

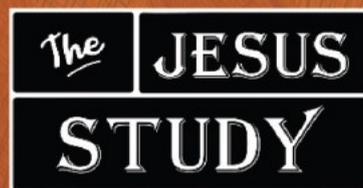
HOPE FOR THE LOST

The Chosen Study

-Season Two-



*Ten Studies Inspired
by THE CHOSEN*



Come and see

Why wouldn't it need to be precise? Mine will be precise.

-Matthew to John, Episode 1A

Speaking of broken bones, what's the story?

-Jesus to Melech, Episode 1B

Once you've met the Messiah, "am" is all that matters.

-Philip to Matthew, Episode 2

What is happening? What are we a part of?

-Thomas to the other disciples, Episode 3

Sometimes you've got to stir up the water.

-Jesus to Peter, John and Matthew, Episode 4

It's becoming real, isn't it? Everything we prepared for.

-John the Baptist to Jesus, Episode 5

Did you really think that you'd never struggle or sin again?

-Jesus to Mary Magdalene, Episode 6

Jesus of Nazareth, we finally meet.

-Quintus to Jesus, Episode 7

I'm not here to be sentimental and soothing.

-Jesus to Matthew, Episode 8

For: observers... skeptics... learners... seekers... followers.

The **CHOSEN**
SERIES

-Season One: **WATER FOR THE THIRSTY**

⇒ Season Two: **HOPE FOR THE LOST**

-Season Three: **FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY**

-Season Four:

-Season Five:

-Season Six:

-Season Seven:

The **BIBLE**
SERIES

-The John Study: **TRUTH FOR THE SEEKER**

-The Risen Study: **EVIDENCE FOR THE SKEPTIC**

-The Paul Study: **GRACE FOR THE UNDESERVING**

-The Life Study: **MEANING FOR THE DISILLUSIONED**

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The Chosen Study
HOPE FOR THE LOST

The Chosen Study

HOPE FOR THE LOST

*A welcoming and
interactive experience for everyone:
observers... skeptics... learners... seekers... followers.*

The Jesus Study Team

Bill & Teresa Syrios, Dietrich Gruen,
Tori Foss, Bill Ditewig and Don & Cathy Baker



*Watch > Discover > Relate
the Most Audacious
Story ever told.*



*Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary;
they will walk and not faint.*

-Isaiah 40:31



*©2023 Hope for the Lost: The Chosen Study, Season Two
New Edition (Ten Studies Inspired by The Chosen)
Bill Syrios & TJS Team*

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"The Chosen is a television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker, Dallas Jenkins. It is the first multi-season series about the life of Christ, and season one was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time.

The series' creators stated that they had hoped to distinguish the new series from previous portrayals of Jesus by crafting a multi-season, episode-based story. The series portrays Jesus 'through the eyes of those who met him.'"
—*The Chosen*, Wikipedia

The Chosen Study focuses on *filling out* the series with Scripture passages to take everyone deeper. The guide can profitably be used by individuals with the hope that they... we... facilitate outreach and learning with others in one-on-one and group contexts. After all: *People must know!*

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Welcome to *The Chosen Study: Season Two*

Like the man himself, the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry are unique in the field of literature. Ancient writings include historical accounts, personal memoirs, and mythological stories. But none of these styles describe how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote.

They combine the roles of historian, biographer, theologian, and pastor. These "reporters" are not simply neutral observers but men who had been deeply influenced by the message they desired to communicate. Lacking literary precedent, second-century Christians called them *Evangelists*, and their writings, *The Gospels*.

The English word "gospel" comes from the Greek term, *evangelion*, which means "good news." The four Evangelists wanted their readers to not only know how remarkable Jesus was, but to know how good his message becomes in the lives of those who embrace it.

To understand that message better, we have selected key Bible passages portrayed in *The Chosen*. So, wherever you may be spiritually—an **observer... skeptic... learner... seeker... or follower**—we're glad you've joined in to learn from those who knew Jesus best.

Bible Study 2.0 = Food + Film + Scripture + Discussion

The Chosen Study includes ten studies. We typically:

- Choose the study* from *The Chosen* or *The Bible Series* (pp. 176-179).
- Meet weekly* to watch > discover > relate and to develop friendships.
- Start with a meal*, potluck, or finger food to relax with each other.
- Have no need* to bring Bibles. This guide includes the Scripture used.
- Share* at your comfort level. No one is asked to sing, pray or read aloud.
- Are facilitated* by a leader who guides group discussion and pace.

The Chosen and Bible Series from The Jesus Study

Our purpose is to equip leaders to facilitate vibrant, *evangelizing discipleship communities* that draw people in to watch, discover and relate to Jesus. *How can we serve you?* For Resources: pages 175-185.

Where to Meet

Churches are convenient, accessible, and often free, with kitchens and tables. Also, look for non-church, friendly alternatives such as hotel conference or community rooms, homes, colleges, offices, and cafés.



How to Invite

Show the **3:00 min. trailer** to potential group members who may be interested in coming (see also pages 165-167): tinyurl.com/trailer-season-two

NOTE FOR EVERYONE: We use "tinyurl.com" to create shortened URLs for you to type into your browser window to access most of the videos.

LEADER'S SUMMARY—Take note of:

- Pages 9-15:** Explanation of the study and discussion format.
- Pages 18-19:** *Prior To Study* are points to consider before each study.
- Pages 163-170:** See for more in-depth leader's notes.
- For supportive video descriptions of *how to facilitate a group*, see: tinyurl.com/lead-your-group and tinyurl.com/promote-your-group.

Some studies have two segments: **WATCH → DISCOVER**

Others have three: **DISCOVER → WATCH → DISCOVER**

If you are short on time, you could summarize the first passage or skip its questions, or even eliminate it altogether (also see page 15). Do study and discuss the second passage together. Regardless, monitor your time and pace yourselves to leave adequate time to end with the...

RELATE → T-Shirt Design segments

to summarize, crystallize and have some fun together!

Then, encourage personal, at-home follow-up
to review and go deeper with...

Drive it Home → Video Insights → A-C-T-S → S-H-A-R-E

GUIDE OVERVIEW: 3-Step Process → Drive it Home

The Chosen Study guide provides a means of bringing people together to study and discuss Chosen episodes with Scripture. This framework gives direction to dynamic group studies and discussions:



PRIOR

STUDY

How to Lead the Study

Tips to help current (and future) leaders prepare. Please read pages 18-19 fully.

1 **WATCH** *View Episode Together > Discuss*

Questions that take us deeper into the episode.

FROM

The CHOSEN

2 **DISCOVER** *Read Passage > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Intro, "Look Fors," Questions to grasp meaning.

FROM

The BIBLE

3 **RELATE** *Apply Insights to God, Life and Yourself > Discuss*

Make applications and summarize in a T-Shirt Design.



T-Shirt Design *Create a memorable one-liner*

Crystallize your thoughts in a slogan or drawing.

GUIDE COMMENTARY & ARTISTIC LICENSE

Notes on the Study *Commentary and Historical Context*

The biblical passages' context and meaning put into perspective.

REALISTIC *That's plausible but did it happen?*

But REAL? The Chosen's artistic license put into perspective.

PERSONAL FOLLOW-UP AFTER YOUR GROUP

Drive it Home and **Video Insights** and **Worship—Pray—Share**

A. C. T. S. Prayer: Adoration/Confession/Thanksgiving/Supplication

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality: Stop/Hear/Analyze/Risk/Execute

Don't use this as a Study Guide, but as a SCRATCH PAD!

What do you think about when you hear the word “study”? Yeah, thought so. It’s bad. Well, how about when you hear the term, “Mark It Up”? Not so bad, right?

Think of a Mark-It-Up study format as the adult version of drawing with crayons.

When young children use crayons, they don’t care about much except enjoying the process. That’s the idea! Be like a kid. (We’ll talk about this more in Study #4!) Just swap crayons for a four-color BIC pen!



We learn through our five senses, like hearing something read aloud. So, plan on having someone who reads well read the passages.

In marking up the Scripture passage, we also use another sense that we would otherwise not: the sense of touch. And if we do so colorfully (enter the four-color BIC pen—very inexpensive in a 12-pack from Amazon), we add just a bit more to the learning process through the sense of sight. **(For more mark-it-up study, see Journaling NT, p. 178.)**

And don't worry about “drawing within the lines” or “color coding.” Even if you tried, you just can’t mess up this format. There’s no right and wrong, there’s just engagement. Hands on...literally.

*So again,
think of this guide as a
SCRATCH PAD.*

*Apply the M-I-U format and have fun with it.
Yes, exactly like you did drawing those
childhood masterpieces!*

1) WATCH > 2) DISCOVER > 3) RELATE → Drive it Home

1) WATCH View Episode 1 Together (52 min.) > Discuss

Example from Study #1, Episode One:
Thunder

On next page →

2) DISCOVER Read Text > Mark It Up > Discuss

Example from Study #1, The Word Became Flesh: John 1:1-14

Ask the “W” Questions

WHO is involved | **WHEN** did it happen | **WHERE** is it happening
WHAT is taking place | **HOW** is it happening... and then ask...
WHY questions to uncover the author’s original meaning.

*The “**Look For**” at the end of each **INTRO** provides initial direction.

**Mark Up the passage(s) by
using a four-colored BIC pen to draw:**

On next page →



- Circle around people or places.
- Boxes around whatever you’d like
- Lines under key words and phrase.
- Clouds wherever you’d feel like it.
- Identify change of scene, watch for contrast, repetition, key words
- Write notes

3) RELATE Apply to God & Life | After Study: Drive it Home



Express Your Thoughts:
Write, discuss and live out applications from the passages in your life— your relationship with God, with others, your values, priorities, goals.



On page 14 →

How to WATCH *The Chosen*

Go to thechosen.tv under the “Watch” tab. For the app, see thechosen.tv/app or search *The Chosen* in your Apple/Android app store. From the app, you can stream it to your TV or you can find *the series* on providers like Angel Studios and Amazon.



The Chosen

Always **turn on the TV's closed captions** to better follow the narrative. **Darken the room** to better enhance the action. A big TV also helps!



Note: We identify the length of each episode (from 37 to 59 minutes, excluding credits) in the WATCH sections to help you pace the study. Better to leave things unsaid than to bog down.

How to DISCOVER a passage's meaning: Example

Similar to Genesis

The Word predates Time as God

John 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was “A man” came as a witness to “the Word”/“the Light” a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

The results of believing and receiving = becoming

How to use the guide's questions: GENERAL then SPECIFIC

Unlike most Bible studies, these studies consider the fact that your group has just spent time studying (*Discover* section). So, instead of using the guide's questions first, **start with "general questions,"** like:

... Set the scene, who's involved, and what are they doing?

... What did you see (observe, notice or appreciate) in this section?

... What strikes you (surprises you or is something new to you) here?

Then, ask general follow-up questions like: *... Any other thoughts?*

Such questions often lead to an extended back-and-forth dialogue (see page 172). That's your discussion goal. If this happens, **you do not need to use many or any of the guide's more specific questions.** So, if or when the dialogue wanes or wanders from the main points, then you can use some of the guide's **more "specific questions,"** such as:

*Contrast Jesus' attitude toward sinners with that of the Pharisees.
What does Jesus say are the results for those who are "born again"?*

RELATE and **T-Shirt Design**
from the passage's meaning

Use questions to help apply the text and to summarize your takeaways by creating a T-Shirt Design (see page 29-30). Use these for a group wrap-up.



Drive it Home and **Video Insights** and **Worship—Pray—Share**

Schedule a quiet time during the week after the study—say on “your Sabbath”—to **review and respond** with *worship, prayer* and *sharing*. We suggest that you find a special place and time to plan for this as a **God-Encounter Thing**.

Such a time allows you to express praise, embrace gratitude, plan kindnesses, and evaluate where you are giving your time, energy, and focus: *Is this what God has for you—or is there something different?*

The **Drive it Home** section continues with **Video Insights**, which provide a variety of resources, from music videos to word studies to Bible teaching. This will expose you and your group to other growth opportunities. Have your device available or access videos by going to the links at: jesusstudy.org, under *Study Options—Season Two*

Next comes **ACTS**—*Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication* and **SHARE**—*Stop, Hear, Analyze, Risk, Execute*. (See pages 34-35.)

Size Options: How large is your group? (See also page 168.)

One-on-One
Get-Togethers

or

Small Group
Meetings

or

Small/Large (8+)
Group Gatherings



Time Options: How much time do you have?

Longer: WATCH > DISCOVER > RELATE with food, as set out in this guide, takes **2½ to 3 hours**. This format is most impactful and cited below. *

Medium: If limited to **1½ to 2 hours**, you will need to skip questions or eliminate a “Discover” section to condense and keep up the pace.

Shorter: If the group has less time, say **an hour**, you could: 1) watch the episode and 2), study the passages before coming. Then as you meet, you would discuss what you watched and studied in preparation. (This option is less than ideal if members’ preparation is inconsistent.)

***EXAMPLE: Midweek Evening**

5:45 ARRIVE: 15 min. to gather

6:00 POTLUCK: 30 min. relax/eat

6:30-8:45 THE CHOSEN STUDY

***EXAMPLE: Saturday Morning**

8:45 ARRIVE: 15 min. to gather

9:00 LITE BREAKFAST: 15 min.

9:15-11:15 THE CHOSEN STUDY

CONSIDER—3 Options for Study #10 (Also see page 134.)

*Why should you consider a longer gathering for your last meeting?
and*

Why bring up the last gathering before you've had your first one?

Good questions. The answers require a *big picture explanation*, so here goes: *The Chosen Study* is not meant to be a “normal Bible Study group.” There certainly is nothing wrong with such studies. They’re great, but they are just not what we’re doing here. We’re Bible Study 2.0 after all!

*Our purpose centers around **inviting everyone we know** to join us for a study of Jesus and his message.* In doing so, we seek to build enduring friendships between us, and that’s how adding a day-long or weekend bonding event (at a special place!) can help us reach these goals.

Hopefully, your last gathering won’t be your last meeting, but a key bonding opportunity to add fuel to the fire of momentum... for your next Study and the new group members who will join you!

Option #1: Study #10 Extended Reflection (One Session)

Do a normal study. Then plan for an extended *Drive it Home* session.

Option #2: Study #10 Day-Long Event (Three Sessions)

9:00: Lite Breakfast	1:30: <i>Afternoon Session</i>
9:30: <i>Morning Session</i>	3:00: <i>Later Afternoon Session</i>
12:00 Lunch	5:00 End with Dinner

Option #3: Study #10 Weekend Retreat (Five Sessions)

FRIDAY: Dinner	1:30: <i>Afternoon Session</i>
7:00: <i>Evening Session</i>	6:00: Saturday Dinner
SATURDAY: Lite Breakfast	7:30: <i>Evening Session</i>
9:00: <i>Morning Session</i>	SUNDAY: Breakfast
12:00: Saturday Lunch	9:00: <i>Morning Session</i> /End with Lunch

A Word as We Begin

The Chosen is meant to take you into the eyes and ears of the people who followed Jesus. We believe that if you can see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, you can be changed and impacted in the same way they were. If we can connect you with their burdens and struggles and questions, then ideally, we can connect you to the solution, to the answer to those questions. —Dallas Jenkins

The Chosen Study supports these aspirations by pairing *The Chosen* with Old and New Testament passages to take us deeper—together!

Starting a Chosen Study? Please let us know and we'll help you connect with others doing so, including ourselves. Also see the **volume discount** at our website under *order-guides*. —The Jesus Study Team



Leading Season Two—preparation checklist

Leader's Note: *Buy guides and four-colored BIC pens in advance.* Participants can purchase guides themselves but it's often easier if one person buys the guides (from Amazon is easiest) along with four-color BIC pens (find 6 or 12 BIC pen packs on Amazon). We keep the guides affordable to encourage their widespread use. To see all our guides and to order—including a **volume discount**, see: jesusstudy.org/order-guides.

Buy some extra guides for new people and those who forget to bring theirs—it happens. **Label these as EXTRA on the back cover** to use for others in subsequent weeks. Feel free to charge the participants a fee for reimbursement of these purchases.

If someone forgets their guide and there are no extras, go to the website **to get the PDF by typing in URL:** jesusstudy.org/season-two

–Watch the episode, study the passage(s), and take notes ahead of time. Look at the *Notes* after the questions (and other commentaries, as you see fit), as well as the *Real But Realistic?* sections.

–Always tell your group at which question to end, so they know how far to go during the study and discussion time.

–The Relate question (page 28) is for personal contemplation and then, with *the T-Shirt design* (pages 29-30), meant to be drawn and shared with the group at the end of your study. Have fun with it!

–The Notes are for reference, not for discussion, unless time allows.

–Keep up the pace! Time can pass more quickly than you expect, so watch the clock, leave things unsaid, and keep moving to finish on time. (Ask your group's permission to interrupt to keep up the pace!)

–Prepare by using Prior To Study on page 19, and before each study.

Page 19 is the template. All other studies follow a similar pattern.

PRIOR
To **STUDY**

Leading Study #1— facilitating checklist

-Begin by exchanging names and personal info. Put together a sign-up sheet. (See pages 173-174 and sign-up sheet on website under *Resources*.)

- Have members put their names on the back cover for identification.
- Identify your time constraints and whether you will meet as a small or small/large group combination. (See pages 15 and 168.)
- Go through the Eight Ground Rules on page 169. Talk about signing **The Ground Rules #8 Challenge** of consistent attendance. We're not here to lay on guilt, but constancy serves us all. Have fun with stressing this!
- Skim, review and discuss pages 21-24. Then watch and discuss the last 12:30 minutes of episode 8 (*I Am He* from Season One). After that, watch and discuss the Bible Project video and watch and discuss the first 8:18 minutes of episode 1 of Season Two (*Thunder*).
- Then talk through the study format by going through pages 10 to 15, so that everyone has a feel for the M-I-U and the guide's overview.
- Have a prepped volunteer read aloud the Intro, Genesis 1:1-5, John 1:1-14 and the "Look For" items on pages 25-27. Give members time for personal study using four-colored BIC pens. Monitor to end study time when appropriate. **Keep up the pace!**
- Discuss the passage by first asking general discussion questions. Then, if needed, the specific guide questions (see explanation on page 14). First, discuss in small group(s) and then, if available, the large group.
- Spend time reflecting on, writing and sharing the Relate questions, and the T-Shirt Design (pages 29-30). Then share these in the group.
- Point out the Drive it Home, Video Insights, ACTS and SHARE sections (pages 32-35) for your group. Encourage a midweek (or Sabbath) review.

Leaders: What are the key things for you to focus on?

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The Chosen, 40 Days with Jesus: *The Chosen* produces a devotional for each season which can be used five days a week over the course of the study. We highly recommend it. (See page 178 for more info.)

The Bible Project: Some of our studies include videos from *The Bible Project*. You can find their large video collection on books of the Bible, biblical themes, word studies, animated outlines and commentary of biblical books. See: bibleproject.com

The Bible Artist: Kevin Keating has a notable website with extensive resources on film and Scripture study with a focus on *The Chosen*. See: thebibleartist.com

I Am He (Season One, Episode 8)
& Thunder (Season Two, Ep. 1)

Study
#1

REVIEW: Take a few minutes to skim the events and characters in Season One on pages 22-23, then answer and talk about questions on page 24. (If you haven't seen the first season yet, it would be good to binge-watch it soon.)

FROM
The CHOSEN

Looking Back on Season One > Discuss



Pilot Episode: The series opens with Jesus’ birth story as experienced by **shepherds**, one of whom was lame. Having heard of Old Testament prophecies and having seen angels, they visit **Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus**. Beholding the scene, they are transformed, even healed. They tell others, in Bethlehem and beyond, of the angels’ proclamation—*the good news of great joy that will be for all the people* (Luke 2:10).

Episode One: The opening scene depicts a woman (“Lilith”) in distress and demon-possessed. **Nicodemus**, a Pharisee from Jerusalem, is compelled by the Romans to exorcise her demons, but fails, causing him to question his faith. After a near-suicide attempt, Lilith meets Jesus, who calls her by her real name, **Mary of Magdala**. We also meet brothers, **Simon** and **Andrew**, fishermen with tax debts, and their tax collector, **Matthew**, all of whose lives are about to change.

Episode Two: To the distress of his overseer, **Gaius**, an earnest Matthew seeks out Roman praetor, **Quintus**, for help. Quintus ends up enlisting his help to catch fishermen who evade taxes on Shabbat (Sabbath). Nicodemus tracks down Mary to clarify the source of her demonic deliverance. Preparation for the Shabbat meal is made and celebrated by Jewish leaders, fishermen, Matthew with his dog, and Mary Magdalene. Mary hosts a meal for a small group, with the last arrival introduced as “the man who helped me.”

Episode Three: Aptly titled, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, the children are commended as examples for Jesus’ students. All such students should listen to him and tell others about him. Through the eyes of **Abigail, Joshua “the Brave,”** and the other children, we see how kind and purposeful Jesus is. Our challenge: Embrace such a childlike faith!

Episode Four: The series pivots from Jesus with children to a defining moment in his childhood when he spent three days at the temple, unbeknownst to his parents. When they found him, Jesus asks, “*Didn’t you know I must be in my Father’s House?*” Twenty years later, Jesus and his students attend a wedding at Cana. While there, he confounds

everyone—the wedding party, wine stewards, **Ramah** and **Thomas**, as well as his students—by turning water into wine. This miracle remedies the crisis at hand. This “sign” also answers his mother’s challenge, “*If not now, when?*” Jesus’ intervention reveals more of who he is and about his mission. Later, Nicodemus questions **John the Baptist** in prison, eager to learn more regarding the coming Messiah.

Episode Five: The fishermen have failed in their efforts to pay back taxes to Rome. Roman officials are not to be trifled with and Simon faces the imminent consequence of imprisonment or worse. Only a miracle can save him and that, surprisingly, is what happens. The huge catch leads Simon to repentance and faith. Jesus promises to turn fishermen into fishers of people. Simon then communicates his new vocation to his wife, Eden. She enthusiastically supports this change, telling him: *Someone finally sees in you what I have always seen. You’re more than a fisherman.*

Episode Six: Jesus’ compassion is on full display. He heals a leper and a paralytic, showcasing the faith of their friends. As Jesus’ followers witness his care, their faith in him grows, as does the resistance among religious leaders who consider his claims and actions blasphemous. Some are jealous, while others are intrigued, as they sort out what to make of this itinerant miracle worker from Nazareth.

