

## The Chosen Season 2

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to Season 2 of The Chosen. You finished Season 1 and I bet you are hooked now! It is so amazing to watch the gospels come to life and this season has all new stories for you to enjoy. You will experience these stories in a fun and exciting way as you watch God's words acted out. 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!

This season we get to meet more of the disciples and by the end of the season the 12 disciples will be chosen! Jesus is also preparing for his big speech, that's right the Sermon on the Mount preparation is in place. The most famous speech to ever be given is about to go down. Hold tight and grab your popcorn as this season brings so many stories to life!

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**

In Season 1 we got to meet a lot of our main characters who will be returning to season 2. We will get to meet the rest of the 12 disciples with Nathanael, Philip, Simon the Zealot and Judas taking the stage. Jesus is also preparing for the Sermon on the Mount. It is interesting to see the miracles and healing that takes place as Jesus gathers a huge following and prepares to give his biggest speech.

This season is going to cover scripture references out of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Similar to the prior season, the show also does a great job pulling in some Old Testament references which bring you back into stories before Jesus' time. Revisiting these stories will help you see how it ties into the episode. I have included these Old Testament references and the main New Testament references from each episode for you below:

- Episode 1 – Parable of the lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-14), Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).
- Episode 2 – Philip called to be a disciple (John 1:43-44), Nathanael called to be a disciple (John 1:45-50).

- Episode 3 – Jesus healed many people who came from all over to see him (Matthew 4:24). Old Testament references are Psalm 139:8 and Zechariah 14:2-4.
- Episode 4 – Jesus healed the man at the Bethesda pool (John 5:2-9). Old Testament references Zechariah 14:16, Zephaniah 3:20, Exodus 22:20.
- Episode 5 – Jesus heals a man possessed by a demon (Mark 5:5) and John the Baptist is going to confront Herod about Herodias (Matthew 14:3-5).
- Episode 6 – Jesus heals the withered man's hand (Mark 3:1-6) and the disciples pluck heads of grain and eat it on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-3). Old Testament reference is 1 Samuel 21:1-6.
- Episode 7 – Jesus tells the disciples The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).
- Episode 8 – Jesus and the disciples prepare for the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:28).

## Episode 1: Thunder

As we start the next season, two brothers from last season finally get the spotlight. This episode is all about James and John, the Sons of Thunder!

Of the four gospels, two of them are written by Jesus' disciples. The book of Matthew and the book of John. Take a look at each of the gospels and note how they start off:

Matthew 1:1 –

Mark 1:1-4 –

Luke 1:5-13 –

Luke 3:23 –

John 1:1-5 –

John 1:6-9 –

What similarities did you notice? What was the main difference you noticed?

The episode starts many years from the end of the last season. John is interviewing the disciples and eyewitnesses (Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus) as he is writing his gospel. Everyone has come together as Big James (John's brother) has died and they are sitting shiva. When talking with Mary, John said he wanted his gospel to be different from Matthew's. He knew Matthew would start with Jesus' ancestry (Matthew 1:1-17), but he wanted to start from the beginning. The very beginning! Read John 1:1-9 on the next page.

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*John was the last of the gospels to be written. Mark is believed to be the first gospel written, followed by Matthew and then Luke. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called synoptic gospels which means they share a similar structure, content and phrasing.*

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- **John 1:1-5 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
  - Who do you think verse 2 is talking about?

John explains the connection of the beginning of his book to the beginning of the world in Genesis. Let's take a look at Genesis and see if you can pick out the similarities. It's interesting to see the parallels between the two books.

- **Genesis 1:1-4 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.*
  - Read verse 1 of Genesis 1, who made all things through him, and without him was not anything made that was made?
  - Read verse 3 of Genesis 1 and verse 4 of John 1, what are both verses talking about?
  - Read verse 4 of Genesis 1 and verse 5 of John 1, what is separated?

Isn't it neat how similar the two books start off! In this episode, James and John are trying to figure out their role and place with the other disciples. Jesus asks them to sow a field while the other disciples are in town. Jesus praises them for the work they did and this creates a power struggle amongst the disciples of who the lead disciple is. Meanwhile the rest of the disciples are getting supplies to make a dinner. More to come on that towards the end of the episode.

Next, Jesus teaches in Samaria. He talks about the parable of the lost sheep. Read below and circle the reaction to finding the sheep.

- **Matthew 18:12-14 (ESV)** – <sup>12</sup> *What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountain and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup> So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*
  - This is also mentioned in Luke 15:3-7

- This parable is so encouraging, if we stray from our faith God and the angels are rejoicing when you come back. Has there been a period in your life when you strayed from God? Are you currently straying from God? How does it feel that he wants you back?
  
- It's interesting how Jesus starts this parable off by saying "What do you think?". In the show he asks questions and gets the shepherd to provide the answers that make up the parable. As we hear this parable in the show, it is not the method that is stated in scripture. However, the way the verse starts out does make me think it is one possible way he could have taught the parable, through questions.

The other parable that is in this episode is the Good Samaritan. It is kind of hidden as it isn't a story that Jesus tells like the Lost Sheep story. It is interesting how the creators of The Chosen tell the other side of the story. The parable is focused on the Jew who was hurt and how no one except the Samaritan helps him. In the show, they created a story of the robber that left the man on the side of the road to die. Let's read the parable and see if you recognize how this parable related to the Samaritan Jesus and the disciples ate dinner with.

