

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

PREQUEL- The Shepherd



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

THE PREQUEL: THE SHEPHERD

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Luke 2:1-18
- ▶ Micah 5:2-3
- ▶ Ezekiel 34:23-24
- ▶ Isaiah 9:2-7
- ▶ Isaiah 35:3-6

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

Write a paragraph about how this episode helped you think about Jesus' birth and its impact in a different light.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. What is the significance of beginning the story of Jesus featuring a lame shepherd?
2. What was the attitude of the people toward shepherds?
3. How did it impact you hearing the prophecies about the Messiah read in the synagogue, before Jesus came?
4. What special details were present in the video that amplified your understanding of this event?
5. What inspired you/touched you?
6. How can you experience the joy of the shepherds anew?

Thank God that Jesus is the spotless lamb, a perfect sacrifice, for you!

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EPISODE 1- I Have Called You By Name



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 1

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Isaiah 43:1
- ▶ John 3:1
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 9:5

CHARACTERS

Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Andrew

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

Write a paragraph about how this episode helped you think about **Jesus' intentionality and timing** in His encounters with people.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. Who was the more identifiable character for you - Nicodemus/Mary Magdalene? Why?
3. Did Peter's marriage surprise you? Why?
4. What did you think about how enticing wealth was for Matthew and yet how hated he was for his willingness to work for Rome and extort his fellow Jews?
5. What did you think about the timing of the appearance of Jesus? What were the filmmakers saying about Jesus' intentionality and timing?
6. What were your impressions of Nicodemus and his helplessness before the demon-possessed Mary Magdalene?

EPIISODE 1

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

7. In what ways can you identify with Mary Magdalene?
8. We are being shown each character's "before Jesus" life. What does an encounter with Jesus do to people? How is your encounter with Jesus changing YOU?
9. What parts of your "before" has God redeemed, and which are you most grateful for?
10. How does "I have called you by name, you are mine" impact you today?
11. What has Jesus delivered you *from* and *for*?
12. Who is someone in your life who needs to "come and see" Jesus? Pray for that person, then go make the introduction. Trust Jesus to do the convincing.

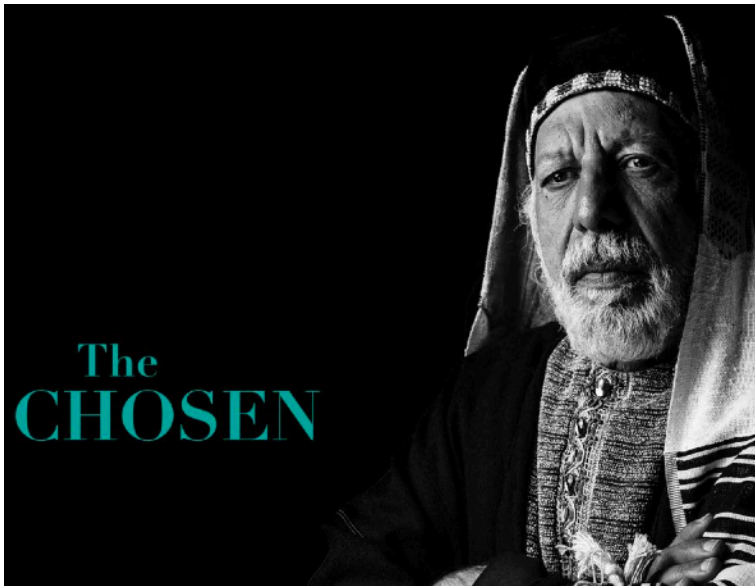
QUOTES

"What if it's more beautiful and strange than we could ever imagine?" (Nicodemus)

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 2- Shabbat



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 2

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Mark 3:16-18
- ▶ Revelation 3:20
- ▶ Mark 16:9, Luke 8:2
- ▶ John 1:46
- ▶ Proverbs 31:10-31
- ▶ Genesis 2:1-3

CHARACTERS

Quintus, Gaius, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Andrew, James and John

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from the movie was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. How has your understanding of the role (and hatred toward) tax collectors been enhanced?
3. How do you feel about the development of Peter's character? And Andrew's role?
4. Why was Nicodemus so shocked about the news about Mary Magdalene being seen in her right mind?
5. Matthew said that his father said he has no son. How did this impact your view of him?
6. How did you feel seeing Mary in her right mind, knowing it was her encounter with Jesus that delivered her?

