

S2 EP. 4

The Perfect
Opportunity

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

The
CHOSEN
Connect

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WHY CHOSEN CONNECT?

This guide is designed to help your group go beyond simply watching *The Chosen*. It invites them to reflect on the deeper meaning behind the series and explore the same source that inspired its creators—the Bible. As God’s Word, the Bible offers encouragement, wisdom, and direction for our lives today.

As you facilitate the discussions, pray for these outcomes in the lives of participants:

1. Pray that participants will recognise how the Lord is calling them to respond to the biblical stories and truths portrayed in *The Chosen*.
2. Pray that participants will develop a deeper connection with Christ as they encounter him in his Word and among fellow believers.
3. Pray that participants will have an increased desire to read and study Scripture on their own.

S2 EP. 4 THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY



This discussion guide also includes a reading plan to help you personally apply the lessons from *The Chosen*. You can go through it on your own or with your group, allowing for deeper reflection and ongoing conversation. Enjoy the journey!

HOW TO USE CHOSEN CONNECT

Each episode of *The Chosen* explores many meaningful themes, and it's impossible to cover everything in one discussion. That's why this group discussion guide offers multiple approaches, allowing you to choose the one that best fits your group.

This guide includes four different tracks, each focusing on a unique perspective from the episode. To prepare, we recommend watching the episode on your own first. Then, review the four options and prayerfully select the track that will be most relevant for your group.

Each track begins by inviting *initial reflections* on the episode. Then, it helps the group *dig in* by reading and discussing Scripture. Finally, it ends by encouraging you to consider how the Lord may be calling you to *respond*.

Choose what you want to work on and follow the icon of your choice.



Track 1:

I want to **deepen** my faith.



Track 2:

I want to learn to live my faith **with others**.



Track 3:

I want to **better understand** what Jesus meant.



Track 4:

I want to give **hands and feet** to my faith.



Season 2 Episode 4

TRACK 1: I WANT TO DEEPEN MY FAITH

Look me in the eyes ...

Initial Reflections

Jesse has been suffering for a long time. He has been unable to walk for 38 years, lost his brother, and tried everything he could think of to get better—but nothing worked. Over time, he lost hope.

When Jesus finally meets him, Jesse can barely hear his question, *“Do you want to be healed?”* His perspective is clouded by years of disappointment and struggle. His only hope is that someday, someone will help him into the pool. *“Who are you? ... Will you take me to the water?”* he pleads [45:49-46:44 min].

- Is there something in your life you’ve been longing for—but it just hasn’t happened?
- How have past hurts, disappointments or burdens shaped how you see your situation?
- How do you typically respond when you’ve tried everything and nothing seems to work?

Dig In

Let’s read Matthew 11:28-30.

- What invitation does Jesus offer in this passage?
- What promise does Jesus make to those who accept this invitation?
- Have you ever experienced the kind of rest that comes from responding to Jesus’ invitation? What was it like?
- How can you help others hear and respond to Jesus’ invitation?



Respond

When Jesus asks Jesse if he wants to be healed, Jesse doesn't give a simple yes or no. Instead, he explains all the reasons why he hasn't been healed—why it feels impossible. But Jesus gently redirects him:

“Look at me. That’s not what I asked. I’m not asking you about who is helping you, or who is not helping, or who is getting in your way. I’m asking about you.”

Jesse, overwhelmed, says, *“I have tried!”*

Jesus replies with understanding: *“For a long time, I know. And you don’t want false hope again. I understand. But this pool ... it has nothing for you, it means nothing, and you know it. But you’re still here. Why? ... You don’t need this pool. You only need me. So, do you want to be healed?”* [46:51-48:50 min]

- Is there a question Jesus is asking you today? Are you listening to the question—or getting caught up in all the “reasons why not”?
- Have you ever focused so much on obstacles that you missed an invitation Jesus was offering you?
- In what area of your life do you need to hear Jesus say, “I’ve seen how you’ve tried. You don’t need to keep striving ... You only need me”?



Season 2 Episode 4

TRACK 2: I WANT TO LEARN TO LIVE MY FAITH WITH OTHERS

It just isn't fair!

Initial Reflections

In this episode, we see how two brothers—Simon and Jesse—respond very differently to the injustice in their lives. Jesse, worn down by disappointments, eventually gives up. He becomes passive and hopeless. Simon, on the other hand, channels his pain into anger and becomes a fanatical Zealot, driven by a desire for revenge.

- Where do you encounter injustice in your life or the lives of those around you?
- How does it affect you—mentally, emotionally, spiritually?
- When you witness injustice, how do you usually respond: do you fight, panic or shut down? Why do you think that is?