- **Luke 10:30-37 (ESV)** – <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And the next day he took two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

- The crippled man that Jesus and the disciples ate dinner with was the robber in verse 30. Although he has a minor part in this parable, the lesson that we learn through the Chosen's depiction of this story is about the guilt of the robber. Is there anything that you feel guilty or regret about? Use the space below to write a prayer asking Jesus for forgiveness. Know he will forgive you because he loves you.

- This parable is a great example of serving others, especially our enemies. Samaritans and Jews did not get along as we will see when Jesus, John and James encounter Samaritans on the road. But the good Samaritan not only helps the Jew, but goes the extra mile to take care of him for days afterwards. How are you serving others? Is there somewhere you can serve? Has God put anything in particular on your heart?

In one of the last scenes of the episode we find out why James and John of Zebedee were named “Sons of Thunder”. In the show Jesus, James and John encountered Samaritans on the road and James and John wanted to send something down on the people. Fill in the blank below:

- **Luke 9:51-55 (ESV)** – <sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup> But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell \_\_\_\_\_ to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them.

James and John are angry at the disrespect that the Samaritans are showing Jesus. They take their anger a bit too far, okay way too far! But their hearts are all for Jesus. They want to protect him and have others show the right amount of respect to Jesus. Have you been in a situation where you saw someone disrespect Christians, Jesus, or your faith? How did you react and how do you think you should act in the future based on Jesus’ response to James and John?

The nickname given to James and John came right out of the book of Mark. Fill in the blank below for the name Jesus gave them:

- **Mark 3:17 (ESV)** – James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is “Sons of \_\_\_\_\_”)

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*John said to Mary exactly what he wrote at the end of his gospel **John 21:25 (ESV)** - Now there are also so many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

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## Episode 2: I Saw You

In this episode we meet two new disciples, Philip and Nathanael. The episode opens with Nathanael at a job site where he is the architect of a building that is being constructed. Something goes wrong and the building collapses and Nathanael loses his job. Nathanael is so upset and heads to the bar.

At the bar, Nathanael is talking as if someone died. He is devastated that he lost his job and the building collapsed. You can tell he put his whole identity into being an architect. He worked hard in school to learn his profession; he was involved at the sites and still he failed. Have you ever felt that you put your identity into your profession or hobby or talent? How did it feel when you lost that job, hobby or talent?

Later Nathanael sits under a fig tree and cries out to the Lord. He feels like he has hit rock bottom. Luckily for Nathanael, his friend Philip comes looking for him and that closed door with his job opened another door that will totally change his life. We will come back to this at the end of the episode.

A new character enters Jesus' ministry and his "I will" is quick and decisive. Philip meets up with Simon and Andrew as he was looking for Jesus. In the following verses circle where Philip is from.

- Philip becomes a disciple of Jesus.
  - **John 1:43-44 (ESV)** – <sup>43</sup> *The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."* <sup>44</sup> *Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*
  - Philip is mentioned in the following verses in the gospel of John 6:5-7, 12:20-22, 14:6-10.
- Philip is thought to have been a follower of John the Baptist, like Andrew. Circle how many disciples were with John the Baptist below:
  - **John 1:35-37 (ESV)** – <sup>35</sup> *The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,* <sup>36</sup> *and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"* <sup>37</sup> *The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*
- Circle below the name of Jesus' disciple who was also a disciple of John the Baptist.
  - **John 1:38-44 (ESV)** - <sup>38</sup> *Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"* *And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"* <sup>39</sup> *He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day for it was about the tenth hour.* <sup>40</sup> *One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.* <sup>41</sup> *He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).* <sup>42</sup> *He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).* <sup>43</sup> *The next day*

*Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.*

- As you can see this is a little different from the way it was portrayed in The Chosen. But the assumption is the second disciple of John the Baptist (verse 35) is Philip. Andrew is named as one of the disciples and the next person that is mentioned is Philip when he was asked to follow Jesus.

Philip plays the role of a peacemaker in The Chosen. He is kind to Matthew when others are not nice to him because of his past. I love when Philip says to Matthew, **"People want to define us by our past, but we do things differently because of him (Jesus)."** This is a great reminder that we aren't defined by the things we did in the past. Jesus forgave your sins; you are different because Jesus made you a new creation. Re-read what Philip said to Matthew if you really needed to hear that today!

It's very clear that Simon and Matthew don't get along. While Philip plays the peacemaker, Simon just can't make peace with Matthew because of his old profession as a tax collector. Simon picks on Matthew for writing things down. Matthew said he is writing it down because he wants it to be recorded. Simon says he shouldn't write it down because people will twist Jesus' words. What are your thoughts on these arguments? How do you see both played out in our world today? The truth of the bible vs how people use or discredit the bible for their agendas.

Mary Magdalene and Ramah, talk with Matthew about learning and the bible. Mary is going to teach Ramah how to read but they need paper from Matthew. Matthew wants to learn more about the bible too. He realizes how much he doesn't know compared to the other disciples but none of them know where exactly to start. Matthew decides to ask Philip, his new friend. Philip reminds Matthew that learning about God doesn't happen overnight. It is a process. This is so true. The bible is the living breathing word of God. There is always

## Bible Reference

Philip refers to the book of Ezekiel when he talks about drying the wood. The verses that he quotes and the other disciples join in reciting are listed below:

***Ezekiel 39:9-10 (ESV)*** <sup>9</sup> *Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years, <sup>10</sup> so that they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons. They will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord God.*

### DID YOU KNOW??

It was very common for Jews to have scripture memorized. Have you challenged yourself to memorize any scripture lately? Pick a verse that means something to you, write it below and commit it to memory.

something to learn! A passage that you have read in the past may speak to you differently in this stage of your life. Matthew has a desire to learn and that is such an important quality in a Christian. How would you describe your knowledge of the bible? Do you desire to learn more? Where are you going to start?