EPISODE 2

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

7. Simon (Peter) said to his wife, Eden, "I've got this." When was a time in your life that you thought you could control your circumstances only to see them spin out of your control?
8. Nicodemus' history lesson about Antiochus leads to a significant question, "Who is responsible for suppressing our worship now?" when he sees the priests dining in extravagance. What was going through his mind? How is our worship suppressed or distracted these days?
9. Mary hosts her first Shabbat meal (Sabbath). How did that impact you? Seeing her turn to God and be so welcoming to others?
10. Jesus invited Himself into Mary's Shabbat observance. How does that resonate with you?
11. Who is the last person you invited into your life/home for the purpose of telling them about what God has done in your life?

QUOTES

"I don't understand it myself. I was one way and now I'm completely different. And the thing that happened in between - was Him. So yes, I will know him for the rest of my life!" (Mary Magdalene)

Group Guide

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EPISODE 3- Jesus Loves the Little Children



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 3

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Mark 10:14, Matt 18:3-5 ▶ Matthew 5-7
- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ▶ Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:18-19
- ▶ Matthew 6:9-15 ▶ John 12:28, 17:1

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Children

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. How did Jesus' treatment of the children impact you?
3. Jesus was both playful and purposeful as He related to the children. What does that say about how we are to relate to others?
4. In this episode, Jesus is seen praying routinely (meal times, bed time) and passionately. What is your prayer life like? How does this portrayal of Jesus' prayers encourage you?
5. Jesus' responses to some of the children's questions seemed evasive or incomplete. Why do you think that is? And how does relate to His responses to our questions?

EPISODE 3

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

7. Jesus' gift reminded Abigail that He did not come only for the wealthy. How does that make you feel about Jesus? What does that mean about how we as His disciples treat people?
8. Why do you think Jesus welcomed these children? What does this say about how much He desires to welcome **you**?
9. What would it take for you trust Jesus afresh - with the absolute faith of a child?

QUOTES

"Is your father rich?" (Joshua)

"That is a question for another time." (Jesus)

"I hope my next students ask the same questions. I hope when the time comes they will tell others about me like you have." (Jesus)

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EPISODE 4- The Rock On Which It Is Built



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The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

Northstar Small Groups

EPISODE 4

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 13:47-52
- ▶ Matthew 4:18-22
- ▶ Luke 8:10
- ▶ Luke 5:1-11
- ▶ Matthew 3:1-7

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Matthew, James & John, Andrew & Peter, Nicodemus, John the Baptist, Joseph of Arimathea, Zebedee

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. How did the weaving of Peter's backstory (all creative license) make you feel about the development of Peter's character?
3. The night on the Sea of Galilee amplified the encounter with Jesus in the morning. Have you ever experiencing Jesus coming to you after a "dark night" in your life? Would you share?
4. What more do you learn about Matthew's character? What do you think about the portrayal of him seeing Jesus at the lake?
5. Andrew met Jesus through John the Baptist and is confident He's the Messiah. What do you think about his longing for Peter to know Jesus? Who is your "Peter?"

EPISODE 4

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. Why did Nicodemus want to know if John had performed miracles? What did he suspect?
7. What was the role of John the Baptist? (Luke 1:8-17, Luke 3:1-9) How is this also our role as the church?
8. How did it feel to see Zebedee encourage his sons to follow Jesus? Who encouraged you?
9. Jesus told the fisher brothers that they would become fishers of men. What did that mean for them? Is that our mission as well? Why or why not?

QUOTES

Edith to Peter: "Where is your faith?"

Peter: "Faith isn't going to get me more fish."

Edith: "You have not pursued the Lord lately. You're off to try to fix it again... No more talking. Maybe God can get your attention now."

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EPISODE 5- The Wedding Gift



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 5

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Luke 2:41-52
- ▶ Jeremiah 33:10-16
- ▶ 1 Kings 19:19-21
- ▶ John 2:1-12
- ▶ Proverbs 30:4

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Nicodemus, Simon, Thomas

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
2. How do you think Jesus' parents struggled in raising him?
3. Instead of condemning John, Nicodemus sat down and said "Tell me about your ministry." When was the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said "Tell me more."
4. What did you think of Eden's response to Peter's calling?
5. Just as the servants had to draw the water before they saw the miracle, what are ways you can step out in faith because of God's promises?

EPISODE 5

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. Jesus reassures Thomas that while it's good to ask questions, that we won't always understand the answers, or even get answers. How do you handle this?

QUOTES

Nicodemus to John the Baptist: "I am looking in places I would never go because I am searching for an explanation for something I cannot unsee."

John the Baptist to Nicodemus: "He is here to awaken the earth, but some will not want to waken. They are in love with the dark. I wonder which one you'll be."

Thomas: "From the instructions you have provided I see no logical solution to the problem."