Episode Seven: Building common ground with Nicodemus, Jesus takes us back to Moses and the bronze serpent, which was lifted up in the wilderness, and healed God’s people by faith. He calls unlikely converts to *follow me*. Matthew is called and follows immediately—much to the consternation of Simon. Jesus’ disciples are divided by personal, political, and even ethnic points of views. Jesus urges Simon (and us) to: *Get used to different!*

Episode Eight: The final episode begins with a flashback to Jacob’s Well. This sets up the following scene where Jesus and his students head straight through the hated and dangerous region of Samaria. Jesus stops at Jacob’s Well where he meets **Photina**, an outcast woman of Samaria. Their encounter reveals the life and mission of Jesus and his disciples, as we will soon see in Season Two.

1. Take a moment to review and respond. Then share with the group.
Who were your three favorite characters in Season One?

... How is he or she starting to be changed by getting to know Jesus as the Messiah?

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-

-

WATCH View the last 12:30 min. from Season One, Episode 8
(from 40:10 to 52:40) > Discuss

INTRO: Season One ends with Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman (named **Photina**) at Jacob's Well in Sychar. Other women are disgusted by her lifestyle choices. So, to avoid them, Photina chooses to go to the well in the middle of the day's heat when they won't be there. That's the very time Jesus arrives.



Jesus' disciples were surprised that he even wanted to travel through Samaria. Samaritans were despised by the Jews (and vice versa). They were considered half-breed, religious inferiors. But Jesus is on a mission to reveal his identity to the town's most outcast person, to lay the groundwork for the townspeople coming to know him as the Messiah and Shepherd, searching for lost sheep in Season Two.

2. *What opens Photina's eyes to whom Jesus is?*

3. She had heard the Messiah would come and now knows the Messiah personally. *What difference does this make to her?*

WATCH View BibleProject.com, *The Messiah* (5 min.) > [Discuss](http://Discuss.tinyurl.com/bible-project-messiah)

4. *From the video, how would you describe the nature and role of the Messiah?*



Thunder (Season Two, Episode 1A)

WATCH View the first 9 min. from Season Two, Episode 1 (from 0:00–8:42 min.) > Discuss

INTRO: In the opening scene, ten-plus years after Jesus' death, the disciples gather to mourn "Big" James' death (44 AD; Acts 12:2). John, the Gospel writer, interviews **Simon Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, "Little" James, Thaddeus, Nathanael** and Jesus' mother, **Mary**, who John now addresses as *mother*. They all recount their first encounters with Jesus.

FROM

The

CHOSEN

5. *What struck you about John’s interview with Mary, the disciples, and Mary Magdalene?*

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

INTRO: God spoke, and the universe came into existence. John links the Creator’s work with that of the “divine Word” (*Logos*). By referring to Jesus as “The Word,” John states that the Redeemer was present at the time of Creation, is equal to God, and a co-partner in the ongoing fulfillment of the Divine Plan. As the sun lit up the planets eons ago, so the Son of God brings light to the earth and its inhabitants now.



Always consider the “W Questions” (page 12) and look for contrasts.

The Creation of the World

GENESIS 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

²The 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. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day....

The Word Became Flesh

JOHN 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

6. *How does the beginning of John's Gospel compare to the beginning of Genesis?*

7. *What are the characteristics of “The Word” in John 1?*

8. *What does vs. 14 further add to the nature of “the Word?”*

9. *John says there is both a negative and positive reception from the world to the Word. What are the benefits for those who receive him?*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

10. *Imagine that John had interviewed you while writing his gospel. Describe how and when you first encountered Jesus?*

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

NOTE FOR EVERYONE: End by completing the RELATE section and designing your T-shirt. Then share them with your group. On the first page, under *Come and See* (as well as below), are some T-shirt sayings. Feel free to get more creative...or not with your design and share it!

Example concepts/quotations summarizing the film:

Hey guys, thanks for taking the time to write it down!
In the beginning. . . John plagiarized the Book of Genesis.
My most important right: being God's child. Granted, it's granted.

OR

You could DRAW a picture that summarizes your thoughts.

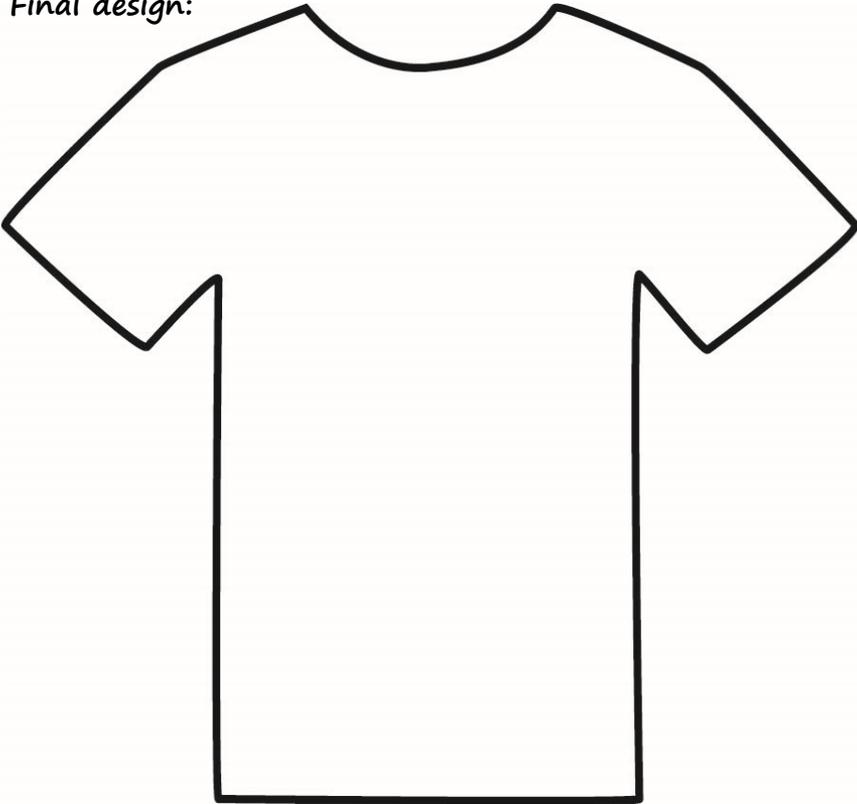


T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Wrap up by sharing with your group.

Draft concepts/quotations for summarizing this study:

Final design:



NOTE FOR EVERYONE: Don't be shy. Share what you created for your T-Shirt. Which other slogans or drawings you particularly like from others in your group?

Notes on Study #1 *Commentary and Historical Context*

John 4:1-39—Having our Thirst Quenched and Hunger Satisfied

- *The Chosen* identifies Photina as an outcast in her hometown. She visited the well when other women didn't, has had five husbands, and experienced a great deal of shame and rejection. Jesus offers her *living water* to meet her deepest need—a relationship with himself.
- As *living water* replenishes the spirit, so *living food*—doing God's will—sustains the soul. The disciples miss the point in their asking if Jesus had already eaten. But, not to worry, the next stop is Sychar, where Photina is now preparing the way for their arrival!

Genesis 1:1-5 & John 1:1-14—The Creation of the World and The Word

- Be sure to notice that the first three words in both Genesis and The Gospel of John are “In the beginning.” Genesis tells us that *time* was the first thing created, but in John's Gospel, “The Word,” Jesus, preceded even *time*. “The Word,” brought us God's light, so we could see and experience his grace and truth (v. 14).
- The word, translated as “overcome” in John 1:5, has a double meaning. An alternate translation is “comprehended” or “apprehended.” It indicates both that humans have failed to understand the Light, and that darkness has been unable to extinguish it.

REALISTIC

But

REAL?

That's plausible but did it happen?

Was the Samaritan woman named Photina?

We don't know. However, outside of Jesus' inner circle, she is the first to whom he reveals his identity as the Messiah. Likewise, it was to women that Jesus first appeared after the Resurrection. Such historical details were initially detrimental to the validation of his identity, since women had no societal status as witnesses in a court of law. However, they are now a powerful testimony of the New Testament's authenticity, because no ancient writer would have made up a story with women witnesses!

John 4 contains Jesus' longest conversation on record. His engagement with the Samaritan woman turned her shame to zeal for the one "who told me everything I've ever done." She now becomes the town crier for her hometown of Sychar, which is exactly where Jesus and his disciples are headed to spend the next two days.

Eastern Orthodox tradition contends that the name given her at baptism was Photini—meaning, "enlightened one." Stories about her became embellished, but likely contain kernels of truth.

Some asserted that she was "equal to the apostles" for her zeal. After Jesus' resurrection, some traditions have her speaking about Jesus throughout Asia Minor. Others suggest she went to Rome where, under Nero, she was eventually martyred along with her two sons.

Did all the disciples meet to be interviewed by John for his Gospel?

We have no record from whom, where, or when the Gospel writers collected their stories. There is a fact-finding reference in Luke 1:1-4. Luke said he investigated eyewitness accounts in documenting Jesus' stories and sayings, to keep them for posterity.

The Chosen envisions the disciples meeting and mourning the death of "Big" James. He died at the hands of Herod the Great's grandson, Herod Agrippa I (reigned 41-44 AD). Acts 12 records Herod's violence toward early church leaders in Jerusalem: *He killed James, the brother of John, with the sword* (Acts 12:2).

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

"In the beginning...." Time was the first item on God's creation list. John also begins his gospel "In the beginning" stating that the Word—Jesus, the Logos of God—was certainly there participating in that creation. Let's look first at his backdrop from Genesis 1.

John 1, Creation Series –*The Bible Project*

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/bible-project-john1 (6:30 min.)

10,000 Reasons (Madison Square Garden) –*Matt Redman*

Type in URL tinyurl.com/bless-the-lord (5:09 min.)

Watch, listen, and sing to a worship video with the declaration: *You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, you brought heaven down.*

What a Beautiful Name -Hillsong Worship

Type in URL tinyurl.com/what-a-beautiful (5:42 min.)

11. *What things about Jesus have you learned since you first met him?*

12. *What difference has he made (or would you like him to make in your life?)*

Video Insights *The Word Became Flesh* -John MacArthur

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/the-word-macarthur (49:41 min.)

Thoughts:

The Word Became Flesh -Timothy Keller

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/the-word-keller (46:43 min)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?



Getting ready for the next study

NOTE FOR LEADERS: Begin by having new people introduce themselves.

Then, right before your group studies the passage in Luke 10 (page 38), reiterate the study process on page 11-15.

NOTE FOR EVERYONE: This guide assumes no prior preparation, but there is a place for “post-study reflection” called:

Drive it Home

You have seen this for Study #1 on pages 32-35 and will see it for the next study on pages 44-47. Schedule a **God-encounter time** during the week to review and respond to your last study experience. We have included worship videos and questions to go deeper.

You also likely noted the section called:

Insight Videos

These videos are meant to give you a feel for the wide variety of available video resources. Such content provides even more biblical insight and historical context to the passages being studied.

To access them, it is necessary to be precise when typing in their URL into your computer, tablet, or phone’s browser window. Our website has direct links at jesusstudy.org, under *Study Options—Season Two*.

Finally, pages 46-47 are for post-study prayer and action:

A-C-T-S
and
S-H-A-R-E

Thunder (Episode 1B)

Study
#2

INTRO: The Jews and Samaritans looked down on each other with disdain to the point of hatred. When traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee, Jews often avoided Samaria and took either the coastal route or followed the Jordan river (see the map on page 162). Not Jesus. No issue of ethnic or religious enmity would deter him from his mission of salvation.

FROM

The

BIBLE

Regarding salvation, an occasion arose that gave Jesus not only an opportunity to explain how to obtain it, but to use a provocative illustration of a Samaritan-turned-hero in making his point: The work of God in a person's life helps them see people differently—as God sees them—even to the point of redefining the answer to the question: “Who is my neighbor?”

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Look for the characters in this story and the motives of each of them.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

LUKE 10 ²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ 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. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ And the next day he took out 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.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”

³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”

And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

1. *Why did the lawyer come to see Jesus?*

...What was he expecting Jesus to say?

2. *What does Jesus’ story reveal about good and evil in our world?*

3. *How would you summarize the main point of Jesus’ story?*

WATCH [View Episode 1B starting at 9:40 \(53 min.\) > Discuss](#)

INTRO: In Sychar of Samaria, (see map on page 162) James and John are to till a field owned by **Melech**, which this guide’s cover envisions. Melech is a man crippled by an accident and living with shame from a past crime. He, with his wife, **Chedva**, and daughter, **Rebecca**, host Jesus and his followers for dinner. Their meal is one which the disciples bought and brought for the occasion.



Later that night, back in Sychar, Jesus and his band meet up again with Photina and her now reconciled husband, **Neriah**. They open their home to them for a night’s rest.

We also meet **Kafni**, the vineyard owner, who appreciates Jesus' "action" which saved his business' reputation. However, he is now concerned about protecting his daughter, **Ramah**, from the risks of joining Jesus, Thomas, and the others.

4. *The Chosen* has entwined Jesus' parables of The Lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan with their own story about Melech. *What parallels to each of the characters in Luke 10:25-34 do you find in the video:*

...the robbers?

...the victim?

...the priest?

...the Levite?

...the Samaritan?

...the inn keeper?

5. *How is Jesus' teaching about the Lost Sheep illustrated in this story:*

...Who are the lost sheep?

...How are the rescues of each of them celebrated?

6. Jesus performed miracles that benefited both Kafni and Melech.

How did each of them respond?

...Why do you think they each felt so differently about Jesus?

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: Nobody likes to lose things, including God. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks and finds the sheep that stray, joyfully welcoming them home to live under his protection and care.

Sadly, the religious leaders of his day did not share these same values, but neither, by and large, did his disciples. Yet, for those who come to him with humility and repentance, it all starts to make sense.

FROM
The **BIBLE**

Identify comparisons between the sheep and sinners.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

LUKE 15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

7. Compare Jesus’ values with those of the Jewish religious leaders?

8. What does this teach you about heaven’s priority and reaction to finding lost people?

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

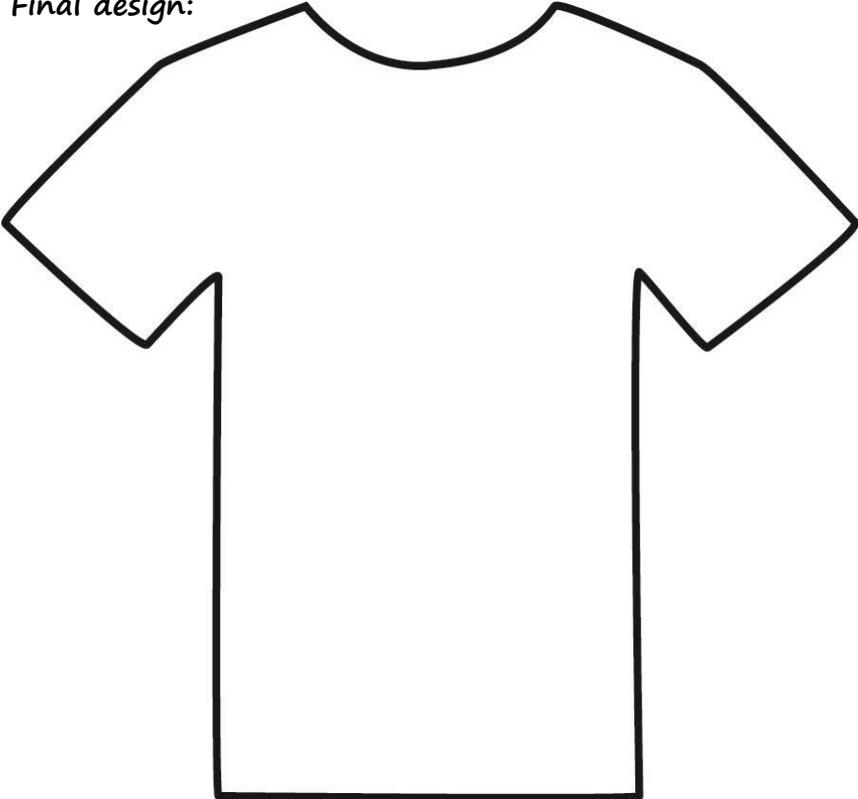
9. Do you consider yourself “found” by Jesus, or, in some ways, is he still “looking for you”? Describe.

10. What does it (or could it) mean to you to be “found” by him?

T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating, What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Draft concepts:

Final design:



Notes on Study #2 *Commentary and Historical Context*

Luke 10:25-37—The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- James' and John's request to bring down fire on another, resistant Samaritan village (Luke 9:54; shown here by *The Chosen*) alludes to the story of Elijah calling down fire on the soldiers of Ahaziah. This Samaritan ruler twice tried to have Elijah seized, each time with no success but with significant loss of life (2 Kings 1:9-12).

Jesus, however, had given very specific instructions about how to appropriately respond to those who refused to receive him. Calling down fire wasn't part of the equation! When rejected, the disciples were to shake dust from their feet as a testimony against the city and move on (Luke 9:5; 10:10-12).

Jesus taught about God's judgment toward those who reject him (Luke 10:12-14; 13:1-9). But God is merciful (Psalm 85:15; 103:8; 145:8). The disciples are to leave any such judgment in God's hands.

Luke 15:1-7—The Parable of the Lost Sheep

- Tax collectors, like Matthew, worked for the Roman occupation and were considered traitors to their nation. They were lumped in with other "lowlife sinners," despised and shunned by fellow Jews.
- The grumbling of the Pharisees and scribes stood in stark contrast to the rejoicing in heaven over "one sinner" who repents.

REALISTIC

But

REAL?

That's plausible but did it happen?

Was Jesus criticized for "hanging out" with the wrong kind of people? Yes. To the Pharisees it was scandalous that Jesus would associate with tax collectors, sinners, and others of ill repute. But Jesus insisted that he had "come to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

Figuring out the motivations of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders can be challenging. Some are zealous and envious of Jesus' abilities and influence. Others were judgmental and stuck to their own very flawed interpretation of the Old Testament law. Still others

worried about the threat he posed to their power and sway over the people. Many ended up believing and following Jesus, but not until after his resurrection.

How does this Samaritan landowner, Melech, fit the biblical story?

The character of Melech is unique to the film and not mentioned in the Gospels. *The Chosen* uses Melech as a means of introducing the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which a traveling Jew is beaten and robbed. This left-for-dead Jew is rescued by a “Good” Samaritan who stops to help and pays for his convalescence.

The “Good Samaritan” in Jesus’ parable contrasts with Melech, the “Bad Samaritan.” In the film, Melech becomes lame when thrown from the horse he stole from a Jew he robbed. Even though the Bible says nothing about such circumstances, the spiritual and emotional healing he receives is typical of the mercy Jesus displayed to people like him. It becomes a point of teaching for the disciples, who would have a hard time ever envisioning a Samaritan being the good guy. (Note “Big” James’ and John’s nonverbals as Melech tells his story!)

Melech’s character further provides the connection to Jesus’ parable about a lost sheep toward the beginning of the episode. Melech is the lost sheep for whom the owner will search, despite having ninety-nine other sheep that are safe (Matthew 18:12-14). He leaves them to find the one that is lost and rejoices when the lost is found.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

After the study: The first song includes the words: *We were the beggars, now we’re royalty, we were the prisoners, now we’re running free*—just the kind of experiences we saw from this study!

House of The Lord –Phil Wickham

Type in URL tinyurl.com/house-of-the-lord (4:14 min.)

Believe For It –CeCe Winans

Type in URL tinyurl.com/believe-for-it (8:20 min.)

11. *On the following continuum, put an “X” on the line in the place that best describes your relationship with God (Jesus) right now.*

Observer... Skeptic... Learner... Seeker... Follower...

12. Do you want to move farther to the right on the spectrum shown above? If so, what might that mean for you? What could help?

Video Insights *The Lost Sheep* -Trent Vineyard

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/the-lost-sheep (5:40 min.)

Thoughts:

Who are the Samaritans? -Chad Bird

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/who-are-they (18:23 min)

Thoughts:

Samaritan Village Two Brothers Want to Burn

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/fire-from-heaven -Chad Bird

Thoughts: (30:51 min)

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?

PRIOR
To **STUDY**

A way to start the study

NOTE FOR LEADERS: One way to **start the study** is to ask group members what is something that they valued from the previous week's ***Drive it***

Home segment after the study.

I Saw You (Episode 2)

Study
#3

INTRO: We may be on top of the mountain and, with a turn of circumstances, find ourselves in the valley. Depression, despair, disappointment with life and with God overwhelm us as life turns nasty.

FROM
The BIBLE

Valley experiences are painful. They can make us “forget” about God’s unrelenting love for us, as we suffer from the effects of the evils, principalities, and powers of this world.

What follows are the words of a man who felt free to honestly cry out to God concerning his deep sense of despair and abandonment. This short psalm from David’s life will help prepare us for the upcoming episode of *The Chosen*.

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Look for the author's complaints and blessings.

How Long, O Lord? To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

Psalm 13 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I take counsel in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

1. David feels free to honestly state his pain to God. *How does he describe the extent of his desperation?*

2. *What gives David hope in the midst of his painful struggle?*

WATCH View Episode 2 (50 min., from 0:00 to 52:22) > Discuss

INTRO: In this episode, the disciples welcome **Philip**, a follower of John the Baptist and a friend of Andrew. Upon encountering Jesus as the Messiah, he sought out his old friend, **Nathanael**, with whom he shares the Good News. Nathanael (a failed architect by the show's script) was despondent over the loss of a collapsed building and his career. His perspective changes after meeting the man who saw him under a fig tree and answered his prayer.

FROM
The **CHOSEN**

3. *Beyond losing his job, what has brought Nathanael to this low point?*

4. Nathanael quotes from a similar psalm of lament and wonders aloud, "Do you see me?" *How would you describe his pain?*

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: Nathanael is stunned that Jesus knows and deeply understands him, even before their meeting in person. Jesus answers this seeker's prayer meant for God alone. And it has the intended effect of gaining another follower who came and saw.

FROM
The **BIBLE**

Look for things that have been found, seen, or will be seen.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

JOHN 1 ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ 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.”

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!