Philip finds Nathanael (Bartholomew) and introduces him to Jesus. Let's dive into scripture and see how this plays out. Underline where Jesus saw Nathanael. Circle Nathanael's response to Jesus.

- **John 1:45-50 (ESV)** – <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Nathanael believed in Jesus because he knew Jesus was with him at his lowest point under the fig tree. He wasn't alone though; God was with him and knew who he truly was. Despite knowing Nathanael's failure, God was with him at that dark moment. He is always with you and me. We do not have to feel ashamed of failure, or alone. We are never alone; God is with us! I love that Jesus said “You will see greater things than these” in verse 50. What an amazing journey Nathanael has coming up. As Jesus' disciple he will witness firsthand miracles and healings and learn so much.

Even though we saw Nathanael's lose his job and he was disappointed in his career, his failure led to something so much better than he could have even imagined. He got to follow Jesus Christ! He became a disciple and lived his life with the Son of God. If you are going through something disappointing or a failure, how does knowing this comfort you? Have you seen failure or disappointment play out similarly for you? Reflect below and thank God.

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*Nathanael was also known as Bartholomew in the bible. See Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16 and Acts 1:13.*

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### Episode 3: Matthew 4:24

This episode revolves around the verse in Matthew 4:24 where people from all over came to see Jesus so they could be healed. Jesus was busy healing people all day and night while the disciples helped with the crowds and had discussions amongst themselves. Read the verse that inspired this episode below:

- **Matthew 4:24 (ESV)** – *So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.*

Matthew enters the scene right where he left off at the end of episode 2, asking Philip what he should study in the bible. Philip gives him a verse out of Psalms written by King David. Philip explains that there is no where that you can go that God cannot reach you. He is always with you. He tells Matthew to meditate on the verse and write it down several times. Let's do that today.

- **Psalms 139:8 (ESV)** – *If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*
  - Note: Sheol is the Hebrew term for the realm of the dead, the underworld where all departed souls go. If you would rather say "the grave" instead of Sheol, feel free.

Write the verse below:

Now, let's take Philip's advice and meditate on the verse. Read the verse and pray through the passage word for word, talking to God as you pause. Be sure to also listen if you feel he is responding to you. Reflect on this meditation below capturing how this verse speaks to you.

## Bible Reference

It is mentioned in this episode and is a common misconception that the Messiah will be a fierce warrior who would save the Jews in battle. The disciples quote Zechariah below:

**Zechariah 14:2-4 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to **battle**, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then the Lord will go out and **fight** against those nations as when he **fights on a day of battle**. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

### DID YOU KNOW??

Many people did not believe Jesus was the Messiah because he wasn't a warrior. The Jews took the fact that the Messiah would save them to mean he would physically, through battles, defeat the Romans and free them. Jesus did so much more than that! He saved everyone from generation to generation from sin. We are no longer slaves to sin, but free through the blood of Jesus. It's such a good thing that God has a bigger plan that we can imagine ourselves.

Little James (James the lessor) talks to Thomas about his frustrations with the people that have come to see Jesus. He feels like the people are only believing because Jesus is healing them. He questions if the people would believe if they were not healed. Even though we do not have Jesus in human form this day and age, he still heals people miraculously. Some people believe because of this healing, but others are not healed and believe just the same. It is through the miracles that Jesus reaches some people, but how strong of a faith do those people have who believe and do not need to see a miracle. Have you witnessed or been a part of a miracle? Has this strengthened your faith?

The disciples open up to each other around the fire as Jesus is healing. They talk about their insecurities of not pursuing Torah studies after school. They even have a little confession circle where they confess how they broke the Lord's commands around food. Thomas shares how he ate meat with cheese and then was very sick afterwards. Another disciple shares how he ate pork and loved it! I love how these disciples are being vulnerable with each other and sharing their confessions. God tells us to confess our sins. Is there anything that you would like to confess to God? Confessing sin takes the weight off of your shoulders. Use the space below to reflect on any confession you want to have with God.

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*James the son of Alphaeus is mentioned in the bible in Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13. His name is simply listed along with the other disciples. We do not know if he had a disability like The Chosen has portrayed as this is not stated in scripture.*

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At the end of the episode the conversations that the disciples are having stray away from Jesus and his healing and the Torah and start to get heated. They are all fighting and arguing with each other until Jesus comes back to the camp. He is so tired he can hardly walk. They all stop, revert their eyes back to Jesus, focus on him and stop quarreling. They are quiet and feel guilty that they were fighting once their focus returns to Jesus. This is something that happens all the time. We leave church on Sunday all revived, focused on Jesus, ready to tackle the week. Then slowly as the week progresses our focus strays from Jesus onto ourselves, our hurts, our disappointments and our anger. Exactly like it happened with Simon and Matthew. Simon and Andrew focused on the hurt that they felt from Matthew and started to pick a fight with him. But Jesus enters the scene and they refocus on Christ. What are some things you can do to re-focus your attention to Jesus when you stray or start to focus only on yourself?

