Did they obey the call?
 5. What did you think of Peter's reaction to Jesus calling Matthew? Peter said to Jesus (talking about Matthew) “I don't get it”. Jesus said, “You didn't get it when I chose you either”. Peter said, “But this is different, I am not a tax collector” and Jesus said, “Get use to different.” What did Jesus mean?
 6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Jesus said to John “I want to do the will of my Father”. Think about how in your life you can do the will of your heavenly father. When you pray, submit your will to God.
 2. Pray and Read your Bible this week.
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 4. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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Discussion Guide

Episode 8 – I Am He

- **Welcome to Cypress Creek Church Message Series Small Groups!**
- **Open your Small Group or Family with Prayer**
- **Watch Episode 8** (Video - 59 minutes)
- **Characters:** Jesus, Nicodemus, Simon, Mary Magdalene, Andrew, Eden, Simon's mother-in-law, Samaritan Woman
- **Bible Reading:** (Everyone open your Bibles.)
Matthew 9:10-13 (Dinner at Matthew's House)
John 4:1-42 (Jesus and the Samaritan Woman)
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Pharisees asked, "Why does your Master eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus said, "It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. Also, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Discuss these two statements from Jesus.
 2. Obedience at the risk of being ridiculed and opposition from others, or that threatens our usual way of life seems impossible. Discuss the different ways people (Simon, Eden, Matthew, Nicodemus, etc) reacted to Jesus' directions, the directions of family, and from peers.
 3. What was significant about Jesus choosing to talk to a Samaritan woman? How can you model that today?
 4. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this episode?
 5. What was your favorite episode in Season 1? Share with others.
- **Next Steps:**
 1. 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?
 2. After watching the final episode of Season 1, think about who you can share "The Chosen" with. Maybe re-watch it with someone who needs Jesus.
 3. Ask your group for any prayer requests and pray together.

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