⁴⁸ 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.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰ 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.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

5. Describe this scene and the invitations made in it.

6. What effect does “being seen” by Jesus have on Nathanael?

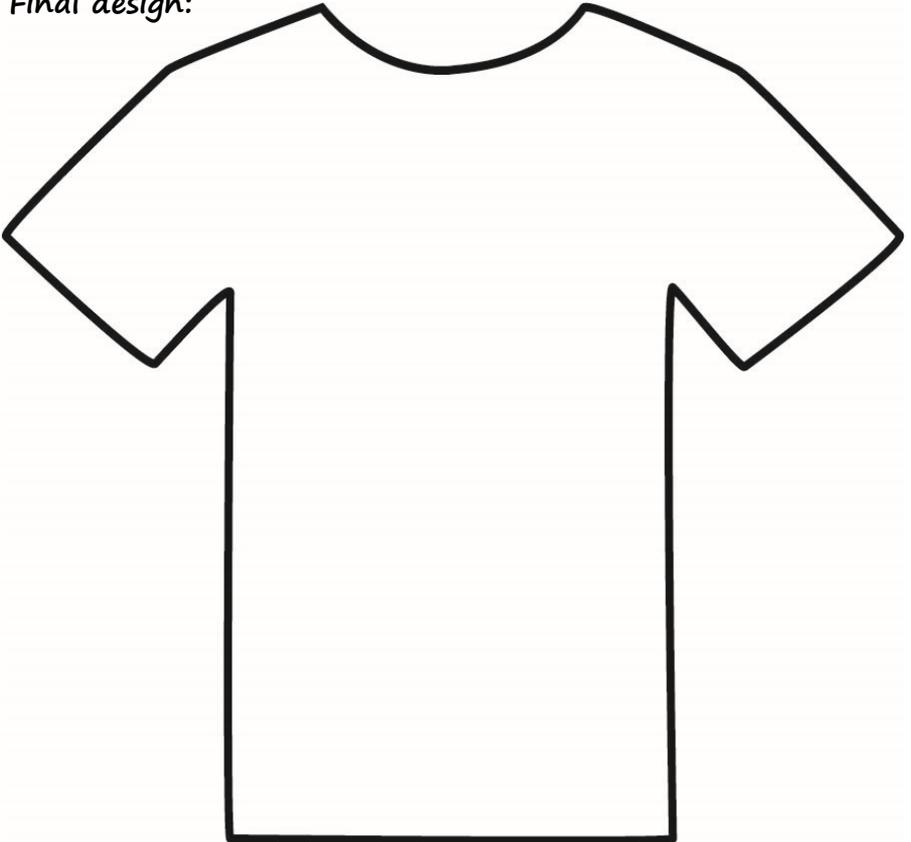
RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

7. *When have you felt unseen by others, and what would it have meant (or means) to know that God himself “sees you”?*

T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating, What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Draft concepts:

Final design:



Notes on Study #3 *Commentary and Historical Context*

Psalm 13:1-6—How Long, O Lord?

- This psalm of lament depicts a low point in David’s life and is used here to capture Nathanael’s likely mood. When we sense our prayers are not getting through, we feel forgotten, even unloved. This is not a time to “hold back” our feelings. God is not intimidated. He wants his wisdom and kindness to bring hope to our despair.

John 1:43-51—Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

- The “Prophet to come,” anticipated by John the Baptist and Philip (John 1:21,45), is the one Moses wrote about. However great Moses was, this one was like him, only greater (Deuteronomy 18:18).
- The “greater things” that the disciples will see likely alludes to the miracles Jesus (and his disciples) will perform, including the greatest one—the Resurrection.
- The “Son of Man” here, as elsewhere, is a title that Jesus takes on, conveying divine authority (see Daniel 7:13-14).

REALISTIC

But

REAL?

That’s plausible but did it happen?

Was Nathanael an architect whose building collapsed? We have no record of this. But his despair over such a personal and career setback

feels realistic enough to send one “over the edge.” Time spent seeking solace from God made him open to the invitation to follow Jesus. This invitation was first extended by Philip, and then by Jesus himself.

Did Matthew, the learned tax collector, become a woodsman?

We don’t know what the disciples did in camp. Undoubtedly, they had much to learn, not only from Jesus, but also from each other. As they “delighted” in provoking Matthew, so we delight in seeing his character develop. And, of course, you can expect the tables will turn!

Did Simon take Jesus aside to lecture him on organizing the mission?

The disciples likely struggled to follow an itinerant teacher whose day-to-day plan seemed haphazard. Simon Peter opposed Jesus’ willingness to suffer and die (Matthew 16:21-28). He also became a leader

in the early Church (Acts 2–12). Such traits surfaced early on and were commended by Jesus, in due time (Matthew 16:13-18).

The women want to study Torah and the Prophets, so how did they? Girls were denied the Hebrew school offered to boys. But, as the series points out, it matters little how much you know if you don't know the Messiah. It was likely that girls and women learned from the men in their lives, as portrayed in *The Chosen*, where Mary Magdalene learns Scripture and how to read from her father.

If school or Scripture memory made all the difference, the Pharisees would have been Jesus' favorites. Instead, he equips the unlearned with the experience of a lifetime, by allowing them to directly learn his character and his ways. Such an opportunity naturally encouraged many to dig deeper into the truths of what he taught.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

As a man after God's own heart, David was not afraid to pour out his struggle to the One who loved him. Here's a video (and another one) that puts Psalm 13 to song. Consider how you see yourself in it.

Psalm 13 to Song -Shane and Shone

Type in URL tinyurl.com/psalm13-song (4:31 min.)

God Only Knows -For King and Country

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/God-only-knows-song (4:22 min.)

8. *When did you first sense the call to "come and see"?*

9. *What has especially opened you up to seeing God at work in you?*

- a) *A painful loss or setback—at work or with family...*
- b) *The Psalms—or other beautiful, good, and true poetry...*
- c) *Anything that reminds you of "home"—where the heart is...*
- d) *Journaling—letting the emotions flow without editing... Other...*
- e) *Other...*

... Explain your choice:

- 10.** Draw your perception of your spiritual growth since you first began to *come and see* (then) until now. Use the vertical axis for *growth* in your relationship with God and the horizontal axis for *time*.

A blank coordinate system for a graph. The vertical axis is labeled 'C O M E & S E E' and the horizontal axis is labeled 'R I G H T N O W'.

- 11.** *What struck you from doing this exercise?* (Share your thoughts with your group at the next study.)

... *What of God's character and work have you seen in your life recently?*

Video Insights *When God Delays, Psalm 13 -David Jeremiah*

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/when-God-delays (35:55 min.)

Thoughts:

Meeting Nathanael, Episode 2 -The Snipe Life

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/chosen-nathanael (28:37 min)

Thoughts:

Why Did Nathanael Believe in Jesus -Curtis Mitch

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/seeing-nathanael (18:09 min)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?



It's not too late

QUESTION and ANSWER FOR EVERYONE:

Inviting new people—is it too late?

No, it isn't. One of the beautiful things about *The Chosen Study* is that new members can come in at any time and binge-watch to catch up! Additionally, we've seen people go through each Season's episodes multiple times.

Who to invite?

Anyone who fits on this list: friends, loved ones, family members, colleagues, teammates, acquaintances, those who cross your path—if they're curious, if they're willing to check it out—then invite them to come.

Matthew 4:24 (Episode 3)

Study
#4

INTRO: There are 37 specific references to Jesus' miracles in the Gospels,* of which Matthew 4:24 is one. Jesus' resurrection and other general descriptions of divine intervention add to this number. Of course, there were likely hundreds, if not thousands, of miracles which went unrecorded.

FROM

The

BIBLE

Matthew (in film and Scripture) captures Jesus ministering to great crowds, day after day, with lines of people coming to him for healing. We can imagine the disciples wondered, even debated, what kind of Messiah would serve such great crowds. He does so as a humble healer, not as the great warrior they had envisioned before meeting Jesus.

***NOTE:** Link to Jesus' 37 recorded miracles: tinyurl.com/37-miracles

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Identify all the actions words you can find in this passage.

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

Matthew 4 ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So 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. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

1. Identify and locate the cities and villages named above, on the maps on pages 162-163. This passage tells us that great crowds were following Jesus. *What do you believe attracted them to him?*

WATCH *View Episode 3 (35 min., from 1:30 to 36:17) > Discuss*

INTRO: In this episode, no new characters are introduced. Instead, we get a deeper insight into Jesus' students and their continuing journey of faith. Mary (Jesus' mother) surprises all with her stories of raising Jesus from infancy—again underscoring his humanity.

FROM*The***CHOSEN**

Tensions erupt between disciples as they share their own background stories and resentments towards one another. This show of anger ends abruptly as they witness Jesus' exhaustion after a full day's work of healing. It's not hard to imagine ourselves in that circle.

2. *With which of the issues that the disciples discussed (politics, healing, fame, or losing a parent) can you readily identify?*
3. *How does Jesus' example speak to the bickering among the disciples?*

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: Jesus' example to his disciples is a powerful one, both in the episode and in this passage from Paul to the Philippian believers. (See page 67 for background notes.)



Look for contrasts in this passage.

Christ's Example of Humility

Philippians 2 ¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
⁸And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

4. The apostle Paul writes to the church at Philippi to encourage unity.
What does he say here about how we are to live with others?

5. *How does Jesus exemplify humility for all who would follow him?*

6. *How will our relationships with each other act as a “light in the world” (v. 15)?*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

7. *What example(s) of Christ-like living have you seen in someone close to you?*

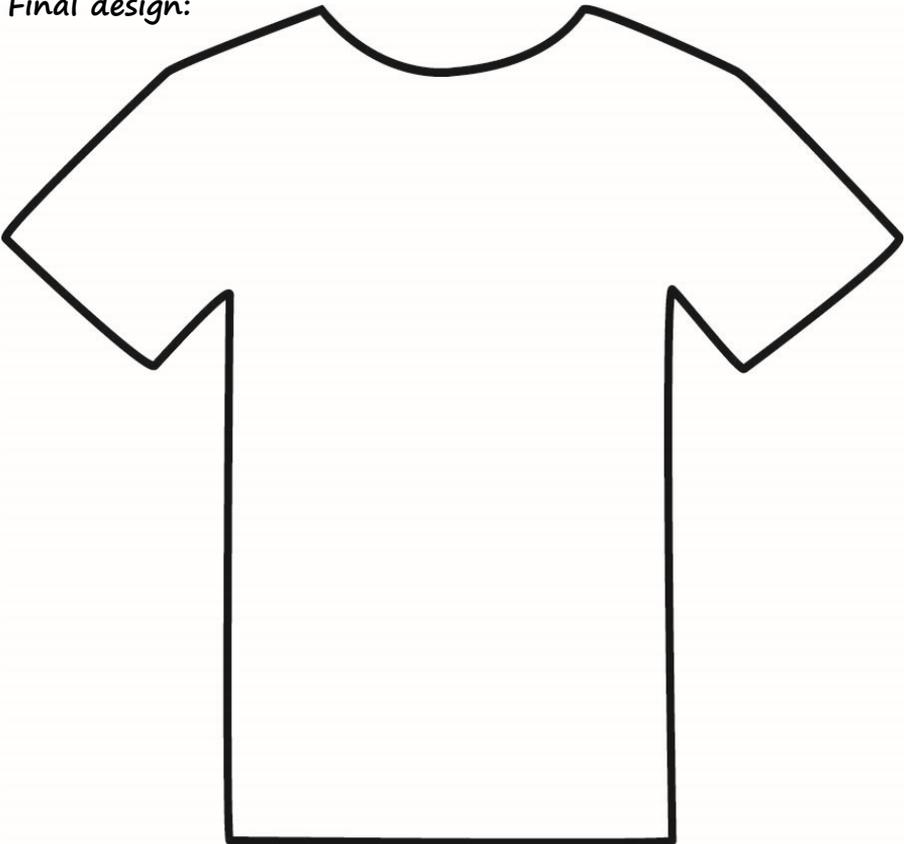
... How has he or she influenced you?

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

Wrap up by sharing with your group.

Draft concepts/quotations for summarizing this study:

Final design:



Notes on Study #4 *Commentary and Historical Context*

Matthew 4:23-25; Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

- Recall the “W” questions from page 12: *Where* did it happen? Find maps (pages 162-163). The Decapolis referred to a league of ten Gentile (non-Jewish) cities situated east of the Jordan river.

Philippians 2:1-18—Christ’s Example of Humility

- *The Chosen* depicts Jesus pouring himself into the lives of many and healing all who came to him. The very act of Jesus leaving heaven, and all other acts that followed, modeled the greatest humility in history in serving others. The self-sacrifice of Jesus stands in sharp contrast to that of the disciples, and is the basis for the correction that Paul seeks to instill in the lives of the Philippian church.

Philippi was a Roman colony. The small church that Paul established there was under considerable outside pressure, but he was more concerned about disunity from within. Unlike today, believers who did not get along could not simply leave and go to another church but needed to work it out. Paul points them to Jesus’ model of humility, which also serves as a tremendous example for us.

- More than a model of humility, Jesus epitomizes what it means to be fully human. Paul describes the incarnational event as that of God taking on flesh, becoming man. In so doing, God in Jesus comes to be identified as one of us, a vulnerable human being. Jesus the Son leaves behind his privileges (not his deity) when he submits to the Father’s will. Jesus accepts punishment for our sin—though totally innocent—as an act of pure grace, thus redeeming us from sin. Even so, Paul’s teaching here is not meant to describe what Christ’s act means to us, so much as what it meant to Jesus himself.
- Verses 6-11 are arranged in poetic couplets. Scholars suggest that these verses may be excerpted from an early Christian confession, creed, or hymn. Whether this *Hymn to Christ* was a quote, or written by Paul himself, it beautifully depicts Jesus’ mission of servanthood. Paul fleshes out what Mark wrote: Jesus “*came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (10:45). His service fully glorifies God the Father (Philippians 2:11).

REALISTIC

But

REAL?

That's plausible but did it happen?

Did the disciples turn on each other, as Simon and Andrew, and even Thomas did to Matthew?

We have no biblical record of such interactions, but such scuffles likely occurred. The Pharisees often criticized Jesus for hanging out with them and other “sinners”—maybe even raising doubts among his own disciples (see Matthew 5:46, 11:19).

Was Matthew autistic?

The film characterizes Matthew as a socially awkward savant. He is depicted as a whiz kid, good with numbers, and on the autism spectrum. As such he is a target of scorn from the disciples, especially Simon. This is not an unfair character development for *The Chosen* film writers to do. This backstory is intriguing and plausible, given his occupation as a Jew working for the Romans and making money by overcharging. But we have no direct biblical evidence for him being autistic.

A potential problem stems from the powerful, visual nature of film (and the music score behind it) that can easily sweep us up and have us assign meaning from it to the written word. We would say to do both: study what the Scripture actually says and enjoy the captivating ride *The Chosen* takes us on—but learn the difference! If you'd like more input on this, check out Dallas' videos, *Can you trust The Chosen?* and the *Interview of Jonathan Roumie*, the actor who portrays Jesus. See page 164 for more info and those video links.

Did Jesus' mother and other women follow him with the Twelve?

There is no record of this, but we know Mary pondered many aspects of bringing Jesus into the world (Luke 2:19, 34-35). Like all moms, she wanted to be helpful and cared for her son in the best way she could.

We see that Mary is with Jesus at the temple (Luke 2:41-52), at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-5), even questioned his sanity (Mark 3:21), and was present at the Cross (John 19:25-27). Mary was among the disciples at the Ascension (Acts 1:14) and could have been among the unnamed women following Jesus in his public ministry. See Luke 8:1-3 for a listing of other women who followed and ministered to Jesus.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

Here's a video edited from *The Nativity Story* (2006), *The Visual Bible: The Gospel of John* (2003) and *The Passion of the Christ* (2004).

Revelation Song -Phillips, Craig and Dean

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/revelation-song (6:04 min.)

King of Kings -Hillsong Worship

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/king-of-kings-song (4:50 min.)

8. *How does Jesus' act of humility and sacrifice affect your perspective and priorities?*

9. *In what context, or with whom, is God calling you to "practice" this posture of humility?*

Video Insights *Philippians 2:1-11 & 2:12-18* -Paul LeBoutillier

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/philippians2-1-11 (Part 1, 37:31 min.)

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/philippians2-12-18 (Part 2, 28:34 min.)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?



Reminders

NOTE FOR LEADERS: One way to **start your study** is to ask group members about something they valued from the previous week's *Drive it Home* and *Video Insights* segments after study.

During the study: Always tell the group at **which question to end**, so they know how far to go during the study time.

Keep up the pace. You often think you have more time than you do, so, closely monitor your time, leave things unsaid, and keep moving to finish on time.

Evaluate as you go: *What things are working well, and what can be improved in your study and group discussion process?*

The Perfect Opportunity (Episode 4)

Study
#5

INTRO: Jesus and his disciples head to Jerusalem to partake in the Festival of the Tabernacles (or Booths). He takes three disciples into the city where two groups plan evil—misguided Zealots, who would kill to subvert Roman rule, and a group of self-righteous Pharisees, who would trap Jesus as a false, Sabbath-breaking prophet.

FROM
The CHOSEN

In this episode, we meet **Jesse**, who is permanently lame from a childhood accident, and his brother, **Simon the Zealot**. Though conjecture, Simon is shown to have trained with a splinter group of Zealots named after the Sica dagger, called the Sicarii (literally “dagger men”), who assassinated Romans and Roman sympathizers. Considered the first terrorist sect, when a kill was made, they would scream together with bystanders to blend back into a crowd and escape detection.

WATCH [View Episode 4 \(56 min., from 0:00 to 56:00\) > Discuss](#)

The events that led up to a climax at the Pool of Bethesda include:

- ... **child [Jesse]** falls from a tree and becomes an invalid for life.
- ... **Simon the Zealot** (the brother of Jesse) leaves home to become a dagger-fighting assassin, bent on killing a Roman ruler.
- ... **Big James** pushes ahead to celebrate the Festival of Booths.
- ... **Roman magistrates** gather to share intel on the assassin's plot.
- ... **Shmuel and other Pharisees** are on the lookout for trouble.
- ... **Simon, John, and Matthew** follow Jesus to the Pool of Bethesda.
- ... **Jesus** performs a miracle on the Sabbath, stirring up the water!

1. *What did you learn about the Festival of Tabernacles from the discussion among the disciples and Jesus during their feast?*

... *What is the significance for them and for us?*

2. *What thoughts do you think Jesus may have had as he passed the condemned men being crucified at the city gate?*

3. *What do you think led a man like Simon (the Zealot) to make such an extreme commitment to violence?*

4. In a word or phrase, what impact did Jesus' actions at the pool have:

... on Jesse?

... on Simon the Zealot?

... on Atticus?

... on the Pharisees?

... on the three disciples?

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: This legendary Pool of Bethesda, fed by underground springs, was believed to have healing powers when the waters were stirred. Unlike *The Chosen*, John gives us no backstory, so we, along with *The Chosen* writers, are left to speculate about the details.



Look for progression, mainly in the invalid's understanding of Jesus.

The Healing at the Pool on the Sabbath

JOHN 5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When 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?”

⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.”

¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’”

¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?”

¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

5. *Why do you think Jesus asked the man a seemingly obvious question: “Do you want to be healed?”*

6. *What does the man’s excuse reveal about him?*

7. *What did Jesus want the man to learn from this miracle (5:14)*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

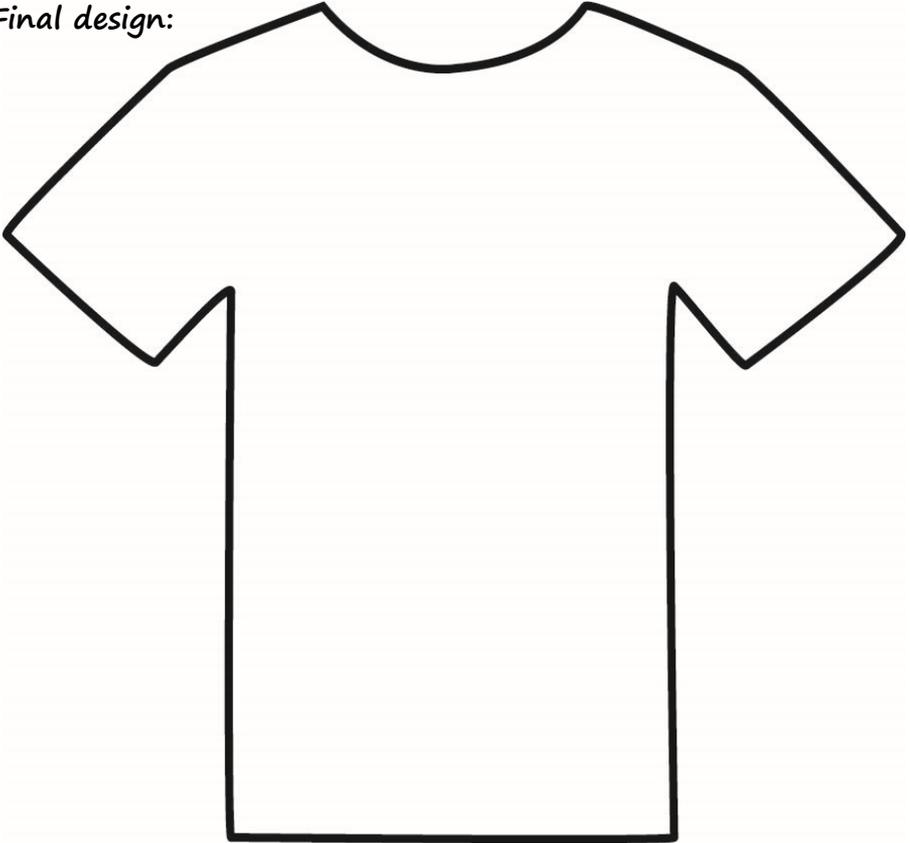
8. *When have you relied on excuses, instead of taking responsibility for a choice you made, for an unkind word said, or for a character flaw?*

9. *What would it mean for you to look to God, rather than yourself, to help you change in an area in which you struggle?*

T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating, What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Draft concepts:

Final design:



NOTE FOR EVERYONE: While the Pharisees made “too much of the Sabbath,” our problem is making too little of it. This upcoming week provides an opportunity to establish “your own Sabbath.” And yes, we have the ideal plan for part of it! Carve out time to review and respond to the previous study’s content. (What day and time are best for you?)

After looking back over the last study, engage with the worship and teaching videos along with the A-C-T-S and S-H-A-R-E sections.

Notes on Study #5 Commentary and Historical Context

John 5:1-17—The Healing at the Pool on the Sabbath

- The “feast of the Jews” (John 5:1) isn’t specifically identified but assumed to be the *Feast of the Tabernacles* (or Booths). This week-long fall festival commemorated Israel’s 40-year journey in the wilderness before entering the *Promised Land*.
- The Pool of Bethesda was discovered in the 19th century under an abandoned Byzantine church. Archaeological evidence reveals a trapezoid-shaped pool about 200 X 300 feet, divided into two pools.

To make sense of its attraction as a source of healing, a later scribe added this explanation to John 5: ^{3b} ... *waiting for the moving of the water; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had.* (This scribal addition is omitted from most Bible translations.)