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*Did you catch that Thomas said he didn't know Jesus lost his father? Biblical scholars believe that Jesus' father, Joseph, passed away as he was not present at the crucifixion with Mary and Jesus tells his disciple, John, to care for her (John 19:25-27).*

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#### **Episode 4: The Perfect Opportunity**

The main focus of this episode is on two new characters, Simon and Jesse, two very different brothers. The episode opens with a boy falling out of a tree and ending up paralyzed, without the ability to walk. His parents try everything to heal him, with no success. His baby brother is born, and the two brothers end up being very close, the best of friends. But when Simon decides to leave his family and become a Zealot, he loses contact with Jesse. Simon takes on a life of physical training, and discipline as a Zealot. Simon is mentioned in the bible in Luke 6:15 and Acts 1:13.

The Zealots were a fiercely militant sect of Judaism whose members carried out assassinations on both Roman leaders and Jewish leaders whom they believed were either 1) collaborating with Rome's occupation of the land or 2) accommodating Rome's demands too readily. They were a separate group from the Pharisees and Sadducees at that day and age in history.

Simon states the following verse in the show to his Zealot Rabbi.

***Exodus 22:20 (ESV) - Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be devoted to destruction.***

This is his justification for the actions of his group. He feels very strongly that he is bringing down God's justice. We know that only God can judge, provide justice and everyone will face his judgment in the end. Have you ever felt that you needed to take action in the name of justice? How can you be sure that your actions align with God's will?

Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem as they are celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. This is a feast that is meant to reenact the Israelite wandering and journey in the wilderness for 40 years. The Jews are expected to camp outside, head to Jerusalem and abstain from work for 7 days. This is also called the Feast of Booths.

Everyone has wondered through the wilderness at some point and the Feast of Tabernacles serves as a remembrance of this. The Israelites wandered through the wilderness for 40 years surviving by God's grace and mercy alone. It was difficult, it challenged their faith and required obedience. Have you gone through a season where you felt like you were wondering in the wilderness? What was your experience and how did you feel going through it and then once you were on the other side?

While Jesus and the disciples were eating at the Feast of Tabernacles, big James quotes Zechariah and asks Jesus a question. Circle below who will worship the King:

***Zechariah 14:16 (ESV)*** - *Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.*

Big James questions the scripture above because he does not understand why one day enemies would celebrate the feast, Jews and gentiles together. Jesus says something will have to change. Jesus was that change, that sacrifice that opened the ability for gentiles, like us, to be able to worship God. Jesus died for everyone, not just the Jewish people. Zechariah prophesized this long before Jesus and within a couple of years, Big James will better understand this verse. Write a prayer below thanking God for Jesus and our ability as gentiles to go to heaven with him.

Simon has a mission to kill the Roman Magistrate. He was sent to Jerusalem with this mission and has been training for this very moment. However, you can tell he is having doubts. His whole heart isn't in it. He sees the men on the crosses on the way into town, crucified for doing just the thing that he was sent to do, murder.

Has there been a time when you felt the Holy Spirit pulling you in a different direction that you had planned? I imagine this is what Simon felt and why he had his doubts. What was the Holy Spirit prompting and did you follow it?

## Bible Reference

Jesse reads from the letter that Simon left for him when he left home and went to the Zealots. He quotes scripture from Zephaniah

***Zephaniah 3:20 (ESV)*** *Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.*

Did you catch that also in this letter Simon said that when he saw Jesse standing on his own two feet, he will know that the Messiah has come? I love how the creators had this included in the letter Simon wrote Jesse and then at the end of the episode Simon does see Jesse walk. Not only does he see him standing on his own two feet, but the one who healed him was the Messiah as he stated in his letter. Such a neat detail that they added to the story line!

### DID YOU KNOW??

No where in scripture is this connection between Simon the Zealot and the healing of the man on the mat at Bethesda stated. We also do not know that the man's name is Jesse. The creators of The Chosen added this story and relationship between brothers for entertainment purposes.

Jesse was putting his faith in a pagan pool. He completely lost hope after being paralyzed for so many years. Was there a time, or are you currently in a period, where you lost hope? Maybe it was hope lost in a person, situation, or thing. How did you feel at that time?

Jesse is very distraught and has lost all hope in ever walking again. He has no one to help him into the pool. He has been there for 25 years and the pool has never healed him. It sounds like he had his hope and faith in the wrong thing! Jesus enters the scene and immediately picks out Jesse. Read below and circle what Jesus asks the lame man. Underline the response that the lame man gives to Jesus.

- **John 5:2-9 (ESV)** – <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. <sup>3</sup> In these lay a great multitude of invalids- blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. <sup>4</sup> For an angel went down at a certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. <sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” <sup>7</sup> The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no man to put me in to the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going, another steps down before me.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, “Get up, take your bed and walk.” <sup>9</sup> And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

Jesse doesn’t answer with a resounding “Yes! Heal me!” you can hear in his response that he has no hope. He explains why he has not been healed because he couldn’t get to the water. He didn’t know who Jesus was and still had his hope in the wrong healing power.

Continue to read John 5:10-15. What do you notice about the Jewish leaders?

Jesse’s lost hope was transformed by Jesus into healing. Even though Jesse lost hope to ever be able to walk again, God did not give up on him. So, whatever you wrote that you are losing hope in, know that if it is aligned with God’s will, it will happen. God has not lost hope in you!

At the end of the episode, we see that Simon did not murder the Roman magistrate. He was ready to do it, but then he saw his brother walking! He stopped what he was doing and went right to him. God saved him from making a huge mistake that could have cost him his life. God wants to save your life as well. Open your heart to him and let him guide you away from sin and into his loving arms!

