

Introduction

Welcome to Season 1 of The Chosen. You have decided to embark on a journey through the bible with the 12 disciples in a way that will make scripture come alive and be unforgettable. The Chosen series has become not only a national phenomenon, but has impacted people all over the globe. Watching the gospels come to life will give you a whole different experience than reading the bible. It will imprint a visual of the stories of Jesus in your mind that will change the way you read scripture and understand the bible. I am so excited you have decided to take The Chosen journey, you won't regret it!

The first couple of episodes can be a little slow so hang in there, if you start to doze off. It will be worth it as you get to know the characters and grow to love Jonathan Rumie as Jesus. There are many bible studies and devotions based off the series. I recommend completing The Chosen bible study for each season, but I wanted to offer an alternative with this study that is quicker to complete and helps you know and identify the similarities and differences of the show and scripture to point out where they took creative liberties.

The best thing about this show is the writers/ creators and director kept the show pretty close to scripture. Most of what you see in the show is portrayed in the bible. I pray that in watching the show it creates a desire in your heart to get into your bible and read scripture. Now that you have SEEN the creators depiction of the gospels, READ it for yourself. Nothing can take the place of actually reading the bible. As you probably know, no movie/show is ever as good as the book and this is the case here too. Get into your bible and read the stories they didn't include in the show, come to your own conclusion on the similarities and differences. God gave us the bible so we will know HIS story and because he wanted us to read it. Make sure you still get into the word! This is not a replacement, but a supplemental resource adding to what you would read in the bible.

I hope you enjoy the show and most importantly I hope you enjoy this study as you get into the scripture supporting each episode. My prayer for you is that the bible comes to life before your eyes and you grow closer to God in spiritual wisdom and biblical curiosity.

Background

You are introduced to many characters this season. It can get a little confusing if you don't pay close attention to who is talking and what they are doing. I recommend putting the subtitles on when you watch the show to help make sure you hear/read every word. I have included in the beginning of the first few episodes a "While You Watch" section that can help you to stay focused and pay attention to each character and what is happening in the episode. If you have already watched it, just skip this section and go to the reflection questions.

This season is going to cover scripture references out of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The show is centered around the disciples and starts when Jesus starts his ministry. We do not see his birth or when he goes into the desert and is tempted by the devil. This season and others to come, bring the viewer an understanding of who the disciples and women followers are that supported Jesus' ministry.

Season 1

Episode 1: I Have Called You by Name

While you watch: The first episode can be a bit confusing if you aren't paying special attention to names and what is going on. As you watch this episode, mark off each person and the main events that happen in the show. This will help to keep your focus so you can pay close attention to each character that is introduced.

Characters:

- Lilith/ Mary Magdalene
- Nicodemus
- Quintus
- Matthew
- Rabbi Yusif
- Rabbi Shmuel
- Gaius
- Simon
- Andrew
- Eden
- Jesus

Events:

- Mary is possessed with a demon
- Matthew gets in a cart to go to work as a tax collector
- Nicodemus tries to exorcise Lilith's demon
- Simon is fighting
- Mary is on a cliff
- Simon and Andrew talk to Matthew at the tax collector's booth
- Mary meets Jesus

Reflect on the Episode: The episode opens up in Magdala in 2BC with a little girl (Mary) who is talking with her father. He shares a verse with her that is quoted throughout this episode. It comes from Isaiah 43. It is also the verse that they named this episode after, I have called you by name.

Isaiah 43:1 (ESV) *But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."*

Let's revisit this verse later after we learn more about Mary Magdalene and her struggles.

After the flashback is over, we fast forward to 28 years later in the City of Capernaum.

The City of Capernaum is a fishing town with access to waterways where goods are transported. It is a busy town with marketplaces and Roman soldiers are stationed throughout the city.

While we meet many characters in this episode the main story is about Mary Magdalene. Look up the following verses to find out more about her. Write what you learn about her in the space below.