- By inviting the man to *take up your mat*, Jesus gives him something to do, returning a measure of control and dignity to him. To carry one’s bedding may also be Jesus’ way of repudiating the Pharisees’ self-imposed rules about not “working” on the Sabbath. The Law of Moses did not forbid carrying one’s bedding on the Sabbath, but Jewish oral tradition did—something unimportant to Jesus.
- We aren’t sure exactly why Jesus told this man to “stop sinning” (v. 14). He obviously knew something about the man that we don’t. One thing that appears to be true is that the healing did not relate to faith, but only to the grace of God toward an undeserving man. A common belief in that day held that infirmities were the result of parental or personal sin, a belief not shared by Jesus (John 9:1-3).

There is no “faith-prompts-God’s-healing” formula here. Beside an abundance of mercy, what prompts God often remains a mystery, and we rejoice in the freedom of physical restoration when we are privileged to witness or experience it.

REALISTIC*That's plausible but did it happen?**But***REAL?**

Was Simon the Zealot the brother of the invalid man Jesse? Not that we know of. This believable backstory dovetails two followers of Jesus, one of whom becomes a zealous apostle. But there is no biblical evidence of a brotherly connection.

Was Simon the Zealot ever close to assassinating a Roman ruler?

It is possible to believe Simon was a trained fighter with the *Sicarii*, a deadly, curved dagger (see page 73). The Zealots, not generally considered assassins, were an extremist political party known for covert acts of violence. They were willing to be martyrs to subvert Roman rule. One other martyr and Zealot named in Acts 5:37 was Judas, the Galilean. In this episode, Simon is bent on assassination to avenge the Jews and bring justice to the hated Romans.

What about *The Chosen's* timeline regarding the disciples?

The Chosen depicts the healing of Simon the Zealot's brother as what prompted him to follow the Messiah. In their timeline, Simon had no prior encounters with Jesus but believed that the Messiah would "save the lame and gather the outcast" (Zephaniah 3:19).

The New Testament identifies a sequence of the first disciples who met and followed Jesus. The first four included Andrew, Simon, James, and John (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:4-11). Later, Philip and Nathanael (John 1:35-51) were added. Then Matthew was called separately (Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 5:27-32).

Scripture does not describe the calling of the other five disciples, nor the order in which they came. *The Chosen* suggests a possible order and circumstances. But the Gospel writers simply list or recap "the Twelve" as the ones Jesus chose. That there were *twelve* was important, because it hearkens back to the original twelve tribes of Israel, now under "new leadership," with Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

Jesus brings the presence of the future: God's kingdom's power into today's pain, hopelessness, and desperation. Here's a music video that describes what can happen when *love breaks thru*.

Love Broke Thru -TobyMac

Type in URL tinyurl.com/love-broke-thru (4:58 min.)

In Christ Alone -Shane and Shane

Type in URL tinyurl.com/in-Christ-alone-song (4:57 min.)

10. Imagine Jesus challenging you, "Do you want to be healed?" To what might he be referring in your life?

... How long has this "malady" been going on?

... What would be your response? ... or excuse?

11. What would it mean to trust God through Jesus more fully, rather than relying on our own resources and making excuses?

Video Insights *The Chosen, Pool of Bethesda* -Dallas Jenkins

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/pool-of-bethesda (9:56 min.)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?

PRIOR
10 **STUDY**

Getting ready now for your last gathering.

NOTE FOR LEADERS: Please read the “Options” note on page 134 regarding putting on a longer day-long event or retreat for Study #10.

If you haven’t already done so, work on plans for your last study, to get it on your group members’ schedules, if different than your normal meeting time. One way or another, think through how to make your last gathering special and a time that provides momentum for your next study.

Spirit (Episode 5)

Study
#6

INTRO: In *The Chosen*, Season One, we first meet **John the Baptist** when Nicodemus questions him in prison. Due to his dress, eating habits, and life-style (Mark 1:6), Simon called him “Creepy John.” But such a description falls quite short of his key role.

FROM
The BIBLE

No doubt Jesus and John had many interactions over the years, growing up as close-in-age cousins. But The New Testament mentions only their meeting at Jesus’ baptism. (For background on the appreciation and respect Jesus held for John and his role in preparing the people for Jesus’ coming, see Matthew 11:10-14, as well as Study #7 in Season Three’s guide.)

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Look for the comparisons between the words of Isaiah in Mark 1:1-3 and the description of John in Mark 1:4-13.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

MARK 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” . . .

Jesus Begins His Ministry

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

1. *How are John the Baptist's and Jesus' ministries described?*

WATCH View Episode 5 (45 min., 0:00 to 44:57) > Discuss

Unlike “Creepy John,” a truly creepy guy crawls onto the scene: **Legion**, so-called because of the many demons that possess him. (A Roman *legion* was about 6,000 men.) His screen name is **Caleb**.



2. *What do you find appealing about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist?*

3. *What strikes you about Mary Magdalene’s reactions to the Roman soldier and the demon-possessed man?*

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: *The Chosen’s* demoniac story is not in the Gospels but has similarities to Mark 5:1-20. Note that Jesus and his disciples are in a Gentile region.



Ask the “W Questions” (page 12) and look for the action words.

Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

Mark 5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even

with a chain, ⁴for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”

⁸For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

⁹And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned.

¹⁴The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.

¹⁹And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

4. *Describe how the demons (Legion) have damaged the man's identity and now must face a "power encounter" with Jesus?*

5. *Why did the townspeople beg Jesus to leave, and what did they miss as a result?*

6. *Why do you think Jesus told the man to stay and tell others, when he was eager to go with Jesus and become a disciple (vv. 19-20)?*

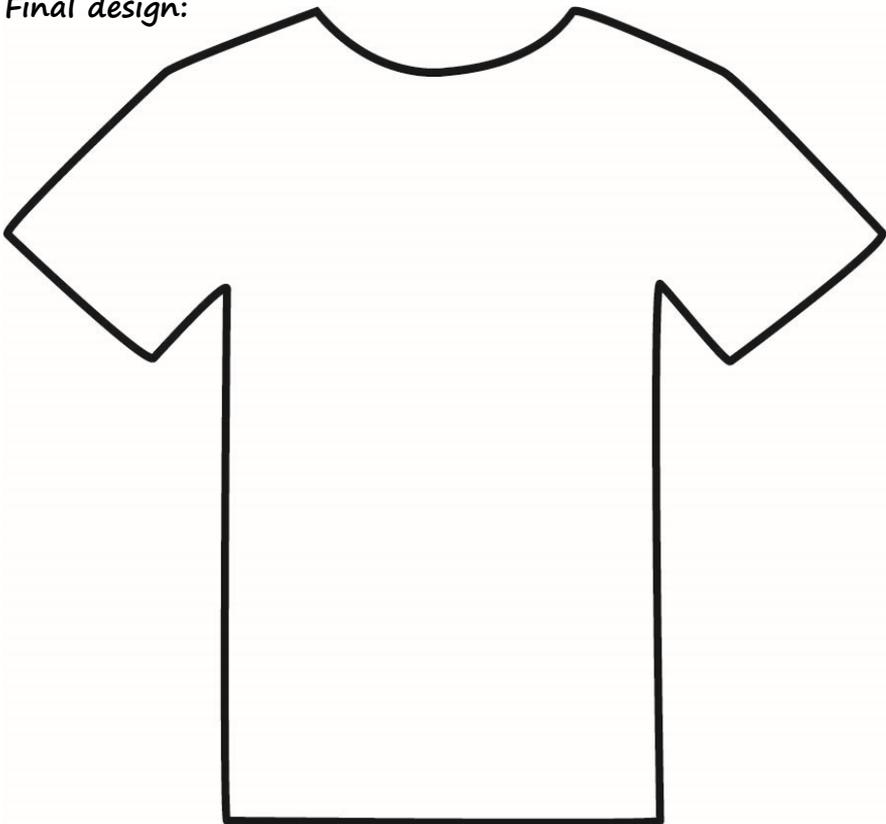
RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

7. *What do you miss when you shut Jesus out for other priorities?*

T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating, What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Draft concepts:

Final design:



Notes on Study #6 Commentary and Historical Context

Mark 1:1-8—John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- John the Baptist was miraculously born to a very old couple (Luke 1:5-80). He had an “Elijah-like ministry” to the Jewish people in order “to make ready for the Lord a people prepared” (Luke 1:17).
- John’s ministry is closely identified with Elijah (cited in *The Chosen*). Elijah spent six decades (892-832 BD) as a prophet in the northern kingdom, recorded in 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1-2. His ministry, not unlike John’s, brought him into confrontation with Israel’s kings and priests for their contamination of faith in the true God.

One well-known story pits Elijah against 450 priests of the nature-god, Baal, worshipped by Ahab and Jezebel. Amidst a countrywide drought, Elijah challenged the priests to a “duel to the death.” Suffice it to say, it does not end well for the priests of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:1-40). Elijah was later taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Because Elijah never died and Malachi prophesies his return (4:5-6), some misidentified Jesus as Elijah (Matthew 16:14; Mark 8:28; Luke 9:19). Others thought John could be Elijah. He obviously wasn’t. However, John was a *type of Elijah*, who ministered in the prophet’s spirit and power (Luke 1:17). In that respect, Elijah had returned!

John 5:1-15—Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

- Jesus often *cleansed* people possessed by demons (whereas he *healed* people from disease; see Matthew 7:22; 8:16, 28-34; 9:34; 12:24-28; Mark 1:34; 5:1-20; 16:9). When God’s kingdom showed up in Jesus, all hell broke loose—literally.
- Knowing someone’s name was thought to give one power over that person, so the demons speak Jesus’ name (Mark 5:7). However, this does not work on him and instead, Jesus commands them to leave.
- The name “Legion” related to the Roman military. Being in a Gentile area with pig farmers (pigs were unclean to Jews, see Deuteronomy 14:8) prompted Jesus to instruct the man not to be quiet, but to tell others. The Gentiles were also recipients of God’s mercy.

- Rome is put on notice by Jesus’ kingdom power as well. For a two-minute video on how the pigs related to Roman power, or now, lack thereof, see: tinyurl.com/pigs-romans.



That’s plausible but did it happen?

Did Simon the Zealot try to knife the demoniac?

If he did, it would have been within his character to take such matters into his own hands. While

Caleb is the screen name of the demon-possessed man (given in *The Chosen*), “Legion” was the name spoken by the demons through him.

In Mark 5 (and Gospel parallels), the demons (Legion), were cast into a herd of 2,000 pigs—animals considered unclean by Jews. The Gentile area (see Decapolis on pages 162-163) is left without this source of income, but not without a Source of Life, in the man’s testimony about Jesus.

Did Jesus warn John about the consequences of his actions? Conversely, did John encourage Jesus to take more radical action?

Possibly. They were close and pursued a common mission, even if their tactics were different (Luke 7:18-35). John had rebuked Herod for marrying his brother’s ex-wife—and was later executed for it—as *The Chosen* foreshadows (see Matthew 14:1-12 and Mark 6:14-29).

At one point John had expressed concern about Jesus’ “inaction” and asked for reassurance that Jesus would act (Matthew 11:2-6). Granted, Jesus is vague on specifics of his timing, but he was listening to the Father, a conversation to which John was not a party.

Did the Sanhedrin hold hearings on Jesus and dismiss the charges?

The Sanhedrin (the ruling council of 70 Jewish elders) functioned in ways that allowed for this to be a possibility. The Pharisees, who were part of the Sanhedrin, were divided over Jesus; he had a divisive impact on many (John 11:45-57; Acts 4:13-22). Among the Sanhedrin, most opposed Jesus, whereas Nicodemus secretly admired Jesus and argued for fair treatment of him (John 3:1-21; 7:50-52; 19:38-42).

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

Demon-possession: Jesus' presence brought out the forces of darkness big time. Beside this, his redeeming power puts on notice other forces and circumstances that seek to pull us down. There is nothing in our lives that he can't overcome as these two songs remind us.

No Longer Slaves -Zack Williams

Type in URL tinyurl.com/no-longer-slaves (4:45 min.)

Overcomer, Music Video -Mandisa

Type in URL tinyurl.com/being-an-overcomer (3:58 min.)

8. *What are some fears, anxieties, struggles with unhealthy choices, relationship challenges, even persistent sin with which you struggle?*

9. So, let that "stuff" out and let Jesus in. *What would it mean to let him in to cleanse, heal, and free you from these issues?*

Video Insights *Insights from Jesus and the Demonic*

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/jesus-and-the-demonic -Mike Winger

Thoughts: (55:58 min.)

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?

PRIOR
1^o **STUDY**

Getting ready for Study #7

NOTE TO EVERYONE: In preparation for this study, you may find it helpful to read the Old Testament account that Jesus refers to in the first passage. It is Samuel 21:1-6 and found below.

David and the Holy Bread

SAMUEL 21 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?”

²And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king [Saul] 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 a place. ³Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.”

⁴And 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.”

⁵And 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?”

⁶So 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.

Unlawful (Episode 6)

Study
#7

INTRO: In a flashback story, **Ahimelech**, the priest, provides holy bread to **David**, who is running from King Saul (1 Samuel 21:1-6 on the previous page). This “unlawful” precedent was referred to by Jesus 1000 years later as his disciples faced hunger themselves. The following passages from Mark form the basis for episode six of *The Chosen*.

FROM

The

BIBLE

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Identify the comparisons and contrasts.

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

MARK 2 ²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.

²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

²⁵ And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him:

²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?”

²⁷ And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

A Man with a Withered Hand

MARK 3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.”

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

1. *How does Jesus challenge existing rules about the Sabbath—and why?*
2. The Pharisees (who opposed Herod) and the Herodians (who supported Herod) are normally mortal enemies, but to thwart Jesus, they form an unholy allegiance (v. 6). *How would you contrast what Jesus does on the Sabbath with what they do on the Sabbath?*

WATCH [View Episode 6 \(42 min...: 0:00 to 42:02\) > Discuss](#)

INTRO: In this episode we meet three Pharisees: **Dunash, Shmuel** and **Yanni**. They debate the Law as it applies to Jesus, who continues to heal on the Sabbath. Healing **Elam** (the man with the withered hand) is a notable example of this “unlawful” practice by Jesus. **Madai** and **Lamech**, priests of a small-town synagogue, are aghast at the various ways Jesus violates Jewish tradition regarding the Sabbath.



3. *What situations give rise to the disciples questioning why Jesus doesn't just “fix it”?*

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: Christians under Roman duress (plus any of us who struggle to see God “fix” things) are encouraged to trust God’s everlasting love.



Look especially for the contrasts. What are they?

Life in the Spirit

ROMANS 8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death....

God's Everlasting Love

ROMANS 8 ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded a sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. *What are the far-reaching implications of living under the “law of the Spirit of life” (v. 2)?*

5. *Trace the steps of Paul’s argument for the never-failing love of God.*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

6. We can feel unloved, even self-condemned at times. *What does this passage say to those who, like Mary Magdalene, feel this way?*

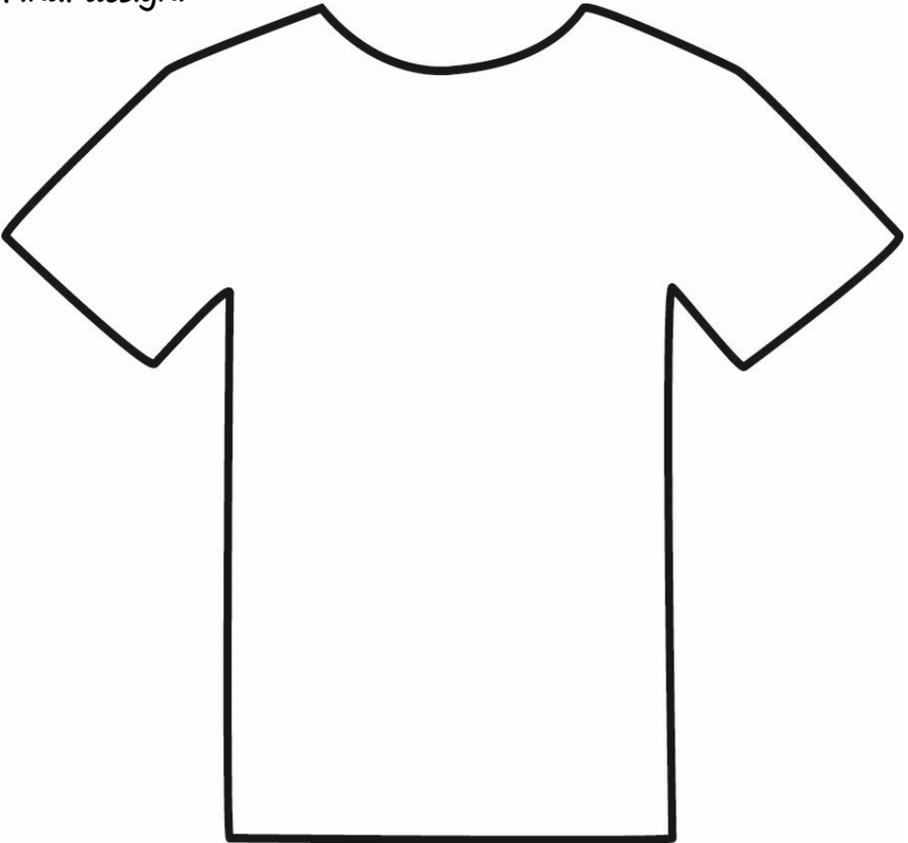
... What does it mean to you?

7. *What does it mean that we are “more than conquerors” (v. 37)?*

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

Draft concepts:

Final design:



Notes on Study #7 *Commentary and Historical Context*

1 Samuel 21:1-6—David and the Holy Bread

- David's request for the "day-old" bread, given to priests after a new batch is made, broke custom, but no laws, regarding worship. Jesus had little concern for such custom.

Mark 2:23–3:6—Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

- Jesus urges his disciples to “eat” (not harvest) grain on a Sabbath; this broke no Old Testament law. They were not stealing; the issue regarded what in Old Testament law constitutes “prohibited work.” The Law permits hungry travelers to eat grain (Deuteronomy 23:25).
- God desires mercy over sacrifice (Hosea 6:6), and the Sabbath is for our full restoration (mental, spiritual, and physical). While Jesus heals on the Sabbath, the Pharisees (Jewish leaders, vehemently opposed to Herod) and the Herodians (Jewish leaders, supportive of Herod)—normally mortal enemies—plot murder on the Sabbath.

Romans 8:1-2—Life in the Spirit

- In Christ, believers live under a “different law,” one that frees them from the enslaving power and guilt of sin, which results in spiritual death. “No condemnation” does not allow for God to backtrack on his finished work. “No” means what it says: zero, zilch, none, nada!
- A believer’s freedom comes from the rock-solid atoning work of Jesus’ death on the Cross as God’s sacrificial Lamb. Our circumstances, difficult as they may be, can never circumvent the provision of God’s grace in the lives of those who have put their trust in him.

Romans 8:31-39—God’s Everlasting Love

- So, what is the extent of Christ’s work on our behalf? Paul poses rhetorical questions meant to further affirm the full adequacy of Christ as the gift of God for our complete salvation.
- The Psalmist put into poetry Paul’s theology of grace: *As far as the east is from the west, he declares, so far has he removed our transgressions from us* (Psalm 103:12). How far away is the east from the west? A very long way!

REALISTIC*But***REAL?***That’s plausible but did it happen?*

Did Mary Magdalene relapse into old habits after her conversion? It’s hard to say, but this is the lived experience of every believer who, on this side of heaven, will struggle with sin and temptation. So, it is possible, and lends Jesus a wonderful opportunity to affirm that we have a great salvation in him which cannot be lost.

Did Matthew and Simon pair up to find Mary who had lost her way?

This story isn't part of the New Testament record. But if we hypothesize that Mary "lost her way," you can be sure Jesus would do anything and everything to find her. That he sent two disparate messengers of hope—who would also get something out of learning to work together—adds a natural, plausible dimension to the story.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray*

Romans 8 is full of precious promises to those who put their trust in Jesus. Watch, listen, sing along and praise the one who secures our identity and our destiny. The first song is a beautiful reminder from the Jesus' Movement music of the early '70's that he welcomes us back.

Welcome Back -Love Song

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/love-song-welcome-back (4:42 min.)

Our God -Chris Tomlin

Type in URL tinyurl.com/our-God-is-greater (5:27 min.)

8. *Describe the time when you first became aware of God's love for you.*

9. *How have you struggled to believe the full extent of God's love for you?*

... What aspects of God's love does Romans 8 bring to your mind?

Video Insights *Jesus, Our Sabbath Rest -Wretched*

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/sabbath-rest (3:24 min)

Thoughts:

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath -John MacArthur

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/lord-of-sabbath-pt1 (Part 1: 48:28 min)

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/lord-of-the-sabbath-pt2 (Part 2: 55:24 min.)

Thoughts:

The Love of God (Romans 8:35-39) -Skip Heitzig

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/for-the-love-of-God (49:47 min)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?

PRIOR
1^o **STUDY**

Getting ready for your last gathering.

NOTE FOR LEADERS: It will prove helpful to again consider the study process for your group on pages 12-13, and especially the use of the “W questions.” These questions make for a useful starting point for personal study, along with the “Look For” clue given right after the INTRO.

Reckoning (Episode 7)

Study
#8

INTRO: Herod's wife, **Herodias**, is angry at John the Baptist for denouncing their marriage as unlawful (see Matthew 14:1-12). So, John is arrested by **Herod** and languishes in prison. His imprisonment put Jesus' disciples on edge regarding his fate, as well as that of their own Rabbi.

FROM
The BIBLE

In this episode of *The Chosen*, an arrest of Jesus by Roman authorities starts to prepare his disciples to trust and obey him, even when he is not physically present. Before his death, Jesus will similarly make clear to his disciples that the Holy Spirit will come into their lives as their helper, replacing his physical presence.

John 14 describes this ongoing presence of God the Father, Spirit, and the Son in the lives of his followers. Not only could Jesus' immediate disciples take comfort in his reassurances, so can his disciples in all times and places.

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

Focus on the cause and effects in these verses.

JOHN 14:15-21, 25-27, Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him....

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

1. *What does Jesus promise his followers for the time when he would not be physically present with them?*

2. *How does Jesus describe the character and role of the Holy Spirit?*

3. *What does Jesus say it takes to be in a love relationship with him?*

WATCH [View Episode 7 \(41 min., from 0:00 to 40:26\) > Discuss](#)

INTRO: **Tamar**, the Ethiopian woman who witnessed two healings in Season One, is joined by her formerly paralyzed friend. They boldly give their testimony to a crowd, reporting what they saw and experienced firsthand of Jesus' power to heal and restore.