## Episode 5: Spirit

The episode starts out with Mary collecting persimmons while saying a Jewish blessing. She gets spooked as she sees two Roman guards traveling towards her. The Jewish blessing she is reciting is called Birkat Hallanot which is a Blessing on Trees that is recited when seeing blossoming fruit trees for the first time. The blessing in English is written below:

- *Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. Who has made nothing lacking in His world, and created in it wondrous creatures and good trees to give mankind pleasure.*
- Also while she is gathering fruit, she quotes the same verse she, Ramah and Matthew were memorizing. If you remember it or need to look it up, write it below:
  - ***Psalm 139:8 (ESV)*** –

In the next scene, Shmuel is interrogating Jesse, the man who was healed at the pool of Bethesda about Jesus. Shmuel and the other Pharisee are trying to figure out how they can escalate an investigation into Jesus as a false prophet. They are trying to use the Jewish sects' disagreements to get the appropriate attention on Jesus. There are two sects in addition to Zealots, which we learned about in the previous episode, the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- Pharisees – well intentioned people interested in applying the bible to their everyday lives. Desired to maintain a life of purity by properly obeying the Law. They affirmed life after death, physical resurrection and spiritual beings (Acts 23:8). Jesus opposed the Pharisees not so much in their goal of holy living, but rather their hypocritical way of favoring their own oral traditions over the intent of the written law (Matthew 15:1-20, Matthew 23:1-36, Mark 7:1-23 and Luke 11:37-54).
- Sadducees – accepted Roman rule, they were content with the way things were. Not looking for a Messianic figure to rise up and rescue the Jews. Denied life after death, physical resurrection and spiritual beings (Matthew 22:23, Mark 12:18, Luke 20:27, Acts 23:8).

These two groups of Jewish leaders will continue to be a main part in the story of Jesus as well as his arrest and ultimate crucifixion.

Mary continues to help Ramah learn to read and you can tell ever since she saw the Roman officers, something has been off with her. As she is talking with Ramah she mentions that she was picking persimmons and was praying. As soon as she saw the officers she stopped praying and ran away. She ran from her fears and stopped praying! I think she realizes that she should not have stopped praying. When you are scared, prayer is what helps the most. Has there been a time that you were scared or went through something difficult and prayed to God? How did that make you feel, how did it turn out?

Jesus meets up with John the Baptist in this episode as John is headed to Jerusalem to confront Herod. This interaction is not stated in scripture, but it does give you an idea of what is to come for John the Baptist. Underline what John had said to Herod.

- **Matthew 14:3-5 (ESV)** – <sup>3</sup> For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, <sup>4</sup> because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her," <sup>5</sup> And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people because they held him to be a prophet.

As John the Baptist was talking to Jesus in this episode, John was explaining to him how Herod was breaking Jewish law and was not allowed to take Herodias as his wife. This is important because we know not only has John made Herod an enemy, but also his wife Herodias. More to come in upcoming seasons.

Simon the Zealot, in full Zealot, private spy mode tracks down Jesus' followers, scopes out the situation and luckily is there to help when things go bad with the man possessed by a demon. As this interaction is not from scripture, the closest scripture I could find was from Mark. As you read it, circle what resembles the possessed man from the show.

- **Mark 5:5 (ESV)** – Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

The demon in this scripture causes the man to cut himself and is known as Legion. This is not the depiction of Jesus' interaction with Legion from scripture, we do not see Jesus cast the demon into a herd of pigs. But Legion is mentioned when the demon is talking to Mary. As the show did not stick to the scripture, I'm not 100% sure which demon they were trying to portray in this scene, it may or may not be Legion.

The demon possessed man leaves his first interaction with Simon and heads to Jesus and the disciples camp. The demon talks to Mary and then attacks her. Luckily Simon the Zealot is there to help, but only until the demon uses super strength and starts to choke Simon. Then you hear the voice of Jesus command the demon out of the man and Simon and Mary are saved. Jesus to the rescue! Then Mary sneaks away and heads out of town. We aren't sure what she is doing, but she heads back to the bar where she was known as Lilith. More to come on this in the next episode.

There is not a lot about Simon the Zealot in the bible. His name is referenced in the following verses:

- **Luke 6:15 (ESV)** – and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and **Simon who was called the Zealot**.
  - This was when the 12 disciples were listed in the Luke's gospel.
- **Acts 1:13 (ESV)** – And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and **Simon the Zealot** and Judas the son of James.
  - This was when Matthias was chosen to replace Judas after Jesus' resurrection.

Since there is not a lot about Simon the Zealot in the bible, a lot of the story from this episode is not from scripture. It is not recorded that Simon and Jesus had a conversation by the water and Jesus threw his dagger in the water. But Jesus did ask Simon the Zealot to be his disciple, and Jesus does not like

violence so it is possible that he would discard weapons. I did like how Jesus said to Simon the Zealot that no one buys into the group with special skills or abilities. All Jesus is asking of us is for us! He wants us to be his followers, and our skills are not a qualifier. Look up Ephesians 2:8-9 and reflect on how that verse written by Paul relates to what Jesus was saying here.

How does this make you feel? Write a prayer of thankfulness to God.

The episode ends with Peter and Matthew heading to Jericho to look for Mary. They don't know where she is or why she went there, but it was stated in the show that Ramah thought the presence of the demon had affected her. We will find out more about what Mary is doing in the following episode.

