

Week of January 8th to 14th, 2023
The Chosen Season 1
Episode 1: I Have Called you By Name ~ Part 1

Suggested Preparation: *<Leaders: Share this information with your group members>*

1. Watch and reflect on the first half of [I Have Called you By Name](#), up until the 28:15 timestamp. Since this episode is rather long, we have split it into two sessions. This week we will talk about the first half of the episode. Next week, we will talk about the second half.
2. Spend a few moments in prayer meditating on this line from Isaiah:
"Thus says the Lord who created you O Jacob and he who formed you O Israel. Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

Leader Preparation:

1. Beginning the week of January 8, 2023 and continuing until Easter Sunday we will be reflecting on the video series The Chosen. Please advise your group of this change in format.
2. *Formed* has invited two professors from the Augustine Institute to discuss *The Chosen* from a Catholic perspective. The discussions are interesting, but rather long. The planning team has viewed these discussions and have tried to incorporate details into the discussion questions and slides that we think might be helpful. You are welcome to view the videos for yourselves, but we do not believe it is necessary for you to do so in order to facilitate the small group discussions.
 - a. [Catholic Commentary on The Chosen ~ Introduction](#)
 - b. [Episode 1 ~ Catholic Commentary](#)
3. We have created a powerpoint presentation for those of you who wish to use it. This week's presentation includes some introductory slides that we believe will be helpful for setting the stage for ALL groups. If you do not want to use the actual slide presentation, we would encourage you to find an alternate way to share the information with your group. When you click on this [Power Point](#) link, you will be asked if you wish to make a copy of the presentation. Click on the blue "Make a Copy" button and the file will be added to your Google drive. Feel free to edit in any way you like; you have a copy not the original.

Small Group

Gathering Prayer:

< Begin the time together with prayer. Feel free to use this prayer, or another prayer of your choosing.>

Lord God, you call us by name. May we answer your call with a willing heart. Help us to join with all who are chosen to build your Kingdom here on earth.

Amen

Getting to Know Each Other *(Please keep responses to 2-3 minutes)*

Take a few moments to talk about your name.

Who named you?

Why was your name chosen?

Do you like your name?

Do you have a nickname?

What does your name mean?

<Leaders: Set the stage by talking about The Chosen as an inspired artistic work. See the slide deck, including the speaker's notes.>

Discussion Questions: *<leaders, feel free to pick and choose>*

1. What are your initial reactions to The Chosen?
What do you like? What do you wonder about?
2. The Chosen is an artistic interpretation of scripture. Are there other religious artistic expressions that have spoken to you? A piece of art? A novel? A film? A song?
3. In the opening scene of the movie, Mary's father has her recall this line from Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord who created you O Jacob and he who formed you O Israel. Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."
Is there a line from scripture that you turn to in times of trial? When you are afraid?
4. Nicodemus is respected as the Teacher of teachers. Who are the experts in your life that you turn to for advice? Knowledge? Etc. Are there people who turn to you? How do you feel if you don't have all the answers they are looking for?

Closing Prayer

<Invite members to share any intentions that they would like the group to pray for. Lead the group in prayer in these or similar words.>

Holy Spirit, quiet guiding light.

Help us to recognize your voice.

Inspire us to respond actively and willingly to be part of the work of building the Kingdom here and now in this time and space.

Amen