Quintus and **Atticus**, the Roman officials from Season One, are concerned with Jesus' irregularities. They have Jesus arrested, to the great concern of his disciples, as he is led away for interrogation.

4. *How does Jesus provide an example of submitting to authorities?*

5. Note the disciples' response around the campfire. *Which reactions would characterize yours in that situation—and why?*

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: This version of the Lord's Prayer (the other is in *The Sermon on the Mount*, Matthew 6:4-14) is in response to the disciples' request, *Lord, teach us to pray*. Jesus proceeds to give them a general model for our prayer life and the elements to include.



Look for the connection between the prayer of Jesus in vv. 1-4 and what he teaches about prayer in vv. 5-13.

The Lord's Prayer

LUKE 11 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves,’ ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

6. Note each element of Jesus' model prayer. *How is each one vital in a love relationship with God and others:*

... Father ("Abba": literally, Daddy, see page 115)?

... Hallowed be your name?

... Your kingdom come?

... Give us each day our daily bread?

... Forgive us our sins?

... For we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us?

... Lead us not into temptation?

7. *"How is prayer to the Lord different from and or similar to waking the friend who is in bed?"*

8. *How is God like a father who gives gifts to his children?*

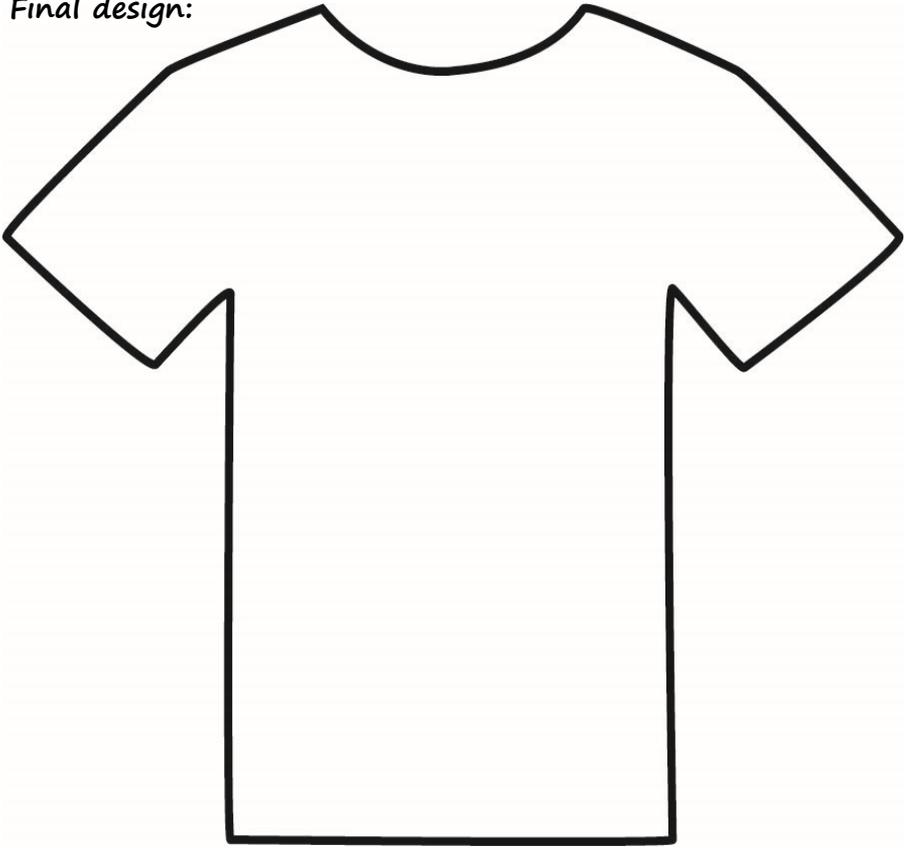
RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

9. *What in Jesus' teaching on prayer is most meaningful to you?*

T-Shirt Design *After watching > discovering > relating, What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?*

Draft concepts:

Final design:



Notes on Study #8 *Commentary and Historical Context***JOHN 14:15-21 and 25-27—Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit**

- The Trinity (the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one God) is prominent in Jesus' teaching here.
- His leaving is not something to be feared but embraced as the means to experience the full measure of God's presence in their lives through the Holy Spirit. He will not leave those who love and obey him as *orphans* but promises his abundant peace.

Luke 11:1-11—The Lord's Prayer

- Each Jewish group had their own distinctive way of praying, including those following John the Baptist. Jesus' disciples wanted to learn his way of praying. He gives them a model of key elements to use.
- The word for Father, *Abba*, is the most intimate word a child could use: *Daddy*. The Jews would only speak God's title, *Adonai*, not his personal name, *Yahweh*, believing it too holy to utter. Not so for Jesus' followers. Jesus' sacrifice makes a way for us to know God in the most intimate of ways: as a child to a loving dad or mom.
- The rationale in the Lord's Prayer, *for we also forgive* (v. 4), reminds us that God's forgiveness produces the willingness to forgive.

REALISTIC*But***REAL?***That's plausible but did it happen?***Before his crucifixion, was Jesus arrested and interrogated by Roman officials?**

The members of the Sanhedrin (the ruling council of 70 Jewish elders) were not the only ones curious about and divided over Jesus; the Jews feared intervention by Roman rulers if things got out of hand (John 11:45-48). The Romans would tolerate no actions that might threaten their rule.

The arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36) and his subsequent trial, lead some to believe that this was not the first time that Jesus had problems with the legal authorities. His example of humbly submitting to authorities gave rise to the disciples' worries (in *The Chosen*), and their request for a teaching on prayer.

Drive it Home Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share

Prayer can be discouraging when you see few or no results for your efforts. Jesus encourages perseverance (Luke 11:9-10):

⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

The verbs here indicate a continual practice: keep on asking, keep on knocking, keep on asking. Watch, listen, sing along and praise as a reminder of his faithfulness.

Holy Spirit -Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/Holy-Spirit-song (9:55 min.)

It Is Well -Kristene DiMarco

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/it-is-well-song (7:22 min)

10. *If you don't continue asking, what does that reveal about your view of God?*

11. *How does (or could) continued prayer change you and change the things for which you ask?*

Video Insights *The Holy Spirit* -The Bible Project

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/Holy-Spirit-described (4:11 min.)

Thoughts:

The Lord's Prayer, A Teaching Moment

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/lords-prayer-teaching-moment (5:18 min.)

Thoughts:

-Rabbi Jason Sobel

The Lord's Prayer -Francis Chan

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/the-lords-prayer-talk (42:12 min.)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?



A beautiful and meaningful Psalm

NOTE TO EVERYONE: Before this gathering, read and reflect on the passage Matthew, Philip, Ramah, and Mary Magdalene were finding comfort in and direction from. The sections they reference are shown in bold for Psalm 139 (pages 123-124).

Beyond Mountains (Episode 8)

Study
#9

INTRO: A landowner is swindled by a businessman and his apprentice. The two go on to help the disciples negotiate a “price” for a place to host a major teaching by Jesus. That teaching is *The Sermon on the Mount*.

FROM

The

CHOSEN

The apprentice involved in the swindle turns out to be, well, we won't spoil it for you. Some of the disciples' families and friends from Season One also appear in this last scene, to reconnect and hear Jesus' message.

WATCH *View Episode 8 (44 min., from 2:37 to 46:30) > Discuss*

1. Describe:

... the spirit of the disciples around camp.

... the resistance to Jesus by Shmuel, Yanni and other Pharisees.

... the negotiation for using the land for Jesus' sermon.

... the choosing of sash color to accessorize Jesus.

2. With which of the characters waiting to hear Jesus' sermon do you most identify? Why?

DISCOVER *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

INTRO: In episodes 2 and 3 Matthew, Ramah, and Mary Magdalene become interested in the study of Scripture. Philip introduces **Psalm 139:8** for meditation and, in the episode, Mary helps Ramah to read using **Psalm 139: 15-16** (in bold below).



Identify each section and then the comparisons and contrasts.

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

Psalm 139 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸**If I ascend to heaven, you are there!**

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

¹³ For you formed my inward parts;

you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ **My frame was not hidden from you,**

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **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.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!

O men of blood, depart from me!

²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent;

your enemies take your name in vain.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with complete hatred;

I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

3. *Which parts of the Psalm stand out to you?*

4. *How well, or to what extent, does our Creator God know us?*

... How does David express his feelings about God's ever-presence?

5. *What does it mean to be "knitted together" and "fearfully and wonderfully made" (vv. 13-14)?*

... Why, though, do we doubt this about ourselves?

6. In verses 19-22, David addresses “the wicked.” *Why do you think he expresses such passion against them?*

7. *How would you compare the kind of searching and knowledge the Psalm begins with (vv. 1-6) to the kind cited at the end (vv. 23-24)?*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

8. *What do you expect would happen in and through your life, if you regularly prayed like verses 23-24?*

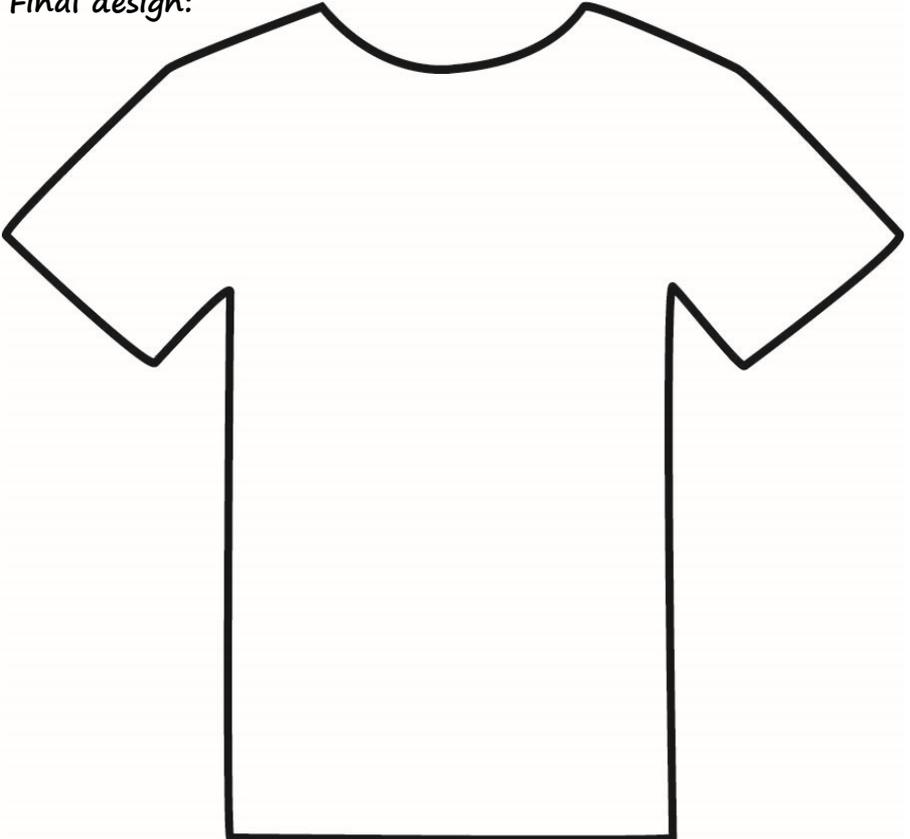
9. *What do you think God is seeking to show you right now through making this prayer your heartfelt request?*

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

Wrap up by sharing with your group.

Draft concepts/quotations for summarizing this study:

Final design:



Notes on Study #9 *Commentary and Historical Context***Psalm 139—Psalm of David on the Presence of God**

- David did not have a deep understanding of the person of God as manifested in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He wasn't, obviously, in the upper room with the disciples, so he would not have heard Jesus describe what makes for a continued, intimate relationship with him and the Father. He would know nothing of the Holy Spirit's presence as revealed in our last study from John 14.

Neither would David, like his fellow Old Testament Jews, have called on God in such intimate terms as did Jesus. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus directed his disciples to address God as *Abba*— "Daddy". (The Jews would only speak God's title, *Adonai*, not his name: *Yahweh*.)

But David was *a man after God's own heart*. He describes, in poetic words, the cherished familiarity Jesus' followers have with their God, as one redeemed and adopted into his family.

- The Scripture passage in *The Chosen* that Phillip, Matthew, Mary, and Ramah memorized and meditated on, is Psalm 139:8. This verse uses the Greek term, *Sheol*, or *the depths*. The term is not *Hell* (Gehenna) used in Matthew 10:28. Instead it indicates the utter depths of this world—*the grave*.

Up or down, near or far, early or late, day or night—wherever we go, God is with us all the time, all the way. Our finite minds cannot grasp how awesome, how wonderful and "how everywhere" God is.

- The fact that God knows and cares for us in the womb before being born (vv. 13-16) indicates that he is concerned for life at the moment of conception. David had no clue as to the intricacies of the body that modern science had revealed. All he had was his ability to marvel! Whatever your stance on the issue of abortion, allow these verses to inform your thinking and practice.
- Psalm 139 reminds us of just how worthy of worship God is, how inappropriate it is not to acknowledge him (vv. 17-22), and how open we should be for him to teach and lead us further (vv. 23-24).

REALISTIC*But***REAL?***That's plausible but did it happen?***Was Judas (Iscariot) an apprentice and swindler in sales, yet ambitious for a life of purpose?**

Such a backstory is quite speculative. Judas would have made a likely compatriot for Simon the Zealot. The Gospels, however, give us no background on either of them, other than what we can glean from their names and, in Judas' case, his actions.

Simon (the Zealot), similar to Judas Iscariot, likely had a strong vision of what it could mean to join forces with the new Jesus Movement. But while Simon became a true believer, Judas, sadly, never made such a wholehearted commitment. Why he would not forsake his independent ambitions to be transformed by his relationship with Jesus remains a mystery.

Did Jesus dress plainly?

In *The Chosen*, Jesus whimsically alludes to Isaiah 53:2, and chides the women trying to dress him up: *You know I know what the prophecy says about my appearance. Is this your attempt to change it?* True, nothing about Jesus' appearance commended him. Leave it to the key women in his entourage, though, to adorn him for the big occasion! Royal blue gets a tie-breaking vote to accessorize the *Prince of Peace*.

Was Jesus a revolutionary?

By all accounts, yes. His followers would have him subvert Rome, and his critics are concerned he just might. Jesus himself (in *The Chosen*) clarifies that his message is not meant to be soothing or sentimental; rather, he intends to "start a revolution, but not a revolt." That distinction makes all the difference, as we shall see.

Many Scriptures, in both Old and New Testaments, support this claim, but none more than the *Sermon on the Mount*, which is a manifesto, radical for its day, and ours! We'll learn more about it in Season 3.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

He knows everything about us because he created us just as we are. Read Psalm 139 again in personal terms, watch, listen and sing with gladness for his design and oversight of your life. In him we find our worth and our identity.

You Say I Am Yours -Lauren Daigle

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/i-am-yours (4:30 min.)

Who You Say I Am -Hillsong Worship

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/i-am-who-you-say (5:34 min.)

10. *What do you appreciate about this Psalm's description regarding God's intimate knowledge of you?*

11. *Embrace verses 23-24 as a model for your own request by rewriting and expanding these words for your own life with God: the Father, his Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

Video Insights *Dallas Gives Speech, The Chosen* -Dallas Jenkins

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/dallas-speech (3:30 min.)

Thoughts:

Psalm 139 -Jon Courson

Type in URL: <https://tinyurl.com/psalm-139-teaching> (48:30 min.)

Thoughts:

Reclaiming Psalm 139 -Jen Wilkin

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/teaching-psalm-139 (38:07 min.)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?



Time to put it all together

NOTE FOR LEADERS: Study #10 provides three options. **For this gathering** your group could meet at your normal time and do the usual study. In this case group members could have an extended Drive it Home section or schedule a second time for personal reflection after the study (using pages 164-170, under “Your Faith Journey”).

As an alternative, your group can expand Study #10. Here’s two ways:

–The Chosen Study Day–Long Event (Three Sessions)

9:00: Lite Breakfast	1:30: <i>Afternoon Session</i>
9:30: <i>Morning Session</i>	3:00: <i>Later Afternoon Session</i>
12:00 Lunch	5:00 End with Dinner

–The Chosen Study Weekend Retreat (Five Sessions)

FRIDAY: Dinner	1:30: <i>Afternoon Session</i>
7:00: <i>Evening Session</i>	6:00: Saturday Dinner
SATURDAY: Lite Breakfast	7:30: <i>Evening Session</i>
9:00: <i>Morning Session</i>	SUNDAY: Breakfast
12:00: Saturday Lunch	9:00: <i>Morning Session</i> /End with Lunch

It is a priority to have as many in your group come as possible, no matter what you do! So, discuss options and get it on your group members’ schedule, as early as possible. Ideally, you and your group will continue with a new study experience in which you can invite and enfold new people! For more input on organizing a Day-Long Event or Weekend Retreat, access the website under *Leaders*.

Integrate Your Chosen Experience

Season Two Reviewed and Looking Ahead

Study
#10

INTRO: The cover on this guide illustrates the centrality of hope for our journey. Counterfeit hope lurks all around and markets its wares to us with a superficial offer of peace, contentment, and joy.

FROM

The

CHOSEN

But the superficial things, in which we place our hope, fail to acknowledge that we all have a “God-shaped void.” This is a void only Jesus and his kingdom values can satisfy. This will be made even more evident in his famous and provocative message (Matthew 5-7). Here we watch *The Chosen’s* preview of its introduction, then review its introduction (the Beatitudes) ourselves.

REWATCH Episode 8B (20:20-22:30 & 30:12-36:32) > Discuss

1. As you consider the disciples' camp with Jesus, what inspiring examples of "blessedness" stood out for you and why?

DISCOVER Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss

INTRO: The Big Reveal of Jesus' counter-cultural message begins with a series of statements on "blessedness." Let your imagination soar as you hear the words, either for the first time or afresh.



Identify who is blessed and the results of the blessing.

The Sermon on the Mount

MATTHEW 5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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.

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt 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.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

2. In *The Chosen*, Jesus calls his opening “a map, directions where people should look to find me.” *In what respect can The Beatitudes be used as a map to find him?*

3. *What would you say it means to be “blessed,” according to Jesus?*

4. What does Jesus mean when he identifies his followers as salt and light? (vv. 13-14)

5. Read aloud: Sometimes the best way to understand a truth is by its opposite. The “eight blessings” (the eighth is a two-parter) are divided on this page and the next. **Have each person write out their opposites, The Be-Notitudes, and then share them in the group.**

The Beatitudes are Kingdom of God values that Jesus says will ensure that we are happy and content.

The Be-Notitudes are Kingdom of the World values. They tempt us to believe that, by living accordingly, we will be happy and content.

The Beatitudes and The “Be-Notitudes”

Kingdom of God values	Kingdom of the World values
<p>³ <i>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>Happy are the proud and boastful who never pursue humility because they never need to admit wrong and are totally self-sufficient.</i></p>
<p>⁴ <i>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.</i></p>	
<p>⁵ <i>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.</i></p>	

<p>⁶ <i>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>Secure are those who work hard for their possessions, fame, position and power, for they will get all they want.</i></p>
<p>⁷ <i>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.</i></p>	
<p>⁸ <i>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</i></p>	
<p>⁹ <i>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>Content are those who can manipulate and play people off each other for they will get their needs met without being sincere.</i></p>
<p>¹⁰ <i>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i></p>	
<p>¹¹ <i>“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.</i></p>	

6. After writing (including the ones with examples, if you'd like), then read each of them aloud. “Vote” on the best examples. And have fun with it!

7. *How was looking at the opposites of The Beatitudes helpful?*

8. *Which Be-Notitudes helped you to see their opposite better?*

RELATE *How It Applies to God, Life, and You > Discuss*

9. *Which Be-Notitudes are you most likely to pursue?*

10. *What can you do to “salt up” or bring “more light” into your world?*

11. *In this overall study, what new spiritual perspective do you have about God/Jesus?*

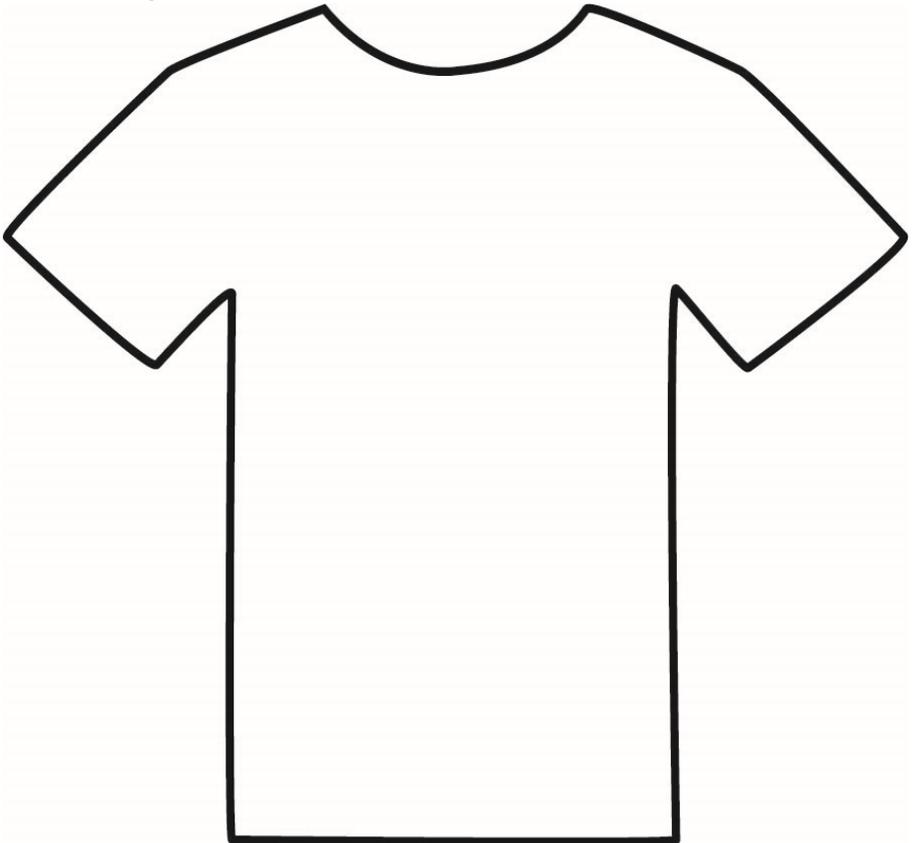
... direction in your life?

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

Wrap up by sharing with your group.