## Episode 6: Unlawful

Well, the two least likely disciples to work together have been sent on a rescue mission to find Mary! Matthew and Simon are searching the town of Jericho for Mary so they can bring her back to Jesus. Meanwhile, Mary has reverted back to her former life and is drinking and gambling in the local bar. Luckily, Matthew and Simon stumble upon Mary as they are arguing about where to find her. They cheer Mary up by pointing out the difference she has made following Jesus. She is helping Matthew learn about the Torah, Ramah how to read and she had helped the paralytic man get lowered through the roof. Encouragement when we are feeling down and distant from God is so important. Do you know someone who is struggling? Is there something you can do to help encourage them?

It was so easy for Mary to fall back into her old life. How easy is it for you to go back to our old sin? In order to follow Jesus we have to consistently, every day choose him. Have you ever found yourself backsliding? Going back to old sin? What can you do to choose Jesus daily?

Mary talked about how she felt broken and ashamed. But when she went back to the camp with Jesus and the disciples everyone was happy to see her. The women ran up to greet her, and Jesus welcomed her back. If you have ever turned back to sin, know Jesus will forgive you. Jesus wants your heart and knows that as humans we are not perfect and sin. But Jesus is the only way and going back to him is the most important thing.

Everyone is upset at the camp by the time Mary, Matthew and Simon get back because Philip returns with word that John the Baptist was arrested. Not only is everyone upset about John, but they are also hungry as they have run out of food. Jesus decides to take the disciples into a small-town synagogue. When Jesus enters the synagogue, he notices a man with a withered hand. Read the scripture below and underline the words of Jesus.

- Jesus heals the man with the shriveled hand.
  - **Mark 3:1-6 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” <sup>4</sup> And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup> And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

The Pharisees are getting mad because Jesus broke a Jewish law of doing work on the Sabbath. It makes me think how short-sided their thinking is. They are only focused on the breaking of the law and not the whole picture. This man's whole life is being changed because Jesus healed him. It doesn't matter that he healed him on the Sabbath, the big picture is that the healing occurred. How often do we get so caught up in our plans and our to-do list and schedule that we don't allow interruptions and change to happen. Have you had an experience where you were more focused on the rules, your schedule, your to-do list and missed the big picture of God working? Reflect below.

Well, when you're on a rule-breaking streak you might as well continue. Simon wasn't thinking and grabbed some grain and ate it because he was so hungry. All the disciples stop and look at him in astonishment. Simon realizes what he did, spits out the grain and immediately apologizes. It is against the Jewish rules to reap and harvest grain on the Sabbath. But Jesus, knowing everyone was very hungry, gave his approval for the disciples to eat the grain. However, like déjà vu, the Jewish leaders come up and yell at Jesus and disciples for breaking the rules again. Read below and circle the king Jesus references in his response to the Pharisees.

- **Matthew 12:1-3 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and to eat. <sup>2</sup> But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." <sup>3</sup> He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"

Jesus is trying to show the Pharisees how their laws are oppressing the people, they are following the law, but missing the heart of the people and needs of the Jews. Jesus points out how when in dire situations, or miraculous times, it is okay to break the man-made laws. David and his men were starving as they were being hunted by Saul as you see in

## Bible Reference

The episode starts out with an Old Testament reference about David in the year 1008 BC in the town of Nob.

**1 Samuel 21:1-6 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?" <sup>2</sup> And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such as place. <sup>3</sup> Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." <sup>4</sup> And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread – if the young men have kept themselves from women." <sup>5</sup> And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us, as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?" <sup>6</sup> So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

1 Samuel 21:1-6. The bread of Presence had 12 loaves, one for each tribe of Israel. Look up the following verses Genesis 49:1-28 and fill in the missing tribes below.

*Note: these tribes differ from the sons of Jacob as Reuben was denied his blessing and instead it was given to Joseph's sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) and Levi is not given land as they are the priests.*

1. Simeon
2. Judah
3. Zebulun
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Gad
7. Asher
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Joseph
10. Manasseh
11. Ephraim
12. \_\_\_\_\_

Throughout the bible you will hear about the tribes of Israel. Knowing these tribes will help you better connect the Old and the New Testament. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah.

It's important to remember Jesus wants our hearts. He wants our heart to be for him and obedient to him, because he loves us. Keep your focus on Jesus, keep your heart set on God and love others.

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*When Mary and Ramah are looking for fruits and berries Mary quotes Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

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## Episode 7: Reckoning

In this episode everyone is preparing for the big sermon Jesus will be sharing soon. He gives everyone a job to help, but it is interrupted by Roman soldiers sent to take Jesus to Quintus. Let's dive into the episode to learn more.

Jesus tells the disciples that he is preparing for a very important, big sermon. He says that it will define his whole ministry and he will write it so it connects with people on a personal level. He needs help from everyone, so he divides up jobs and they start to prepare. It's so interesting to think about the preparation that Jesus and the disciples put into the Sermon on the Mount. When you read scripture and think of Jesus as God, it's just assumed he knew what he was going to write and just gave one of the best speeches in history with little preparation. But that probably wasn't the case. He, like us, must prepare and the disciples helped him with that process. (More to come on this in the next episode.) How does it make you feel that Jesus has to prepare for things as well? When you are in the middle of preparing for a presentation or big event, know Jesus experienced this life very similarly to you. Reflect below:

Meanwhile Simon and Andrew are fishing as everyone is very hungry, that is until they see the Roman guards approaching the camp looking for Jesus. Jesus is taken by Gaius and Atticus to Quintus. Quintus wanted to question Jesus and see if he is a threat to Rome. He ruled that he was not a threat and asked Jesus to not attract crowds, uprising or take any more of his talent. We all know Jesus can't and didn't agree to this, the Sermon on the Mount is coming up! Note that this interaction is not in scripture. Quintus is also not a biblical character so none of this part of the show was based on the bible.