Dig In

It's easy to question God when we see injustice all around us. Some people even stop believing altogether, wondering how a good God could allow such suffering. But God does not ignore injustice. In fact, he entered into it through Jesus, who suffered injustice himself so that it wouldn't have the final word over our lives.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:19-24 and Romans 12:17-21.

- According to 1 Peter 2, what can we learn from Jesus' example?
- What does the Romans 12 passage say we should do and not do?
- When facing hard situations, what would it mean to “entrust yourself to him who judges justly” rather than taking matters into your own hands (1 Peter 2:23 NIV)?
- How can we overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21)?
- Are there situations in your life right now where you need to put these truths into practice? What step can you take to do that?



Respond

Both Simon and Jesse are deeply shaped by their pain. But ultimately, what changes them is their encounter with Jesus. He meets them right where they are—in their confusion, anger and despair.

- Where in your life do you need Jesus to encounter you today?
- Is there something you've been holding onto—anger, bitterness, control, hopelessness—that Jesus might be inviting you to release?
- What truth or promise do you need to hold onto today with all your heart?



Season 2 Episode 4

TRACK 3: I WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT

Help me to believe

Initial Reflections

In this episode, Jesus finds Jesse at Bethesda—a pagan site near the temple. The name Bethesda means “house of healing”. The name sounds hopeful, but the scene is filled with pain. Crowds of sick and forgotten people gather there, waiting for healing that rarely seems to come. It’s no wonder Jesse had lost hope.

- Why do you think Jesse was at Bethesda instead of in the temple?
- How do you see people in your community searching for a place of healing—whether physical, spiritual or emotional?
- Where do people go when they are searching for healing?
- How can we help create spaces where healing is possible?

Dig In

There is another story in the Gospels of a man who desperately longed for healing—in this case, for his son—but struggled to muster up the faith to trust Jesus for it. Like Jesse, long years of suffering had worn down his hope.

Let’s read Mark 9:21-27.

- What stands out to you about Jesus’ interaction with the boy’s father?
- What does the man mean when he says, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)?
- Like with Jesse’s situation, Jesus doesn’t actually require perfect faith before doing his work of healing. What does that tell us about Jesus’ character?



Respond

Bethesda was a place of disappointment and resignation. But Jesse's encounter with Jesus changed everything. He didn't need the pool—he needed a Person.

- Like Jesse or the father in Mark 9, have you experienced a long season of suffering or disappointment? How did that impact your faith?
- What are the areas of your life where you need Jesus to help you overcome your unbelief?





Season 2 Episode 4

TRACK 4: I WANT TO GIVE HANDS AND FEET TO MY FAITH

Your tabernacle

Initial Reflections

In this episode, the Feast of Tabernacles is being celebrated—a seven-day period where families live in temporary shelters to remember how God led and provided for his people in the wilderness. It's a time to reflect on God's redemption, to remember our dependence on him, and to recognise how he brings us through seasons of vulnerability.

- What is so special about this kind of annual celebration to remember God's goodness?
- What are some special moments in your life that are worth remembering?
- How do you create new memories that remind you of who God is and what he has done for you?

Dig In

Let's read Leviticus 23:33-43.

- What does this passage reveal about the Feast of Tabernacles?
- Why is this feast important?
- What does it tell us about God that he commanded his people to regularly celebrate and rest?
- What rhythms of celebration does your faith community practise that help people remember who God is and how he has redeemed us?





Respond

In this episode, Jesus describes the Feast as a “*leveller*”—a moment that brings everyone together: young and old, rich and poor, sick and healthy. No one is left out. When he sees how the disciples have built their booth, he says, “*The beauty of this booth is itself an act of worship*” [27:32-28:48 min].

- What are some “levellers” in our world today—things that bring people together across differences?
 - How can you create spaces and opportunities to bring very different people together? Let’s brainstorm some concrete ideas. For example, hosting a BBQ party.

Big James wrestles with the idea that one day, even enemies will join this feast: “*One day our enemies will celebrate this feast? With us? Babylonians? Assyrians? The Romans?! Jews and Gentiles, at this table? What would have to happen for that to be possible?*” [28:49-30:32 min]

- Who would you naturally invite to your moments of celebration?
- Who is someone you can’t imagine sharing your celebration with? Why?
- Jesus responds to Big James, “*Something will have to change.*” What might need to change in your heart or mindset for you to truly welcome the people Jesus would welcome?



The CHOSEN Connect



The Chosen Connect materials have been created by Alongsiders, OneHope and Avivemos.

Our heart is to make disciples and walk alongside others as they follow Jesus.



Did you like this dicussion guide?

Find more at thechosen.avivemos.net.

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