Draft concepts/quotations for summarizing this study:

Final design:



Notes on Study #10 *Commentary and Historical Context*

John 4:31-39—The Beatitudes / Salt and Light

- The Beatitudes are not platitudes but devastating laser-guided bombs, blowing apart the façade of our prized traditions and dispositions. In their place Jesus offers an alternative way of blessedness.
- As we reject the “*Be-Notitudes*,” not willing to conform to the sinful and destructive pattern of this world, we can influence—be salt, and offer direction—be light, for those open to follow Jesus’ values.

Drive it Home *Review and Respond: Worship, Pray, Share*

As our study of Season Two draws to a close we are reminded of how God’s priorities can be so different than the world’s, and from our own as well. These beautiful songs capture a reaffirmation of our heart’s desire to align ourselves with him and his vision. Jesus is the way, he shows the way and he provides the means to find and continue in the way.

Be Thou My Vision -Eoghan Heaslip

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/be-thou (5:04 min.)

Come Thou Fount -Shane and Shane

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/come-fount (5:58 min)

12. Some call it “upside down,” others “counterculture,” but, whatever you call it, Jesus directs his followers into a very different life-reality than what the world offers. *How would you describe this call on your life?*

13. *How, specifically, is this different than the way you were or are used to living?*

14. Jesus and the gospel writers make it clear that he continues to intercede for us in heaven (John 17:22; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2). *In what ways do you need the power of his intercessory help through the Holy Spirit to live this way?*

Video Insights *Beatitudes, Stranger Things* -Skip Heitzig

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/biblical-stranger-things (52:47 min.)

Thoughts:

Does Jesus Need Matthew to Help Him? -The Snipe Life

Type in URL: tinyurl.com/Jesus-matthew (23:15 min.)

Thoughts:

A. C. T. S. Prayer:

Adoration / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Examine where you are with the Lord and the priorities of his kingdom.
Take it to him in prayer:

ADORATION: How can you praise God from whom all blessings flow?

CONFESSION: What do you need to confess and change?

THANKSGIVING: Which circumstances will you thankfully embrace?

SUPPLICATION: For whom and for what will you pray?

... ANYTHING ELSE:

S. H. A. R. E. Mentality:

Stop / Hear / Analyze / Risk / Execute

Apply what you are learning to your opportunities, then take bold action to serve. What is a situation that you want or need to:

STOP: Take a moment to get focused. What is the issue to address?

HEAR: Listen not to the urgent, but the important. What is that?

ANALYZE: Determine the obstacles and options. How will you proceed?

RISK: Resist the familiar and easy. What's your growing edge here?

EXECUTE: Move from the mental to the real. What will you do next?

Note: Continue on page 146 to extend your Drive it Home session.

Your Faith Journey *Extend Your Drive it Home Session*

What follows provide a *look back* to Season Two’s study and a *look forward* to your life-experience. Use these questions to extend your personal *Drive it Home* reflection time or schedule another time to complete this. *When can you do so?* _____

- 15.** First, read through pages 153-159 which describe the Gospels’ characters and authors—their identity and calling. Also, for added input, look up the following link: jesusstudy.org/his-disciples

What has encouraged, challenged or surprised you about their stories?

Next, describe your “big picture” takeaway from the study here, then on pages 147-151, and end with the T-Shirt!

Describe your takeaways from each study:

Study #1, I Am He / Thunder, E 8B/E 1A (pp. 21-35):

Genesis 1:1-5; John 1:1-14

Study #2, Thunder, Episode 1B (pp. 37-47):

Luke 10:25-37; Luke 15:1-7

Study #3, I Saw You, Episode 2 (pp. 49-59):

Psalm 13; John 1:43-51

Study #4, Matthew 4:24, Episode 3 (pp. 61-71):

Matthew 4:23-25; Philippians 2:1-18

Study #5, The Perfect Opportunity, Episode 4 (pp. 73-83):

John 5:1-17

More takeaways?

Study #6, Spirit, Episode 5 (pp. 85-95):

Mark 1:1-8, 14-15; Mark 5:1-20



Study #7, Unlawful, Episode 6 (pp. 97-107):

1 Sam 21:1-6; Mark 2:23-3:6; Rom 8:1-2, 31-39

Study #8, Reckoning, Episode 7 (pp 109-119):

John 14:15-21, 25-27; Luke 11:1-13

Study #9, Beyond Mountains, Episode 8 (pp. 121-133):

Psalm 139

Study #10, Integrate Your Chosen Experience, Episode 8B

(pp. 135-145): Matthew 5:1-14

WRAP-UP Read this definition of faith. Spend some time to mark-it-up (and share with others).

The Chosen is meant to take you into the eyes and ears of the people who followed Jesus. We believe that if you can see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, you can be changed and impacted in the same way they were.... If we can connect you with their burdens and struggles and questions, then ideally, we can connect you to the solution, to the answer to those questions. —Dallas Jenkins

One definition of genuine faith is *giving all you know about yourself to all you know about God*. Such is the call to humility. The more you hang around Jesus, the more you realize that he isn't impressed with pretension. Maybe that's why he—the Servant-King, God's understated Messiah—made no grand entry. Instead, Jesus shows up as a baby, born in a dirty stable to a peasant girl, in a nondescript town.

30 years later, for three short years, he announces that the Kingdom of God has arrived, complete with spiritually intriguing stories and miracles. He offers forgiveness of sin, and reconciliation to God the Father—all culminating in his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

Something is going on here. No one could make this stuff up. If nothing more, **the story of Jesus is the most [_____ fill in the blank] story that humanity has to offer.** The Gospel writers certainly felt this way and their eagerness to describe this off-the-charts, unusual *eternity-meets-time event* pours through their accounts.

From your study, **write in the adjective** that best describes Jesus' story:

Remarkable . . .

Compelling . . .

Audacious . . .

Captivating . . .

No fair picking them all!

Fascinating . . .

We chose one—what's yours?

Intriguing . . .

Share why you selected it with your group.

Other . . .

Watch > Discover > Relate the Most _____ Story Ever Told.

Final questions for contemplation (and sharing with others)

Do you increasingly find yourself caught up in Jesus' story, as well? Do you want it, and him, to influence your life more deeply? Then, take on what you learn. If Jesus says to love your enemies, try it out. Or, if he says to show hospitality like the Good Samaritan, or to help find lost sheep like a Good Shepherd, then do it.

As you "try on Jesus' teaching," you will find it not only making sense, but that you will also need to look to him for the wisdom, strength, and courage to take the risk of making some hard choices. Thankfully, in this journey of faith, his forgiveness is always close at hand.

How have you connected with the above quote by Dallas?

How do you respond to the definition of faith given on page 149?

Which teaching of Jesus would God have you "try on" right now?

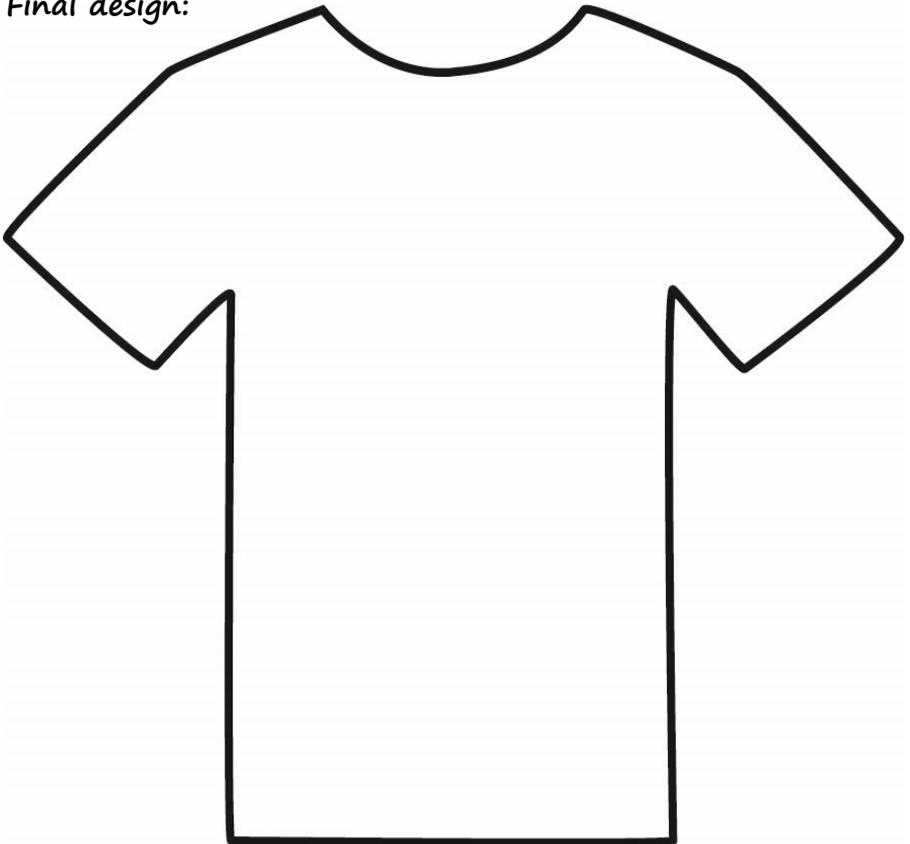
With whom can you share what you've learned and its impact on you?

T-Shirt Design After watching > discovering > relating,
What slogan would you write or draw on your T-Shirt?

Wrap up by sharing with others.

Draft concepts/quotations for the *OVERALL SEASON*:

Final design:



Your Faith Journey (for additional space, see page 186 ff):

Background Notes The Four Gospels*

Early tradition identifies Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as the ones who introduced Jesus to the First Century world and to ours. Their portrait of him is both historically unique and remarkably consistent.

MATTHEW: Given his occupation as a tax collector for the Roman government, we can only imagine the initial tension between Matthew (also called Levi) and the other disciples. But reconciliation lay at the heart of Jesus' message (see *The Sermon on the Mount*, Mathew 5-7). Matthew's Gospel emphasizes the interconnectedness between the Old and New Testaments and provides young believers a systematic tutorial on Jesus' teaching which is why it was put first in the NT.

MARK: This Gospel has been generally recognized as the account coming from Peter. Mark begins his first "sentence" with no verb: *The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God*. His last sentence ends with the women fleeing Jesus' empty tomb *because they were afraid*. For Mark, Jesus is a man of action. To help believers facing persecution from the Roman state, Mark focuses on Jesus as the Suffering Servant who "came to serve" (Mark 10:45).

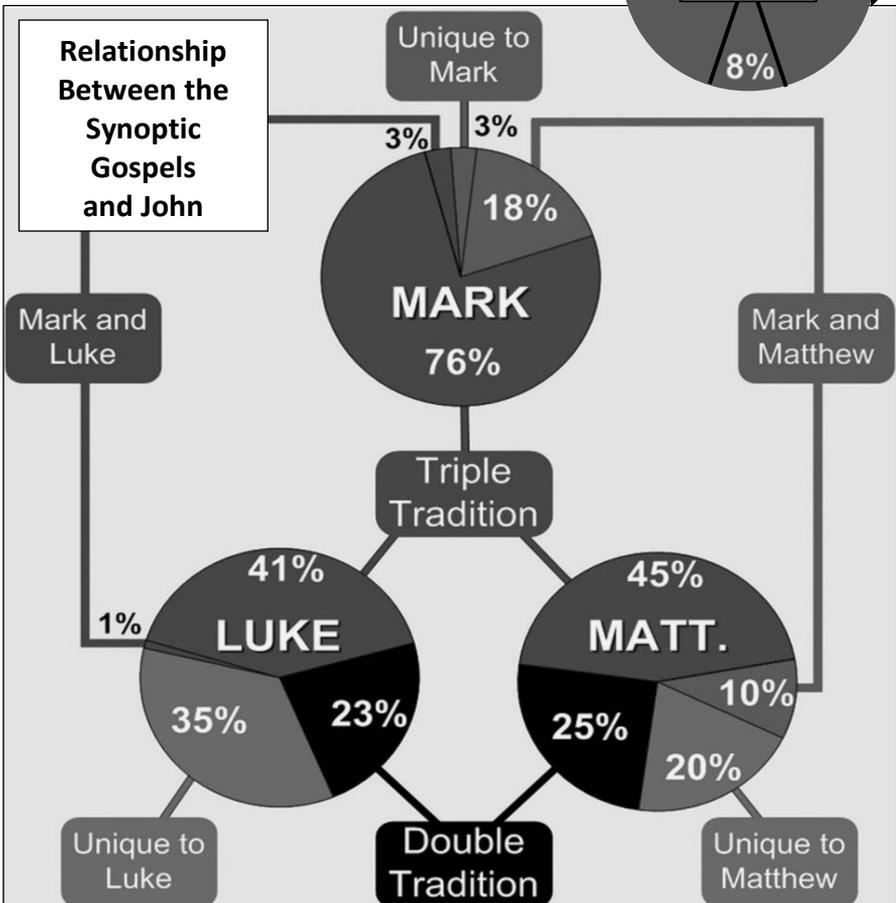
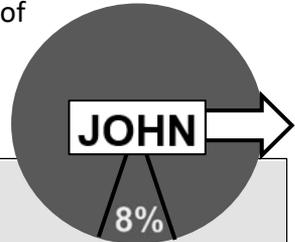
LUKE: An educated Greek physician and traveling companion of Paul, Luke authored the book of Acts and the Gospel that bears his name. Although Luke never met Jesus himself, he had a close relationship with Paul, and was acquainted with most of the key eyewitnesses who knew Jesus (Luke 1:1-4). After extensive interviews with these contacts, Luke begins: "Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account" (Luke 1:3).

JOHN: A fisherman and brother of James, he writes, "In the beginning was the Word," offering a rather obvious parallel to the opening words of Genesis. In the "first Genesis," God spoke *Creation* into existence, and in the "second Genesis" God speaks *Redemption* into existence: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (1:14). This "Word made flesh" is who John wants his readers to know.

*The Gospels and John: Two Quick Overviews -Whiteboard Bible Study tinyurl.com/four-gospels (10:40) / tinyurl.com/overview-john (8:01)

Mark is the shortest Gospel, likely written first (around 65 AD) and originating from the ministry of Peter. Many scholars believe Matthew and Luke had access to Mark because 76% of Mark's Gospel ends up in both Matthew and Luke and **97% of his Gospel ends up in one or the other of them**. These three Synoptics (similar summaries) borrow from each and other independent sources as this chart suggests.

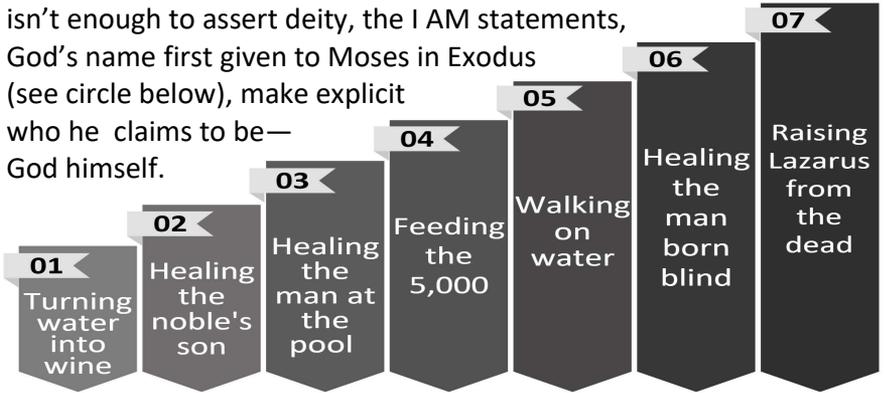
The content in **John's Gospel is 92% unique**. It covers a different time span than the others; it sets much of Jesus' ministry in Judaea; and it portrays him discoursing at length on theological matter (see the next page regarding John's uniqueness).



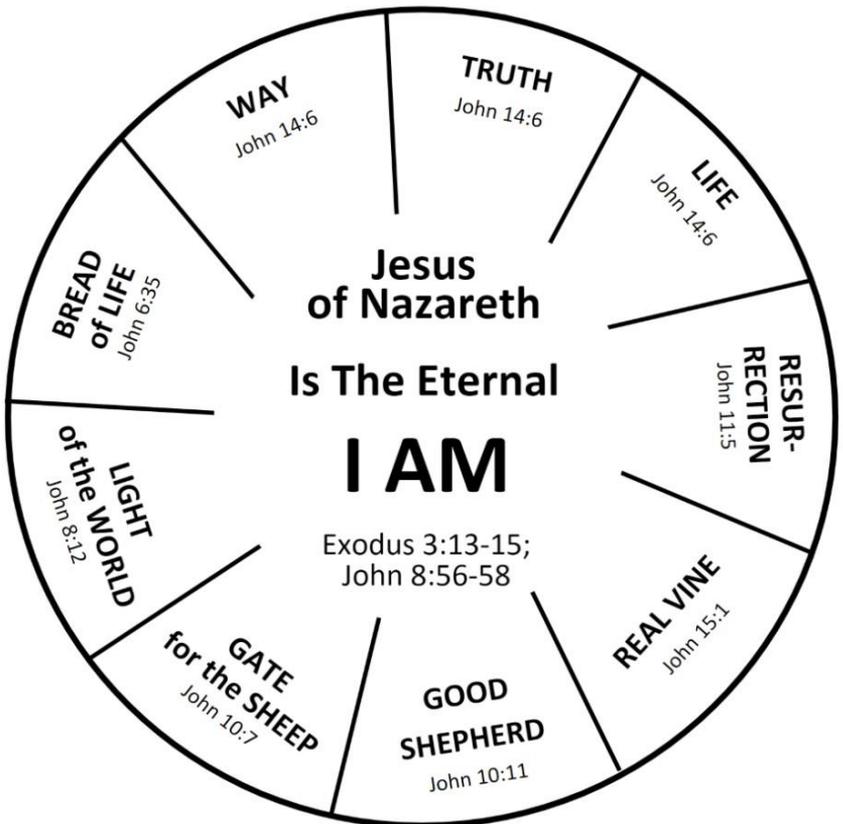
The relationship between the Synoptic Gospels chart is courtesy [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikimedia.org) of: tinyurl.com/between-gospels Also see the web link on page 157 for more info.

John's Gospel presents seven signs

Of the 37 miracles recorded in the NT, John goes in-depth into seven of them to validate Jesus' Messianic claim. And, if that isn't enough to assert deity, the I AM statements, God's name first given to Moses in Exodus (see circle below), make explicit who he claims to be— God himself.



John identifies Jesus' nature as the eternal "I AM"



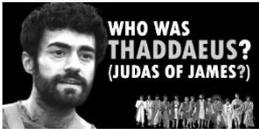
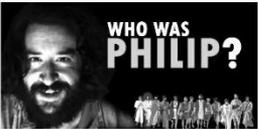
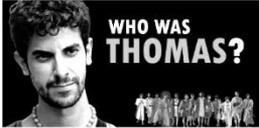
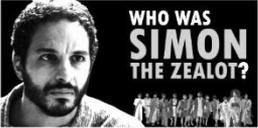
History's Most Audacious Story

Comparison of the Gospels				
	MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	JOHN
Writer (Traditional)	Companion of Peter, the John Mark from Acts	Former tax collector (Levi) and one of the twelve	A Greek physician and traveling companion of Paul	Former fisherman, one of the twelve, beloved disciple
Date Written	AD 63-70	AD 75-80	AD 80-85	AD 90-100
Images of Christ	Man of Action Proclaims the kingdom of God and forgiveness of sin, Son of Man and Liberator, calling followers	Master Teacher Visited at birth by magi, new Moses and King to restore Israel as promised Messiah, Deliverer and Son of God	Merciful Savior Visited at birth by shepherds. The compassionate Champion. Loves the poor, children, women, outcasts	The God-Man The Logos, Word of God, Creator and Light of the World, Son of God, Lamb of God, Redeemer in total control
Written to:	Romans	Jews	Greeks	Everyone
The Author's Community	Christian community in Rome undergoing persecution	Jewish Christian community in Antioch, Syria	Theophilus (<i>Lover of God</i>) possibly represents all Christians (Greece)	Community of Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans of Ephesus In Turkey
Theme: Jesus as	Suffering Servant	Messiah King	Redeemer	Son of God
General Theme	Jesus 'takes over' from John the Baptist as the Promised One, healing, forgiving. ("immediately")	Jesus teaches what it means to be a member of the Kingdom of Heaven and a growing disciple.	Jesus finds the lost and heals divisions among people. He shows compassion for those in need of help and hope.	Jesus is God, full of grace and truth. Salvation available for those who believe and commit their lives (7 signs).
Feature	Miracles	Sermons	Parables	I AM Statements
Historical Situation	The Romans subdue armed Jewish rebellions, Christians are experiencing persecution.	Written after Rome destroyed Jerusalem whose destruction was prophesied by Jesus at the Temple.	Written when the persecution of Christians was intensifying throughout the Roman Empire.	Domitian mandated that all people worship him. Jewish leaders banned Christians from synagogues.
Caesars	Nero: AD 54-68)	Vespasian and Titus: AD 70-81)	Domitian: AD 81-96	Domitian: AD 81-96 Nerva: AD 96-98 Trajan: AD 98-117
Key Verses	10:45	16:13-20	19:10	20:30-31

Note: The link on the next page provides more background on each disciple and shows the film depiction of their calling by Jesus in *The Chosen*.

Jesus' disciples identity and calling: jesusstudy.org/his-disciples



 <p>PETER</p>	 <p>ANDREW</p>	 <p>BIG JAMES</p>
 <p>JOHN</p>	 <p>Matthew</p>	 <p>Little James</p>
 <p>Thaddaeus</p>	 <p>Philip</p>	 <p>Nathanael</p>
 <p>Thomas</p>	 <p>Simon the Zealot</p>	 <p>Judas Iscariot</p>

Knowing those who knew him best

Mary Magdalene: One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been “cured of evil spirits and diseases” and was following Jesus. Having been delivered from seven demons, she is with Jesus at the cross and is the first one to whom Jesus appears after the Crucifixion (Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25-27; John 20:1-18).

John the Baptist: Miraculously conceived shortly before his cousin Jesus, he heralds Jesus, as foretold by Isaiah (40:3-5), calling Jews to repent in preparation for the Messiah. After baptizing Jesus, he is imprisoned and later beheaded for the threat he posed to Herod Antipas. Jesus identifies him as *the greatest of those born of women* (John 1:6-34; Matthew 3:1-17; 11:1-19; 14:1-12; Luke 1:5-25, 57-80).

Andrew: One of the first to follow Jesus, he brings his brother, Simon (Peter). Together with fellow fishermen, James and John, Andrew leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch. He also plays a key role in the feeding of the 5,000 (John 1:40-42; 6:8-9).