Two people from season 1 make an appearance in this episode. Tamar and the paralytic man who was healed after his friends sent him down through the roof to Jesus are seen by Philip and Andrew in the streets telling crowds about the miracles they have seen. Shmuel has been looking for them and wanted to see if Jesus healed the leper and the paralytic man on the Sabbath to help his case against Jesus. Luckily, Andrew finds them before Shmuel and Tamar leaves with Andrew to go back to the camp.

Once Jesus gets back to the camp, the disciples tell him how worried they were! Jesus lets them know, they shouldn't worry. They ask for a prayer that they can pray in times of distress. Jesus reminds them that prayer is the first step in getting their mind and heart right. So, Jesus gives them the Lord's prayer to start praying.

- **Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)** – <sup>9</sup> Pray then like this: “Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Let's give the prayer a try as we break it up below:

- **“Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name”** – God is great, use the space below to express to God how truly great he is.
  
- **“Your kingdom come, your will be done”** - This can be the hardest part of the prayer to pray. It doesn’t say, MY will be done, but YOUR will be done. Do you feel you truly pray this way?
  - Jesus prayed this way when he was in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). He prayed for God to give him another way besides going to the cross and all the suffering and humiliation he was about to endure. But Jesus prayed, “Your will be done.” He was ready to endure all of that because he wanted God’s will. Have you been praying for God’s will to be done or your will to be done? Are you open to what God’s will is? Write a prayer below asking for God’s will to be done.
  
- **“On earth as it is in heaven”** – Heaven is going to be a wonderful place where we get to be with God with no more pain and suffering. Praying for God to be with us and for earth to be like heaven is a wonderful prayer. What aspect of heaven do you most look forward to and wish was here on earth and why?
  
- **“Give us this day our daily bread”** – Many of us in America do not have to worry about our daily bread. We have plenty of food in our pantries and are provided for. We are so blessed. But there is more to this part of the prayer than actual food. Jesus says that he is the bread of life (John 6:35). We need our daily dose of him everyday to sustain us. So, thank God for the actual food that you have, but also the bread that he gave us through Jesus. Are you seeking Jesus daily? What can you do to seek your daily bread every day?

- **“Forgive us our debts”** – Confess your sins to God. The best way to be forgiven by God is to recognize your sin and ask for forgiveness of the sin that you commit. Ask God for forgiveness in where you have sinned, fallen short or given into temptation.
- **“As we also have forgiven our debtors”** – If we are asking God for forgiveness, it makes sense that we would forgive those who have hurt us as well. Is there anyone that you need to forgive? It’s important not to hold that bitterness and resentment in your heart. It only separates you from Jesus. Use the space below to reflect and truly seek to forgive.
- **“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”** – Resisting temptation is hard and we can’t do it on our own. We need God’s help to deliver us from temptation and the ways the devil tries to lure us away from Jesus. Know that you can’t do it alone, but God can help! We just have to ask him and follow his ways, his commandments and guidance. Use the space below to ask God for help with what tempts you.

As we have seen through going through the Lord’s Prayer, prayer is really important. It is our communication with God. We have the power to ask God for help. We can pray for others, for ourselves, our families and God will hear us. To close, use the rest of the space below to pray for the people in your life and don’t forget yourself.

## Episode 8: Beyond Mountains

The big moment is approaching, and everyone is preparing for the Sermon on the Mount. Little James, Nathanael and Thaddaeus look for the land to hold the sermon, while the women prepare flyers to tell everyone about the event. Jesus and Matthew continue to prepare the sermon, and we run into the last disciple, Judas. All of this builds up to the most famous sermon to ever be given!

The episode opens with Judas and his business partner negotiating a land deal with a Jewish landowner. They are trying to purchase his land and work out a very favorable deal for themselves as they believe the land is on a salt mine and the landowner has no idea. They lie and say they plan to make graves out of the stone and withhold the information about salt being on the land and very profitable. Judas later feels guilty that he cheated the landowner out of money and made an unfair deal.

Although the negotiation skills that Judas and his partner have were just used for deceit, they are able to use those same skills to help James, Nathanael and Thaddaeus convince the landowner of the field that they want to use for the Sermon on the Mount to allow them to use the land for free. They finally use their skills of persuasion for good. We all have skills that can be used for bad or for good. What are your skills and how can you use them to glorify the Lord?

Jesus prepares for the Sermon on the Mount with Matthew and asks for his feedback. Jesus explains that he is going to be talking about a radical shift, but Matthew explains that he doesn't understand some of the things that Jesus is saying and they seem harsh. Read through the verses below and circle the one that is hardest for you to comprehend. Underline the verse that is hardest for you to follow.

- **Matthew 5:27-29 (ESV)** – <sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”
- **Matthew 5:40 (ESV)** – “And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”
- **Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV)** – <sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those

## Bible Reference

As Ramah is learning to read with Mary, she is reading from the book of Psalm. Psalm 139 was written by King David. See the scripture below.