- Luke 8:2
- Luke 8:3
- Matthew 27:55-56, 61
- Mark 16:9

Nicodemus is called to the Red Quarters to help exorcise Mary's demons. He is not successful and starts to doubt his abilities. Have you ever felt this way, like you didn't have the abilities necessary to do what God is calling you to do? Explain below:

Bible Reference

Did you catch that the little girl, Mary and her father were looking at a star? With the time period of this flashback, it must have been the same star that led the wisemen to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Bible historians pinpoint Jesus' birth at 6BC - 4BC and he is about 2 years old when the wisemen visit him. ¹

Matthew 2:1-2 & 9 (ESV) ¹ *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.*

DID YOU KNOW??

Jesus started his ministry when he was 30 years old and it lasted 3 - 3.5 years at which time he was crucified at the age of 33. Since the episode started at 2BC and 28 years progressed to the next scene, the year was 26AD. Most theologians believe Jesus started his ministry after John the Baptist started preaching in 28AD – 29AD. The Chosen seems to have taken an earlier timeline, maybe to develop the other characters more. ¹

After Nicodemus doubts his abilities, he starts to question God. Nicodemus' wife tells him not to question God, but I don't think this is good advice at all. If you have doubts or questions, bring them to God. Write any open questions you have below.

There are so many resources that we can consult to answer our questions about God. I challenge you to research your question and pray to God for answers. Make sure you are consulting a respectable source. I recommend Gotquestions.org which has many answers to common questions that believers/ non-believers have. It is normal to question things, and you should seek an answer, so your doubts do not turn into unbelief.

Mary is possessed with not just one demon, but 7 demons and they are terrorizing her life. In this episode she turns to alcohol and sex to pacify her pain. She feels hopeless and upset because there isn't a solution to her situation. Many people have tried to exorcise the demons, even Nicodemus himself, with no luck.

It becomes clear that Mary feels like her situation is hopeless and while she is on the cliff, you think she might actually jump. But God intervenes by redirecting her focus to the birds in the sky above. She starts to wander away from the cliff— she is not alone, God is with her! Has there ever been a time you felt like things were hopeless? Has God pulled you away from those thoughts? If so, praise God and share the story below.

After Mary leaves the cliff, she unfortunately doesn't instantly feel like things are no longer hopeless. She made the decision not to jump off the cliff, but goes back to the bar. It is in the bar, at her lowest point that Jesus enters the show. He goes to her and basically says she doesn't belong there. It is when they leave the bar that he calls her by her given name, Mary. He heals her and removes the demons from possessing her life. In the show Jesus quotes **Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)** *But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."* Why do you think this is a perfect verse for Jesus to say to Mary?

The gospels never refers to Mary as Lilith, the creators of The Chosen probably chose this name because it is associated with demons in the Jewish traditions.

While this episode revolved largely around Mary, we were introduced to some other characters as well. Let's consult scripture to better understand a few of them.

Nicodemus

- **John 3:1 (ESV)** *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*
 - o Circle the characteristics of Nicodemus from the verse above.
- **John 3:2 (ESV)** *This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."*
 - o Circle what Nicodemus recognizes about Jesus based on the verse above?
- It is in this interaction with Nicodemus that one of the most well-known verses in the entire bible is said. Nicodemus approaches Jesus at night and questions him about being born again. Read John 3:3-21 and write John 3:16 below.

- Nicodemus also defends Jesus when he is being wrongfully accused by the Chief Priest and Pharisees. See John 7:45-52.

Simon & Andrew

- **Matthew 4:18 (ESV)** *While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.*
 - o Circle their profession and relation to one another from the verse above.
- We will learn more about them in the upcoming episodes.

Matthew

- **Matthew 9:9 (ESV)** *As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.*
- **Matthew 10:3 (ESV)** *Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus*
 - o Circle the profession of Matthew.
- We will learn more about Matthew in the upcoming episodes.

Quintus is not a named biblical character, but was made up for storytelling purposes for the series. Quintus is a common Roman name. His character portrays a Roman Praetor who represents the Roman authority that is present in the time Jesus was on the earth.