Simon: This fisherman meets Jesus and is later renamed Peter, *the Rock*. Brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, he is well-known for walking (and sinking) on water, slicing off a soldier’s ear, denying Jesus before his death, being a prominent leader in the early Christian movement, and for writing 1 and 2 Peter (Matthew 14:25-32; 16:13-28; Mark 14:66-72; John 1:40-42; Luke 5:1-11).

James and John: With Simon, they become Jesus’ closest disciples. Appropriately nicknamed by Jesus as the “sons of thunder” (Luke 9:54), they were Simon’s partners and, like him, they left everything to follow Jesus after the catch of fish (Mark 3:17; Luke 5:1-11). John goes on to write a Gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelation.

Matthew: Also known as Levi, is a despised tax collector when Jesus calls him from his tax booth to follow Him. He *left everything and followed him*, and invites many friends and coworkers to a dinner with Jesus (Luke 5:27-32). He authors the Gospel of Matthew.

James the Less (*micros*, meaning “little” or “young”) and **Thaddeus:** Two lesser-known disciples: “Little James,” a son of Alphaeus (Mark

3:18), could have been Matthew's brother (also a son of Alphaeus, Mark 2:14), but is never identified as such. Thaddeus, aka Jude or Judas, may have gotten his nickname to distinguish him from the other Judas thus avoiding negative connotations.

Thomas (aka Didymus, or "twin"): Best known for doubting: Unless I see the nail marks in his hands... I will not believe (John 20:25). Thomas could, maybe more accurately, be called logical. Regardless, we see a whole-hearted passion, even an openness to die with Jesus (11:16), and fear of missing him (14:5). Thomas, the last of The Twelve to see Jesus after the Resurrection, upon seeing him proclaims, My Lord and my God (20:24-29).

Mary, mother of Jesus: She is the teenager God chose to give birth to Jesus, who was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. She raises Jesus with **Joseph**, who married her after an angel appears to him in a dream, and who probably died before Jesus began his adult ministry. She weeps at the Crucifixion, witnesses the resurrected Christ, and, along with at least some of her other children (Acts 1:14), is part of the early church (Luke 1:26-56; 2:5-7; 8:19-21; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27).

Philip is a disciple of John the Baptist, and a friend of Andrew. He changes allegiance from John to Jesus, and seeks out a friend, **Nathanael**, who wonders aloud, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip seemingly quotes Jesus, "Come and see!" Nathanael does and is amazed that Jesus "met him" before they meet: "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Simon (the Zealot): We don't know a lot about him from the gospel record other than his association with the Zealots, a group of Jewish insurrectionists who opposed Roman rule. Without much to go on, there has been a wide variety of speculation. Some options are: the same person as Simeon of Jerusalem who became an early Christian leader, Simon, the brother of Jesus or perhaps a cousin of Jesus.

Judas (Iscariot)—was a name probably given to him as a designation of his native place, Kerioth, a town in Judah. In *U ̇ #* he is introduced as the last of the disciples to join, but the New Testament only indicates that he was one of the Twelve, not when he joined.

Spoiler Alert! What happens next . . .



Episode One: Jesus delivers the most life-altering, world-changing sermon in history. As a result, he gets more followers, more notoriety, and more enemies. **Matthew**, who earlier helped him to craft the *Sermon on the Mount* (Season Two, Episode 8), is now convicted by what he heard in the sermon. He realizes he must face his past and somehow reconcile with his parents. **Joanna**, married to Chuza, Herod Antipas' household manager, also hears the sermon, and gives **Andrew** the opportunity to visit **John the Baptist** in prison.

Episode Two: As Jesus draws crowds, the Roman leadership (**Quintus**), sees him as a problem. Pilgrims from all over descend on Capernaum and set up a tent city. As tensions rise on the home front (between **Simon** and **Eden**), Jesus empowers the twelve (now called apostles) to go two-by-two and do his work of healing and preaching. This prompts **Little James** to ask why he hasn't been healed, bringing up the issue of suffering and seemingly unanswered prayer. Thomas is directed to go to the region where **Kafni** lives in order to ask for the hand of **Ramah** in marriage, and to "put in a good word for Jesus as well!"

Episode Three: Jesus' hometown of Nazareth is the scene of a festival where he sees old friends **Lazarus**, **Mary**, and **Martha**. He's asked to read the Scriptures by **Rabbi Benjamin** as a guest preacher in the local synagogue. Things turn deadly serious as his interpretation of Isaiah is seen as blasphemous; the hometown boy is driven by an angry synagogue mob to the edge of a cliff outside the city, to be killed. Jesus says, "this isn't going to happen" and walks through them unharmed.

Episode Four: The cast of main characters returns to Capernaum. We get a "taste and see" (black and white clips, no sound) of the two-by-two mission on which the disciples were sent. We also get a glimpse into the marital dynamics of **Simon and Eden**. Their conflict will feel very familiar to many couples. **Jairus**, his wife, **Michal**, and his 12-year-old daughter, **Nili**, who becomes ill from unclean city water, are introduced. We likewise get to know a woman with a continuous issue of blood (named **Veronica** here), setting the stage for two future healings.

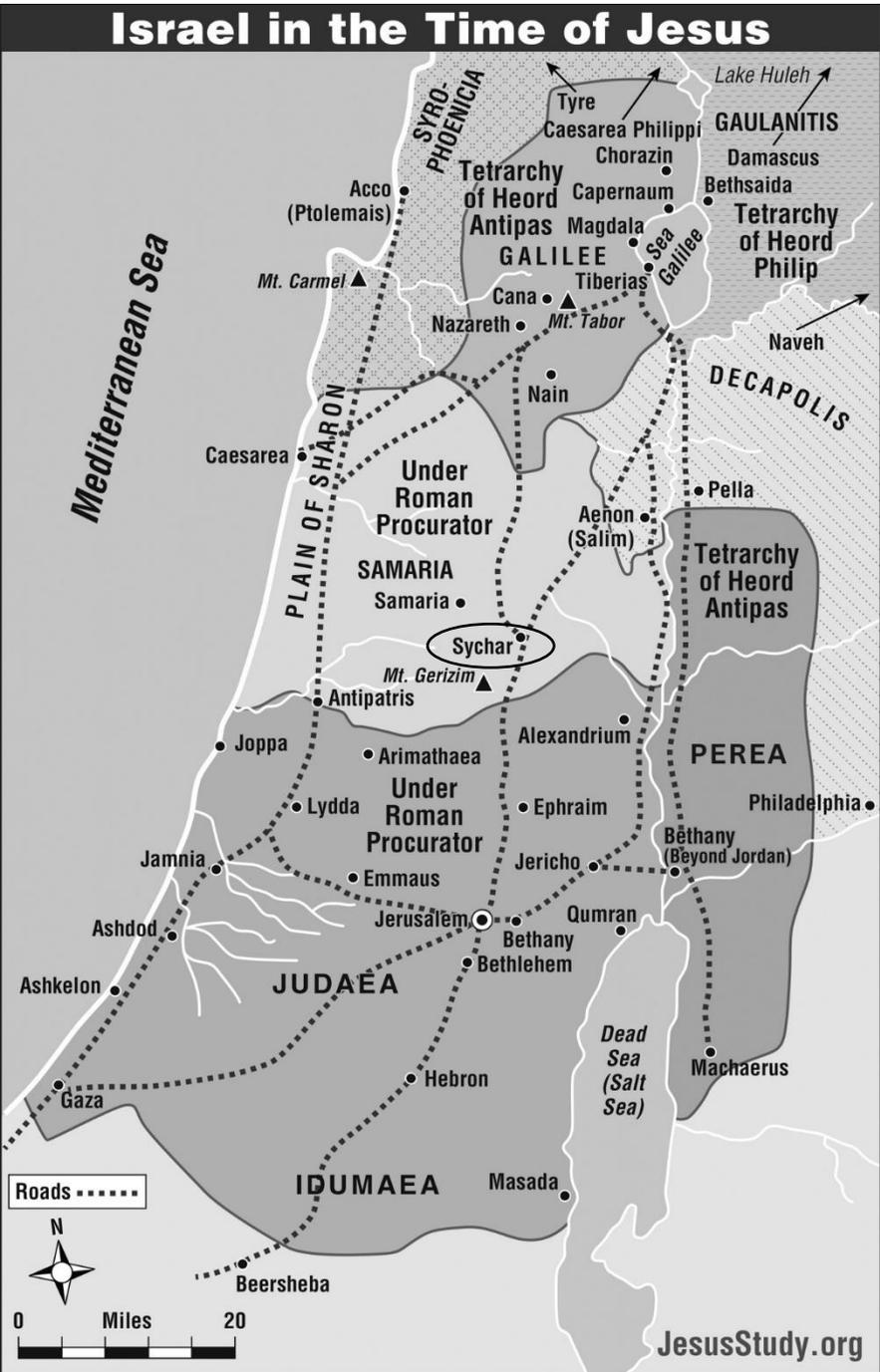
Episode 5: Synagogue ruler, Jairus, intends to get his 12-year-old daughter healed, which means getting Jesus there in time. But Jesus' entourage is interrupted by **Veronica**, who'd suffered for 12 years with constant bleeding and caused her to be labeled as "unclean," excluded from society, but never from Jesus. Jesus must deal with competing demands, delays, and expectations. How Jesus handles all of these makes for an inspiring and redemptive episode.

Episode 6: Pilate hears about Jesus—from both his wife (who dreamt of Jesus) and his colleague, **Atticus**. The disciples argue over tactics and tensions, prepare for worst-case scenarios, and try to quell the crisis their preaching in Decapolis has created. **Gaius'** loyalty is questioned by his Roman superior, **Quintus**, as Gaius shows sympathy to Jesus' followers. **Tamar** and **Mary Magdalene** disagree on how to show loyalty to Jesus with all that they are and have. **Andrew** and **Philip** handle a crisis involving Jesus' cousin, **John the Baptist**, languishing in prison but expressing doubts. **Simon the Zealot's** pursuers finally corner him and question his loyalty to Jesus and to their cause.

Episode 7: Big storylines ("Get used to different"), parables, and Jewish culture (feast of Purim, prayer tassels) set up the Finale! **Simon Peter** expresses his grief and anger at Jesus for allowing **Eden** to suffer; **John** must fetch him. **Zebedee**, his wife **Salome**, **Mary Magdalene**, and **Yussif**, help **Eden** process her own grief and marital issues. **Andrew and Philip** are in over their heads with a crisis that provokes Gentiles to riot, typified by **Nashan** and **Fatayah**. **Thomas** returns without **Ramah**, who stays behind to "work on" her dad. **Matthew** denies, hides, and finally wears the Jewish roots of his faith. **Simon** sees that **Gaius'** slave, who is also his son, is sick, raising interest in "the Jewish doctor." Timely healings lead to a Feeding of the 5000 (Episode 8).

Episode 8: This season's Grand Finale focuses on feelings, food, and faith that God provides and cares for us in hard times. More healings, parables, and disputes among factions set up an epic miracle that involves Jesus and Jews breaking bread with quarrelsome Gentiles. Jesus is all-inclusive. **Jesus** walks on water and embraces risk-taking, grief-stricken **Peter**. Rabbi **Shmuel** is invited to pray with Jesus. (Stay tuned for Season 4!) "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden" is Jesus' call after giving us all we can carry."

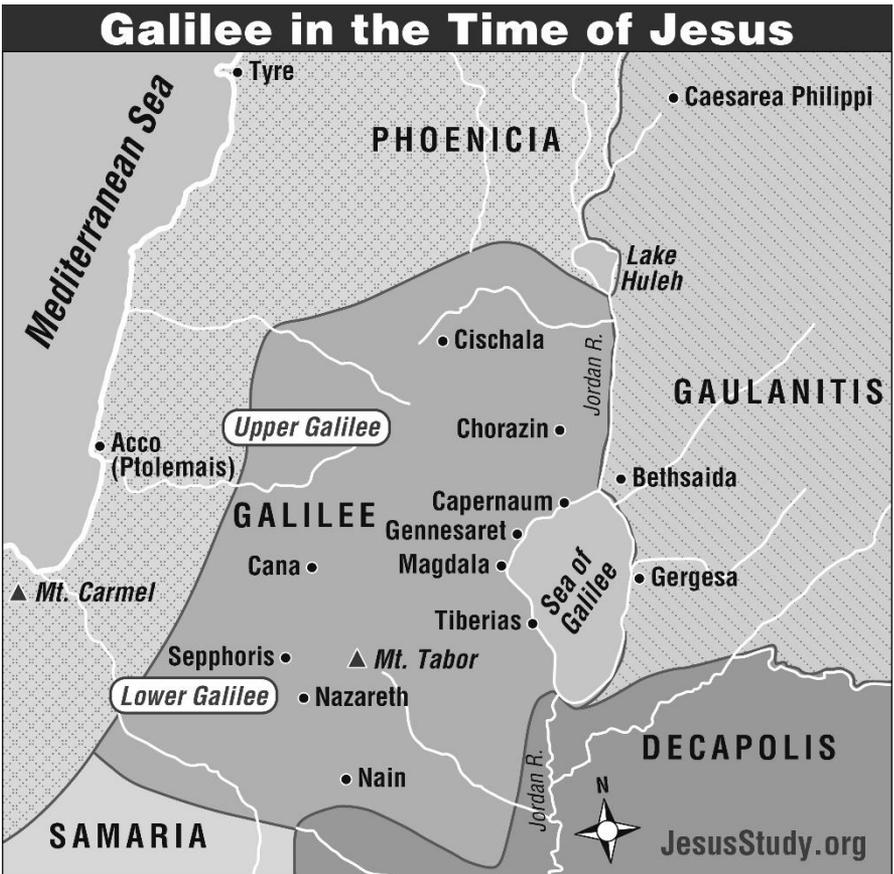
MARK where it happened on the map



RECORD locations cited and what happened there:

- Sychar, Samaria: two-day visit by Jesus, (p. 32)

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Can you trust The Chosen?

Some have raised questions about the authenticity of *The Chosen*—which is what this guide’s *Realistic But Real?* sections highlight. An analogy to Bible translation could be made in this regard.

Bible translations fall into three general categories: 1) *word-for-word*, strictly following the original Hebrew and Greek, 2) *thought-for-thought*, which reworks sentence structures to better fit the native language, and 3) *paraphrase*, an even looser translation of the original.

A few other “translations” go even further and *amplify* the original meaning to give readers more historical and literary context with which they may be unfamiliar.

Every film enactment of biblical events falls somewhere on a similar spectrum: from a literal *word-for-word* depiction, to a *thought-for-thought*, to a *paraphrase*. In the case of *The Chosen*, it would be fair to characterize it as *beyond paraphrase* to an “amplified version.” Some would use this byline under it: *Based on a True Story*.



Such use of “non-literal,” *historical fiction* relies on artistic license, and can cause discomfort which is understandable. If that is true for you, check out the videos by Dallas entitled: *Can you trust The Chosen?* (tinyurl.com/trusting-the-chozen), as well as his interview with Jonathan Roumie, (tinyurl.com/roumie-interview), who portrays Jesus. These videos convey their perspective and may prove helpful.

We regularly point out what happened versus plausible speculation from *The Chosen*. Ultimately, *The Chosen* is a TV show, and the Bible is the only media inspired by God, given to inform us of the truth and the way things happened. Film brings supportive context and three-dimensional color to the two-dimensional writing on the page.

Dallas’ heartfelt, well-conceived mission (see page 17) is why we vigorously support *The Chosen* and have developed *The Chosen Study*.

Leader's Notes

The Chosen Vision: Dallas and his team share the goal of *reaching a billion people with the message of Jesus*. Our “loaves and fish” effort joins their far-reaching aspirations by **helping study leaders facilitate discussions about Jesus with everyone we know, and to see people grow into and as Christ followers**.

If you're on the fence about leading, consider Jesus' challenge to Andrew in Episode 8 of Season One about traveling through the hated Samaritan territory, a place considered unclean and dangerous: *Did you join me for safety reasons?*

So, you're interested in leading a Chosen Study? Here's what to do:

Gather a Core Team

The Chosen Study Team



is a small group with a big purpose.

Draw together a core group made up of those who have seen something “different” in Jesus and want others to experience that difference. The team meets together regularly (shoot for weekly) to support the group process and pray.

They plan, oversee the food, and invite friends and family to join in. This team can take on the following roles:

–**The Group Leader** oversees the group's study and discussion process and seeks to foster one-on-one friendship evangelism and discipleship within the group. We encourage the Group Leader to model servant/leadership within the group and to send out weekly emails.

–**The Prayer Team Promoter** finds ways to support the Study in prayer.

–**The Meal Organizer** oversees the food. See *Resources* at the website for theme potluck sign-up sheets. Meal Organizers can also keep in touch during the week with group emails. (The first meal will likely be something like a pizza night instead of a planned potluck.)

–**Child Care Helper** for younger families who need such help to come.

–**Set-Up/Sign-Up/Name Tag/Greeter** should be designated, especially for larger groups. For the people who may not feel comfortable at first, you'll want to extend hospitality and friendship from the start.

–**“Tech Person”** to oversee film presentation and casting to the TV.

–**Small Group Facilitators** (for larger studies—eight or more) oversee their group. **It is best to sit around small tables with just four to six others** (and best to separate spouses), rotating members weekly.

–**Day-Long or Weekend Event Organizer** (see page 16 and the website).

FYI: There are two series: **The Chosen Series** that follows *The Chosen* and **The Bible Series** which includes other film and passage selections from the Gospels and various books of Scripture. (See Pages 176-179 and the website for these options.)



Be Inclusive of Everyone

Who to invite? Everyone who is open to come: The religious, the doubters, the non-religious, the seekers—you name it. This is to be a fun, interactive place that values and respects everyone.

We hope group members share differences of opinion and viewpoints from all over the spiritual map. We're glad for that to happen. Each person brings their own background. We're not here to judge. We love to stir up discussion and hear unaccustomed perspectives. As Philip simply said to Nathanael in episode two: *Come and see!*

Sharing and Prayer: To respect where people are spiritually, encourage believers to **avoid insider-type sharing**—which can characterize typical Bible study groups. (Also, prayer should primarily take place before you come or after you leave, not during group time.) A Chosen Study is a **skeptic- and seeker-friendly outreach group** for mutual learning, and to develop deeper friendships both inside and outside the group context.

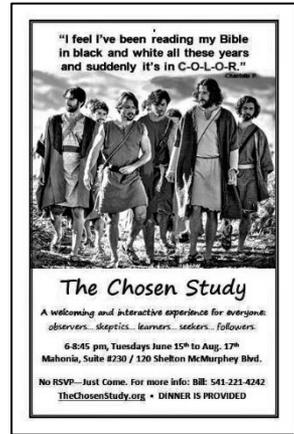
Get the Word Out



Direct Invitation: Yes, we still do that, right?! Indeed, it is by far the most effective means.

Email Invitation: Get the word out quickly by sending a link to the trailer, website, and a flyer attachment.

Text Invitation: Send out a photo, or better yet, a digital photo (JPG) of your flyer, and an active link to the trailer and website.



Flyers: Contact us at our website to receive sample flyers in MS Word that you can adapt and print or make up your own to hand out.

Create a Facebook Event and Church Announcements for the masses.

Once started, keep inviting. New people can binge watch to catch up!

Plan for Food



Our studies seek to connect us to God AND to each other. What better way to bring people together than by sharing food and conversation? We encourage starting with a meal, potluck or, at least, finger food. The role of overseeing the meals is a tremendous service to the group.

Lead/Facilitate the Group

You can begin small—with just one friend, one-on-one, or gather a group. Pray, invite, read, and underline the key points on pages 8-15 and 165-172. The leader's notes integrated along the way are for both current and future leaders to gain confidence in how to facilitate their groups.



Multiply Your Efforts—through small/large (8+) group combos



Combining small groups within a larger group:

When a group starts large or grows larger—to *eight or more*—the larger size presents unique opportunities. Small groups provide a *depth* of intimacy which allows members to participate more. Larger group interaction can then draw out the best insights from the various small group discussions to offer a *breadth* of give-and-take sharing.

This combination **provides for two (shorter) discussion times**, with the best of both dynamics, and gives group leaders the role of a “dialogical” (two-way), not “monological” (one-way), teacher. After each small group time, the leader brings together the larger group for a “check-in” to highlight what was discussed within the small groups.

A small/large group combination **offers a chance for the core team to facilitate the smaller groups**. The goal is to foster a guided conversation. This, likewise, is true for a large group leader on a larger scale. Quality, dialogical teaching brings a soft touch to the group sharing by focusing on the best insights gleaned from the small groups.

Larger groups thus **provide discipleship opportunities** for group members to step into the role of small group facilitators, as part of the core Chosen Study team. The goal is to help equip an increasing number of these leaders to multiply their outreach efforts in the lives of others. The challenge during the group time is to keep up the pace.

If you’re currently a group member with such aspirations, feel free to study through the guide notes, go through the website and look for an opportunity to join a team, or to start your own Chosen Study!

For Leader Support: jesusstudy.org/contact

The website’s primary purpose is to equip current and future leaders to make disciples and provide a community of discipleship for those using *The Chosen* for outreach and growth. *How can we serve you?*

Eight Group Ground Rules to Enhance Your Experience

1. **The Leader** is a **facilitator** of discussion, guiding the group through questions rather than statements. He or she is responsible to **prepare for and oversee group interaction** and to **help with outreach**.
2. **The Guide** makes for a valuable personal study but is especially set up to help **current and future leaders** facilitate watching, study, and discussion in one-to-one, and in small/large group settings.
3. **Prior Preparation** is not expected. We do, however, have a **Drive it Home** reflection time and **Video Insights** for post-Study follow-up.
4. **Each Group Member** “owns the group,” and is thus seen as a key contributor of comments and questions. **Talkative members** should defer to others and **quiet members**, speak out. *The conversation engagement around the circle should look like a pinball machine!*
5. **Group Focus** is controlled by its purpose. *The Chosen Study* allows the episode and Scripture passage to **govern the discussion**, rather than Bible commentaries or cross referencing. Tangents are to be avoided or at least “tabled,” until after the group meeting is over.
6. **Personal Growth** from studying Jesus is our goal. Such growth naturally includes a **focus on humility** and **child-like faith**.
7. **Group Growth** happens as **friendships form and deepen**. Members should see themselves as more than just a study group, but as a community where consistency, accountability, self-disclosure, empathy, and reaching out to others are key characteristics.
8. **Avoid making “guest appearances.”** Don’t let *stay-at-home feelings* or distractions dictate whether you come. **Commit to attend** every meeting. Take this gathering seriously—for you and for others.

