

Week of February 26th to March 4th, 2023
The Chosen Season 1
Episode 5: The Wedding Gift ~ Part 2

Suggested Preparation:

1. Watch and reflect on the fifth episode entitled [The Wedding Gift](#) starting at the 28:17 timestamp to the end. If you have the technology, you may wish to connect your computer to your TV and view the movie on a larger screen.
2. Some group members have found it helpful to view the commentary about The Chosen provided by the Augustine Institute. Feel free to watch if you like, but please do not feel obligated to do so. [Episode 5 ~ Catholic Commentary](#) The commentary is rather long and focuses on comparing the movie with what we know from scripture about the characters and events.

Leader Preparation:

1. *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.

[Episode 5 ~ Catholic Commentary](#)

2. We have created a powerpoint presentation for those of you who wish to use it. 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.>

Creator God, all creation shouts out with joy. Help us to be joyful Christians who can discern your voice and know the time to speak it in our society. Let us question wisely and respond to your call with enthusiasm. Help us to love fully and to be patient with each other.

Amen

Getting to Know Each Other (Please keep responses to 1 - 2 minutes)

Think of a wedding that you have attended. What made the day special? Did anything funny happen? Did anything embarrassing happen?

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

1. The Wedding at Cana is a scripture event that we have heard often. Read the story of [The Wedding at Cana](#). Does the portrayal of this wedding feast in this episode of The Chosen strike you as authentic? Does it enhance or detract from your understanding of the miracle as described in scripture? Explain.
2. In the previous episode, Zebedee encourages his sons to follow Jesus. In this episode, Eden encourages Simon to accept the call and Thomas' colleague supports him in responding to Jesus' invitation.
Who do you turn to for support in living out your Christian vocation?
How does that person support you?
3. In The Chosen, Jesus calls each of his disciples in a way that is specific and personalized to their current circumstances.
Jesus says to Simon and the other fishermen, "Follow me. From now on, I will make you fishers of men."
When Jesus calls Thadeus, a stone mason, to follow him, Jesus tells him that he is building a kingdom, a fortress stronger than stone.
Finally, when Jesus calls Thomas, he says, "Join me. I will show you a new way to count and measure, a different way of seeing time."
What skills, gifts and talents do you possess? How do you think/feel that God is calling you to serve him? Your family? Your parish? The community?
4. Thomas says, " From the directions you have provided, I see no logical solution to the problem."
Jesus says to Thomas, "I do not rebuke you. It is good to ask questions. To seek understanding."
What questions do you struggle with? How do you seek understanding? Have you ever been rebuked for asking questions? How do you handle someone who finds your questioning offensive?

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.>

Creator God, you called us each, personally and specifically, to contribute to your Kingdom. Help us to discern your call to us and to respond openly and freely. Help us to recognize why we are called and what we bring to your table. When our specific gifts are not called for, help us to support those whose gifts are needed in that time and place.

Amen