Jesus: "It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas."

Ramah to Thomas: "He gave us even more than we need."

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EPISODE 6- Indescribable Compassion



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 5

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 8:1-4
- ▶ Luke 18:1-14
- ▶ Luke 12: 36-48
- ▶ Mark 2:1-12
- ▶ Matthew 6: 1-18

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Simon, Andrew, Tamar, The Leper, James, John, The Paralytic

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Who would you equate with a tax collector today? A Roman soldier? A Jewish citizen?
2. There was a LOT of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy and good will?
3. Let's talk more about leprosy, Leprosy is one of the major diseases in the time of Jesus. It was the sickness that renders a person no longer worthy of dignity, love or community. Are there any "like" situations in our society today that would cause a person to no longer have dignity? How do you think Jesus would treat them?

EPISODE 6

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. What's holding you back from the kind of bold faith the leper had?
5. How can you connect with people in your life who aren't part of the "in" crowd, as Jesus did?
6. In order to take such extreme measures, what must the four men, who carried their friend, believed about Jesus?

QUOTES

The Leper: "Please don't turn away from me."

Jesus: "I won't."

Matthew: "They don't believe what I saw, but I do. I need to know, am I deceived?"

Nicodemus: "If God did something that you felt contradicted the Torah, would you tell him to get back in that box you have carved for him, or would you question your interpretation of the Torah?"

Mary Magdalene: "I don't want to interrupt the Teacher by causing a scene."

The Paralytic: "What if you were me?"

Jesus to Tamar: "Your faith is beautiful."

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EPISODE 7- Invitations



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 7

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Numbers 21:4-9
- ▶ Matthew 9:9-13
- ▶ John 3:1-21
- ▶ Psalm 2:11-12

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Reflect on Nicodemus' journey to Jesus. How did he go from being a devout Pharisee to sitting in front of Jesus? What character qualities did he exhibit?
2. If you feel comfortable sharing - how have you experienced being "born again?"
3. How do you recognize the effect of the Spirit in your life?
4. Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? Especially in comparison to Nicodemus' hesitation?
5. Stories like that of the bronze snake can be shocking to us today. What caused the Israelites to suffer? What daily habits can you cultivate so that you obey as quickly as Matthew did?

EPISODE 7

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. What did you think of Peter's reaction to Jesus calling Matthew? How can you have the same reaction today?

QUOTES

Jesus to Mary: "With their faith, they would have found a way whether you brought them to the roof or not."

Matthew: "My whole world, everything I thought I knew, what if it's wrong?"

Jesus to Andrew: "You are there to guide our guest, not to be my protector."

Jesus to Nicodemus: "If I have told you of earthly things, and you do not believe, how can I tell you heavenly things?"

Nicodemus: "My whole life I have wondered if I would see this day."

Peter (about Matthew): "Do you have any idea what this guy has done? Do you even know him?"

Jesus: "Yes."

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EPISODE 8- I Am He



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The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 8

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Genesis 33:18-20
- ▶ Matthew 9:9-13
- ▶ Hosea 6:6
- ▶ Luke 4:38-39
- ▶ Genesis 16 (Story of Hagar)
- ▶ Daniel 7:13-14
- ▶ John 4:1-42

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Nicodemus, Simon, Mary Magdalene, Andrew, Eden, Simon's mother-in-law, Samaritan Woman

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Obedience at the risk of derision and opposition from others, or that threatens our usual way of life seems impossible. Discuss the different ways people (Simon, Eden, Matthew, Nicodemus, etc.) reacted to Jesus' directions, the directions of family, and from peers.
2. Jesus mentions several times that he's not trying to make his followers lives "easy," nor is he here to deliver them from their oppressive government. What is Jesus' purpose in coming and in bringing His disciples to follow him?
3. Who were the first told about Jesus' birth? Who did He first tell about His ministry? What were their social statuses?

EPISODE 8

QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. What was significant about Jesus choosing to talk to a Samaritan woman? How can you model that today?
5. Do some self reflection. Has there ever been a time in your life where you were as excited about Jesus as the woman at the well was? How can we bring back some of that excitement?

QUOTES

Jacob: "We didn't choose him, he chose us."

Eden to Peter: "Thank you."

Peter: "Me? For what?"

Eden: "For obeying and following him."

Jesus to his disciples: "Did you join me for safety reasons?"

Jesus: "Listen, if we are going to have a question and answer session every time we do something you are not used to, this is going to be a very annoying time together for all of us."

Samaritan Woman: "I am rejected by others."

Jesus: "I know. But not by the Messiah."