Fight “those feelings” and the distractions by signing this challenge:

Unless out-of-town or near death’s door, I’ll be there: _____

Yes, bear down and GO FOR IT! Your initials here.

Eight Don'ts of Leading Group Discussions

You're NOT a teacher, you're a **facilitator**. To lead a highly productive group discussion, start with what NOT to do and you're halfway there!

- 1. Don't answer your own questions.** Otherwise, the group will look to you as "the teacher" rather than "the facilitator." You're not just the questioner. You should participate like any member, but don't be the first one to answer your own question.
- 2. Don't over-talk.** Groups with an overtalkative leader will often sit back—in boredom! 90% of what we hear we forget, but 90% of what we say, we remember. So, your goal is to get your group talking. Get them remembering. Get them learning.
- 3. Don't be afraid of silence.** Silence may mean you need to rephrase the question, but if you "bail out your group" when silent, you set a bad precedent. To exercise patience, count in your head from 100 to 0 before answering—then, only if you must. Oh, yes, they'll talk!
- 4. Don't be content with just one answer.** For every written question feel free to ask a follow-up question or two, like: "Does anyone else have a thought?" This allows several people to respond.
- 5. Don't expect group members to respond with an answer each time.** They'll be tempted to look straight at you solely, especially when the group is new. Instead, you want them talking to each other, so you don't have to be the "discussion hub" (see page 172).
- 6. Don't reject an answer as wrong.** Respond to questionable answers by asking, "How did you come to that conclusion?" or "There's probably a difference of opinion here. Does anyone else have another way of looking at this?" Be affirming to everyone.
- 7. Don't be afraid of controversy.** Different opinions are a good thing.
- 8. Don't allow the group to end late.** If the discussion proves fruitful, end on time. Don't let the group drag on, but for those who choose to stay, give opportunity to discuss the issue in more depth.

Eight Do's of Leading Group Discussions

You don't need to be an expert or trained teacher to lead a discussion group. Your role is that of a **facilitator**, one who guides the group into a productive conversation that centers on the episodes' and studies' main points. It's an honor to be able to serve your group in this way.

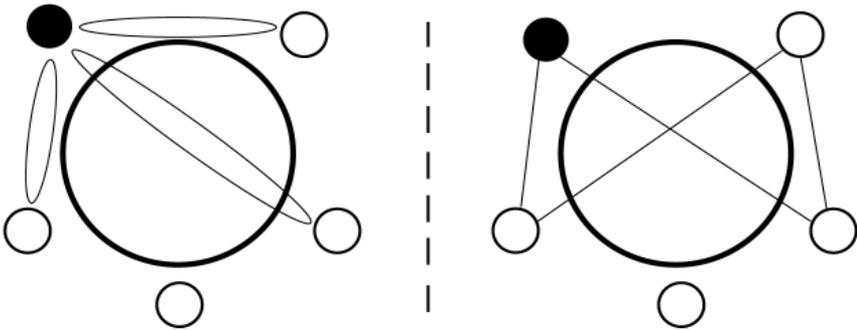
- 1. Bring along your own curiosity and have fun with it.** Good start!
- 2. Pace the study.** It's the leader's responsibility to both start and end on time. Keep up a flexible pace with one eye on the clock and the other on the content. There may be more questions than you have time for; so, if necessary, skip some questions. Press ahead!
- 3. Give members the chance to study on their own.** They are free to do so—or not. There is no expectation of prior preparation.
- 4. Have the Scripture read aloud.** Ask a group member to read. Some feel uncomfortable doing so in public, so don't make a surprise assignment unless you know they are willing and are good at it.
- 5. Be on the alert for overtalkative people.** Someone who over-talks can squeeze the life out of a group. If this is a problem, engage with that group member after the meeting, and enlist their help to join you in your goal to get everyone involved in the discussion.
- 6. Involve everyone, more or less equally.** Sit across from quiet people to draw them out, and next to talkative people to make less eye contact. If helpful, go around the circle with a question.
- 7. Keep the discussion on track by avoiding tangents.** Tangents may seem important but can hurt purposeful discussion, leading the group to talk about less important things. "Important tangents" provide opportunities for conversation outside the group's time.
- 8. Conduct a discussion first with general, then specific questions.** Your goal is NOT to get into one-and-done responses; rather, your goal is to start an engaging dialogue with several people responding to a particular question in a back-and-forth way (see next page).

Facilitating Group Interaction: Monological vs. Dialogical

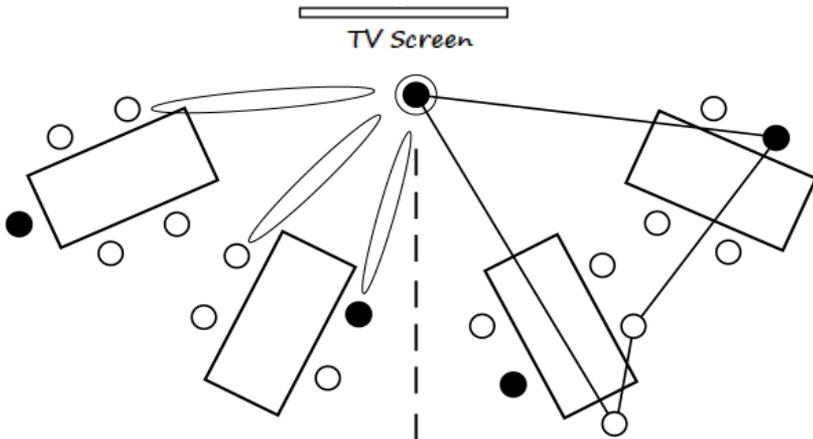
If tables (small round or rectangle) are available, they are preferred for the meals and for group study (of ideally four to six participants each).

Dialogical interaction engages wide-ranging participation. Such give-and-take discussion sparked by the *table leader* and the *up-front leader* is desired. **Interaction from a leader's question is visualized below:**

Inferior Monological Interaction *Superior Dialogical Interaction*



Small/Larger Group Combination—Can Work with Eight or More



Dialogical leading facilitates interaction among your group members and prevents you from “brokering” the participants’ comments with your own or monopolizing the discussion as seen above. As a leader you can participate, but your goal is to get others talking. **Remember:** 90% of what you say they’ll forget, but 90% of what you get them to say, they’ll remember! So, get them get them talking and learning!!

The **JESUS**
STUDY

If you've seen something different in Jesus...

Join a Jesus Study Team and consider becoming a

Jesus Study Leader

Leader's Notes: What applies most to you and your group?

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Your Chosen Group: Names, info., prayer concerns, etc.

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Your Chosen Group: Names, info., prayer concerns, etc.

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Note: For a sign-up sheet to print off, see the website under *Resources*.

Study Resources



We have a variety of guides available on Amazon or other retailers. Check the website for a volume discount: jesusstudy.org/order-guides

The Jesus Study Library



For: observers... skeptics... learners... seekers... followers.



-Season One: **WATER FOR THE THIRSTY**

⇒ Season Two: **HOPE FOR THE LOST**

-Season Three: **FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY**

-Season Four:

-Season Five:

-Season Six:

-Season Seven:



-The John Study: **TRUTH FOR THE SEEKER**

-The Risen Study: **EVIDENCE FOR THE SKEPTIC**

-The Paul Study: **GRACE FOR THE UNDESERVING**

-The Life Study: **MEANING FOR THE DISILLUSIONED**

Volume Discounts:
JesusStudy.org/order-guides

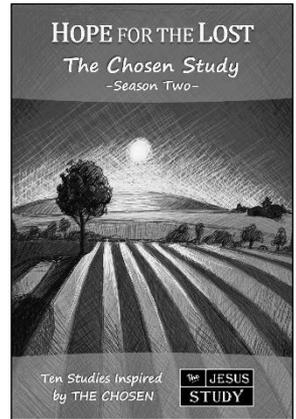
THE CHOSEN SERIES



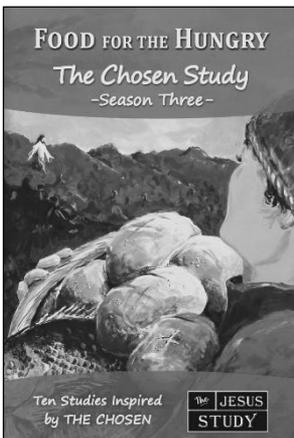
The Chosen Study: Season One, focuses on Simon, Matthew, Andrew, Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene as they encounter Jesus. This guide, based on the hugely popular show, *The Chosen*, will give you and your group an in-depth appreciation of their unexpected changes of fortune in getting to know him.

The Chosen Study: Season Two, guides you and your group into Act Two of Jesus' life and ministry with his followers unsure of where this is all going.

Here we meet the remaining disciples, such as Nathanael, who is despondent over a career in shambles, only to be given a new vocation by Jesus. Besides him, there are a host of others with physical, mental, and emotional infirmities and demon-possession that, up to now, have been impossible to overcome.



The Chosen Study: Season Three, picks up with the famous *Sermon on the Mount* which sets the stage for the disciples taking a deep look into their own spiritual lives. The Study concludes with the Feeding of the 5000 and with Jesus and Simon walking on the water.

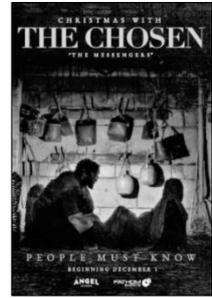


Chosen seasons FOUR through SEVEN

The Kingdom of God has entered into the world through the miracles and teachings of Jesus. He continues to demonstrate that he is the hoped-for Messiah of Israel and of the entire world which leads to his eventual death and resurrection.

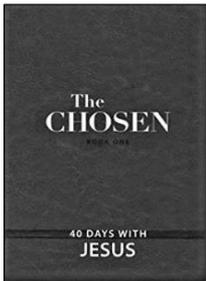
Special One-Time Chosen Event

The Messengers, Christmas Special: This episode can be used as a *come-one-come-all* event for your group or church before Christmas. Some people are more open spiritually around Christmas. Watching and discussing this episode could also act as a winter-quarter (January) kickoff for a new Chosen group. To access it, see: tinyurl.com/messengers-chosen



Going Inward: The Chosen Devotionals

The Chosen: 40 Days with Jesus provides a new devotional for each season to extend your experience throughout the week. You can space it out to follow a five-a-week schedule: TheChosenGifts.com



Divide the 40 devotionals into five readings per week.

CONTENTS	
Read Week After Watching Episode	
1	Day 1: Trust
2	Day 2: Faith
3	Day 3: Hope
4	Day 4: Love
5	Day 5: Joy
6	Day 6: Peace
7	Day 7: Mercy
8	Day 8: Grace
9	Day 9: Forgiveness
10	Day 10: Redemption
11	Day 11: Healing
12	Day 12: Restoration
13	Day 13: Reconciliation
14	Day 14: Reconciliation
15	Day 15: Reconciliation
16	Day 16: Reconciliation
17	Day 17: Reconciliation
18	Day 18: Reconciliation
19	Day 19: Reconciliation
20	Day 20: Reconciliation
21	Day 21: Reconciliation
22	Day 22: Reconciliation
23	Day 23: Reconciliation
24	Day 24: Reconciliation
25	Day 25: Reconciliation
26	Day 26: Reconciliation
27	Day 27: Reconciliation
28	Day 28: Reconciliation
29	Day 29: Reconciliation
30	Day 30: Reconciliation
31	Day 31: Reconciliation
32	Day 32: Reconciliation
33	Day 33: Reconciliation
34	Day 34: Reconciliation
35	Day 35: Reconciliation
36	Day 36: Reconciliation
37	Day 37: Reconciliation
38	Day 38: Reconciliation
39	Day 39: Reconciliation
40	Day 40: Reconciliation

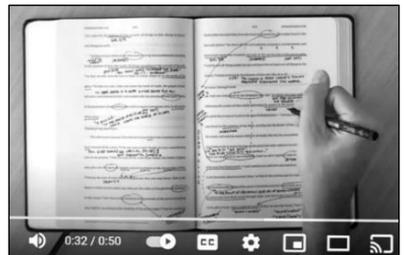
Going Outward: The Life & Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth



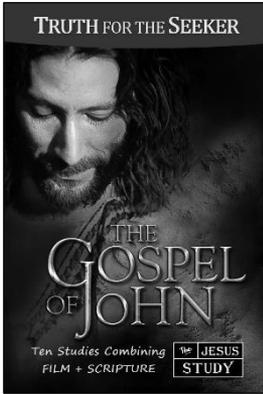
Would you like a compilation of the four Gospels for yourself and to give away? Order free (224-page, shipping included) at plusnothing.com. **100% FREE!**

Going Deeper: Journaling NT

Apply the *Mark-It-Up* study method to the entire New Testament with this double-spaced format for study and note-taking. To find out more about this NT: tinyurl.com/nt-journal



THE BIBLE SERIES

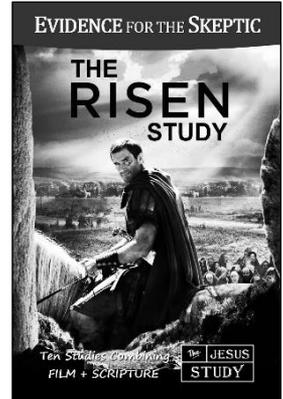


We're spoiled by *The Chosen*, but there are other quality, biblical movies, and Jesus films out there which we have adapted in a similar way *The Chosen Study*:

The John Study is a ten-week series based on the 2003 movie entitled *The Life of Jesus*. This three-hour film is a word-for-word portrayal of John's Gospel from the *Good News Bible* translation: tinyurl.com/the-john-study

The Risen Study is likewise a ten-week series based on a 2016 film entitled *RISEN*. This study follows the movie which begins with Jesus' death on the cross. A religious leader is granted permission to have him buried in his family's tomb and Pontius Pilate posts guards to ensure rumors of "a resurrection" don't take hold in Jerusalem.

When the tomb ends up empty, Pilate's tribune, Clavius, is tasked with finding the body. In the process Clavius finds much more.



The Paul Study is a ten-week series based on a 2018 film entitled *Paul: Apostle of Christ*. Our study follows the movie with Paul in a Roman prison near the end of his life. Other local believers struggle with intensely hostile authorities toward them as well.

Luke, Paul's former traveling companion, is desperate to find Paul and to help him get a written record of the gospel out to the world he will soon leave behind.

The John, Risen and Paul studies make for a superb three-part series.

THE COUPLES SERIES

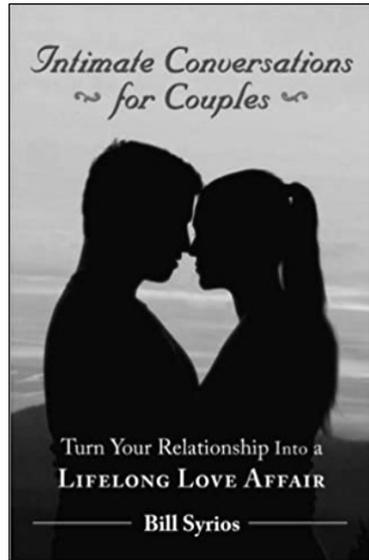
Are you getting all the romance, passion and joy you want in your relationship? Wouldn't you like to.....

- *Tell your partner how he or she can fully love you?*
- *Be fully listened to and completely understood in the process?*
- *Be nurtured and cherished in the unique way you feel loved?*

When it comes to the opposite sex, the intimacy rules are different!

This book will help you understand and overcome those differences by sharing an ordinary couple's extraordinary weekend of intimate conversations.

Sarah and Matt get away from the house, the kids and their daily lives to listen to each other's hearts, explore their differences and deepen their connection. *Intimate Conversations* enhances the lessons of their free-wheeling dialogue with practical how-to sections inviting readers to explore their own hearts and those of their partners: tinyurl.com/for-couples



Bible apps, online access



The **You Version** app, installed on over 500M devices, is used on your smartphones and tablets, and accessed online at bible.com and youversion.com. Excellent for reading.

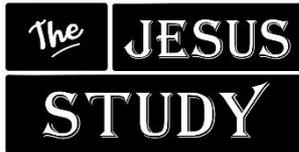


Bible Gateway is a searchable online Bible in 200 versions and 70 languages, that can be read and referenced online at biblegateway.com. Excellent for researching.



BibleProject.com and its app, used in some studies, include a quality collection of videos on books of the Bible, biblical themes, and word studies. Excellent for learning.

Leadership Resources



Our desire is to help church pastoral staff equip leaders to facilitate vibrant, “evangelizing, discipleship” communities that draw people in to watch, discover and relate to Jesus. When it comes to these studies, we’ve been there, done that. So, let us know how we can serve you.

Why make the change from *Bible Study 1.0 to Bible Study 2.0 ?*

“Bible Study 1.0”—with its cognitive, all-talk, text-heavy or once-over-lightly approach—is what many of us grew up with and loved.

But this approach is not reaching our visual generation who instead seek visible learning via YouTube, video games, zoom, and webinar broadcasts on our devices. This visual experience has completely taken over our lives, shrunk our attention spans, and yes, become the basis of most learning for every generation.

Into this milieu, enter
“Bible Study 2.0,” aka,
The Jesus Study.

Which begs the question:

*What makes
The Jesus Study different?*



Our initial answer is this:

Integrating film and video with Scripture

Films such as *The Chosen*, *The Life of Jesus* (John’s Gospel), *RISEN*, and *Paul: Apostle of Christ*—each with the underlying Scriptures crafted into a ten-week experience.

To that jumping-off point we add three distinctives:



Jesus-centeredness

*Personal growth through an
evangelizing discipleship focus*

Inductive, mark-it-up study

Those foundational traits are expanded in *twelve qualities* common to Jesus Studies. This distinguishing blend makes for a unique Bible study and God-encountering experience.

Twelve Distinctives of Jesus Studies



1. *Designed to be Jesus-centered* in the personal study, discussion and the “at home,” quiet time experience.
2. *Intentionally includes an evangelizing discipleship focus* as a dual priority for personal and ministry growth among members.
3. *Combines film with complementary Scripture* passages along with *worship and teaching videos* to include visual elements of learning.
4. *Offers a skeptic- and seeker-friendly environment* to talk about Jesus among friends and colleagues in a ten-week time frame.
5. *Encourages food inclusion at each gathering* to facilitate connection among group members in a relaxed environment.
6. *Forms a core group that prays and prepares* to lead the various aspects of the group process and to spearhead outreach efforts.
7. *Embeds all Old and New Testament texts* into the guides for ready reference, especially for those unfamiliar with the Bible.
8. *Uses a four-colored BIC pen to mark up the texts* which employs an inductive mindset for observing, interpreting and applying Scripture.
9. *Ends with a fun and memorable (paper) T-Shirt Design* each week that summarizes and crystallizes the learning process.
10. *Incorporates a Drive it Home and Video Insights section* after the study for additional, “at home,” video learning opportunities.
11. *Grows Jesus-followers into group leaders* with dialogical facilitating skills and both a discipleship and evangelistic framework for ministry.
12. *Encourages leaders to equip others to lead new studies* within their own circles of influence of friends, family, and coworkers.

Take our No-Cost Bible Study 2.0 Orientation Session or Leadership Course

The Jesus Study is a 2.0 “evangelizing discipleship” experience. Again, what does this mean? *In a nutshell we combine film with Mark-It-Up Scripture study and invite our non-church friends to join us.* To help you excel at doing this we’d like to have you join us on Zoom... OR...



We could also arrange to travel and meet up with you and your leadership team. We are serious about training and will work out what we can to assure you are equipped. Such help will give you a strong running start to your efforts.

How to Lead and Promote Your Group

Though years in the making, *The Jesus Study* formally came together on May 28, 2021, in a Zoom call led by Bill Syrios with some gifted Bible study leaders. Get in on that call and learn to lead in the process: tinyurl.com/lead-your-group



Those Zoom calls continued, led by Bill with new-found colleagues. This next recorded call focuses on effective means of promoting your group to new people: tinyurl.com/promote-your-group.

Our Mission: What We're About

The Jesus Study combines film depiction with Scripture in a welcoming and interactive experience for all: observers... skeptics... learners... seekers... followers, who WATCH > DISCOVER > RELATE together the Most Audacious Story ever told.



Our Executive Leadership Team: What We Do

We work with leaders, to help them create a friendly place to watch > discover > relate.

Back to Front, Left to Right:

Dave Hawkins, Tori Foss and Dietrich Gruen
Bill & Teresa Syrios and
Cathy & Don Baker



Our Invitation: Zoom with us - Start a Group - Join the Team

Do you have some loaves and fish to bring to this endeavor? We are looking for those who have seen “the Jesus’ difference” and are interested in exploring how to spread that difference around the world using *The Jesus Study*. If that sounds like you, please contact us.

Your Faith Journey:

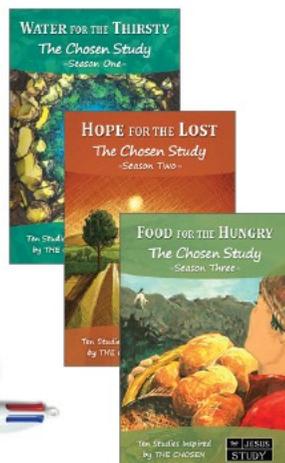
Your Faith Journey:

Your Faith Journey:

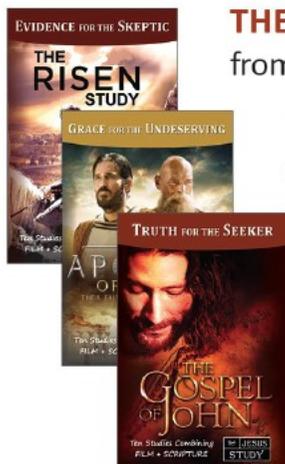
ENHANCE YOUR CHOSEN EXPERIENCE

THE CHOSEN SERIES focuses on Jesus as he draws together followers like Simon, Andrew, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and others who find him so compelling. These guides, based on *The Chosen* and Scripture passages, will give you and your group a great appreciation of their unexpected changes of fortune in getting to know him.

To help with colorfully marking up passages in the guide, get a four-color BIC pen.



*Guides for Seven Seasons of The Chosen to
WATCH > DISCOVER > RELATE
the Most Audacious Story ever told.*



THE BIBLE SERIES combines other films with studies from the Old and New Testaments.

The John Study, as an example, is written in a similar way to *The Chosen Study*. It provides a means to WATCH > DISCOVER > RELATE Visual Bible's 2003 feature film entitled *The Life of Jesus*. This movie is a word-for-word portrayal of The Gospel of John from the *Good News Bible* translation. When combined, FILM + SCRIPTURE melds the visual with the written Word—Bible Study 2.0! See: JesusStudy.org

Your Name