

The Chosen Season #1 Episode #1 “I Have Called You By Name”

NOTE: This episode has scenes of demon possession and may be too intense for younger children.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that you use subtitles, as strange as that may feel at first. After the first two episodes, if your group wants to eliminate the subtitles, you can do that.

Read prior to watching the episode:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 8:1-3

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

“Adonai” is translated “Lord”. It is the word that the Jews used to refer to God, in place of His revealed name, “Yahweh”. In order to “not take the name of the Lord in vain”, the Jews developed the practice of never actually speaking that name, but instead calling Him “Adonai”. You will notice in many versions of the Bible that LORD is in all caps in the Old Testament – this is to indicate to us that the actual word there is “Yahweh”.

NOTE: The first three episodes have much less biblical material than episodes 4-8. They are really setting the stage for the fireworks to come in those later episodes. Keep that in mind as you watch Episodes 1,2,3.

Watch the Episode

Discussion and Learning:

Much of The Chosen is intended to fill in potential ‘backstories’ for the biblical characters. It’s painting a picture rather than just giving us the bare bones. As someone said, it’s painting rather than pointing. Of the characters we’ve met today, here’s what we know for sure (the rest is conjecture). **These character descriptions and Bible references are for personal study time. For the group study continue on the back.**

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling council in Jerusalem) (John 3:1)

Mary was from Magdala and had seven demons cast out of her. (Luke 8:1-3)

Matthew was a tax collector - employed by the Romans but considered a horrible traitor by his fellow Jews. Horrible because he was viewed as a collaborator with the enemy, and because he made his money by charging more than the Romans asked him to collect. (Matthew 10:3)

Simon (Peter) was married (Mark 1:30) and had a brother named Andrew (Matthew 4:18)

Fishing on Shabbat (aka The Sabbath, beginning at sundown on Friday and lasting through sundown on Saturday) was strictly forbidden in Jewish law.

What were your images of the characters you saw today, prior to watching The Chosen?

Did The Chosen provide any happy surprises or shifts to these images? Any surprises with which you weren't comfortable? Give reasons for your answers.

What did you like about the back stories presented here? Is there anything you'd change, given what you've seen so far?

The Chosen has Jesus first showing Himself to Mary Magdalene and calling her by name – a direct allusion to what happens as Jesus rises from the dead. Read John 20:11-16

What did it mean for Jesus to SEE Mary and call her by name? What did it mean for Mary to SEE Jesus after His resurrection?

How did Jesus appear to you? Like you thought? Different?

What will you take home with you and ponder further?