**Psalm 139:15-16 (ESV)** – <sup>15</sup> *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.* <sup>16</sup> *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

### DID YOU KNOW??

This passage is just a few verses after the scripture Matthew, Mary and Ramah were memorizing from earlier in the season, Psalm 139:8.

*who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."*

- **Matthew 5:43-44 (ESV)** - <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew also specifically questions what the salt of the earth means. Jesus explains the purpose of salt and what qualities he wants in his followers. As this explanation is not from scripture, Jesus does talk in parables and metaphors to help connect with the listener. Read Matthew 5:13 below and fill in the blank:

**Matthew 5:13 (ESV)** – "You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Salt was and is an important commodity back in Jesus' time and in this day and age. We use salt not only on our food, but to melt ice and snow in the winter to keep us safe, stain removal, and as a cleaning element. See what Jesus said in The Chosen about salt below:

- Salt slows decay – his followers should hold back the evil of this world.
- Salt enhances flavor – his followers should renew the world and be part of the solution.
- Salt when combined with honey is healing – his followers should heal the world and not destroy it.

Which use of salt speaks to you? What can you do to be the salt of the earth?

Many parts of Jesus' sermon are hard to understand as they are radically different than the ten commandments. Jesus also talks about how he talks in parables so it would speak to some, but not others. He wants strong followers, not passive followers. Jesus explains in Mark why he talks in parables.

**Mark 4:10-12 (ESV)** – <sup>10</sup> And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, <sup>12</sup> so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."

Jesus wants us to try to understand. He doesn't want a passive follower, he wants a follower that wants to learn, seek answers and not just comprehend what he is saying, but act on it. Do you feel like you are a passive follower or are you seeking to learn more? What can you do to not be passive in your faith?

If you struggle to understand something, I challenge you to research it and look up creditable interpretations. I recommend Gotquestions.org as they have a lot of answers to common questions.

Jesus has finished his sermon! Yay! He let Matthew know first thing that morning that he has finalized the beginning of the sermon to create a map. A map of where to find him as he will be among these types of people.

Read the passage below and circle the attributes that Jesus is calling out in each verse.

**Matthew 5:3 (ESV)** - *3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

Which attribute that Jesus calls out resonates with you the most?

People are starting to arrive; they are excited to hear Jesus’ message! Judas arrives and gets a backstage pass to meet some of the disciples and be there as Jesus prepares to go out. Over 3,000 people have arrived and Jesus is ready! As he walks out to the stage he passes each of his disciples and you can see the excitement and love for Jesus on their faces. Right as he steps onto the stage the screen goes black and the season is over. It gets you so excited for Season 3 and the delivery of Jesus’ famous sermon!

I don’t know about you, but I am so excited to see Jesus give the Sermon on the Mount. Next season is going to be so good and I can’t wait to have you join me in the next study of Season 3.

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*The Chosen shows Matthew working with Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount. This famous speech is only recorded in the gospel of Matthew. While Jesus doesn’t need help from a disciple to write the speech, the creators might have included this to show that Matthew captured the sermon word for word in his gospel. See Matthew 5:1-7:28*

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## **Appendix**

We have finally met all of the disciples! When you compare the three gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luk) and the book of Acts, it is interesting that the order of the disciples is listed differently in each one. The order may not have any significance, but there is a pattern in how each one starts and ends. This may or may not be in the order in which the disciples started following Jesus, maybe it is in order of their importance in Jesus' ministry. Either way, the names are all the same, but the order is different. See the chart below:

| <b><u>Matthew 10</u></b>       | <b><u>Mark 3</u></b>           | <b><u>Luke 6</u></b>              | <b><u>Acts 1</u></b>              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Simon Peter                    | Simon Peter                    | Simon Peter                       | Simon Peter                       |
| Andrew                         | James (son of Zebedee)         | Andrew                            | John (son of Zebedee)             |
| James (son of Zebedee)         | John (son of Zebedee)          | James (son of Zebedee)            | James (son of Zebedee)            |
| John (son of Zebedee)          | Andrew                         | John (son of Zebedee)             | Andrew                            |
| Philip                         | Philip                         | Philip                            | Philip                            |
| Bartholomew<br>(Nathanael)     | Bartholomew<br>(Nathanael)     | Bartholomew<br>(Nathanael)        | Thomas                            |
| Thomas                         | Matthew (Levi)                 | Matthew (Levi)                    | Bartholomew<br>(Nathanael)        |
| Matthew (Levi)                 | Thomas                         | Thomas                            | Matthew (Levi)                    |
| James the son of<br>Alphaeus   | James the son of<br>Alphaeus   | James the son of<br>Alphaeus      | James the son of<br>Alphaeus      |
| Thaddaeus                      | Thaddaeus                      | Simon the Zealot                  | Simon the Zealot                  |
| Simon the Zealot<br>(Cananean) | Simon the Zealot<br>(Cananean) | Judas son of James<br>(Thaddaeus) | Judas son of James<br>(Thaddaeus) |
| Judas Iscariot                 | Judas Iscariot                 | Judas Iscariot                    | Judas Iscariot                    |

## **Appendix - References**

This study is based on The Chosen show. Quotes and material from the show are included in this study.

The Chosen Season 2. Directed by Dallas Jenkins, Out of Order Studios and Loaves & Fishes Productions, 2021.

Bible verses are referenced from the (ESV) English Standard Version of the bible.

The ESV Bible. (2001). English Standard Version [Online Version]. Crossway.