

S2 EP. 8

Beyond Mountains

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. 8 BEYOND MOUNTAINS



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 8

TRACK 1: I WANT TO DEEPEN MY FAITH

Directions

Initial Reflections

In this episode, Jesus describes Matthew 5:1-12 as a kind of map. When Matthew asks, *“But how is it a map?”*

Jesus answers:

“If someone wants to find me, they must look for these groups:

Blessed are the poor in spirit ...

Blessed are those who mourn ...

Blessed are the meek ...

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ...

Blessed are the merciful ...

Blessed are the pure in heart ...

Blessed are the peacemakers ...

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake ...

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you, and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven”

[30:50-33:50 min].

- Where do you tend to look for Jesus in your life?
- How often do you look for him in or through the kinds of people Jesus mentions here?
- How have you experienced Jesus among these groups?



Dig In

In this episode, while Ramah and Mary practise reading, Ramah tells Mary not to stress about her past. But Mary is afraid that what happened before might happen again. She says, *“I need more words. More tools. I can’t let it happen again ...”* [07:15-09:06 min].

Let’s read Matthew 5:1-12.

- What kind of tools or help does Jesus offer us in this section of the Sermon on the Mount?
- Which one stands out to you the most? Why?
- Like Mary, how do you learn from your past? Where do you find the tools or support you need to keep growing?

Respond

After Jesus shares his map with Matthew, he continues, *“You are the salt of the earth ...”* [33:42-34:05 min].

Earlier in the episode, Matthew isn’t sure the message Jesus is about to share is actually good news—it feels heavy and intense. But Jesus explains: *“It’s a manifesto Matthew. I’m not here to be sentimental and soothing. I’m here to start a revolution ... Not a revolt. I’m talking about a radical shift. Did you think I was just going to come here and say, ‘Hey everyone, just keep doing what you’ve been doing for the last 1,000 years, since it’s been going so great’ ...?”* [20:31-22:11 min]

- What do you think Jesus means by calling it a “radical shift”? How does that make you feel?
- Has Jesus ever called you to make a radical shift in your life? What happened?
- Is there anything in your life right now that feels like it needs a total change?
- What does it mean to you to be the “salt of the earth”? What does that look like in your life?



Season 2 Episode 8

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

This matters

Initial Reflections

In this episode, Judas' co-worker strikes a deal that looks like a win, "*We came off looking like the good guys.*" But the way they got there wasn't fair, and it bothers Judas. He asks, "*Didn't you see his tears?*" [11:01-12:54 min]

- Have you ever made a decision that seemed good for you but ended up hurting someone else?
- If doing something unfair or dishonest helps you reach a goal or do something good, does that make it okay? Why or why not?

Dig In

Jesus welcomes everyone—people with messy pasts, sceptics, risk-takers, learners and experts. No one is left out.

- Did you know that Jesus always welcomes you?
- Who do you make feel welcome? How can they tell?
- How do you invite others to be part of what God is doing in the world?



Respond

Judas told his co-worker: *“What I need is a life I can be proud of! Don’t you want to do something that will really matter ... that will be remembered throughout history?”* [12:57-13:29 min]

- Can you relate to Judas’ desire to live a life that matters?
- What do you do with that desire?
- Do you trust God to give meaning to your life, or do you think you have to make your own meaning? Why?
- How can you practise entrusting your desires to God?



Season 2 Episode 8

TRACK 3: I WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT

Salty people

Initial Reflections

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses lots of imagery to describe what life in his kingdom looks like. At one point, Matthew asks why Jesus doesn't just speak more directly. But Jesus explains that he is not looking for passive listeners. He wants followers who are invested—people who care enough to lean in, think deeply, and seek the truth for themselves.

- How do you feel about the way Jesus uses imagery and stories to explain his message?
- Do you see yourself as someone who is actively trying to understand and live out Jesus' words? Why or why not?

Dig In

Let's read Matthew 5:13-16.

- What two images does Jesus use in this teaching?
- What does Jesus mean by calling his followers "the salt of the earth"?
- What are the three things salt does that Jesus talks about in this episode [23:01-23:35 min]?
- What does Jesus mean by calling his followers "the light of the world"?
- Together, how do these two images challenge you to live differently?



Respond

When we follow Jesus closely, we start to reflect him—bring flavour to the world like salt and shining like light in dark places. That’s what it means to live as part of his kingdom here and now.

- What could it look like for you to live more like Jesus in your everyday life?
- How do you become more like Jesus? What part does God play in your transformation, and what part do you play?
- How does the Bible help you become more like Jesus?



Season 2 Episode 8

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

Are you grumpy?

Initial Reflections

Everyone in a group has their own personality, opinions and way of doing things—and that can be great but also challenging. In this episode, the disciples are still figuring out how to work together as a team, and tensions rise under pressure. Thomas tries to make sense of the friction, saying: *“In the most generous explanation, I’d call that love ... They all love our Rabbi and want to follow him the right way. They just can’t agree on what that right way is”* [09:43-10:31 min].

- What do people tend to notice about your energy, tone or attitude? How do people respond to you?
- What usually motivates the way you think, speak and act?
- How do you treat people?
- When you’re under pressure, how does that affect your words and actions?

Dig In

Scripture gives us a lot of wisdom about how we use our words.

Let’s read these verses together: Psalm 141:3; Ecclesiastes 5:2-4; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6 and James 1:19, 26.

- What is the common theme throughout these verses?
- According to these verses, why do our words matter so much?
- What makes it difficult to be quick to listen and slow to speak?
- How can you put the wisdom from these verses into practice?
- What would it look like for your words to be full of grace and wisdom—kind, thoughtful and helpful—especially when you’re responding to others?





Respond

Let's revisit a moment in the episode where Jesus and Matthew are watching the group from a distance:

Matthew: *I hope they can find a way to work together.*

Jesus: *What do you mean?*

Matthew: *They can't seem to agree on a single thing lately—myself included sometimes.*

Jesus: *Oh, I've noticed. In some ways, it's to be expected.*

Matthew: *But not desired, surely.*

Jesus: *No, but it's what's bound to happen when you start something that's open to all, truly all people ... [19:00-20:09 min].*

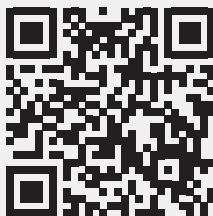
- How does it feel to know Jesus created something truly open to everyone, including people you may find frustrating?
- Are you as open and welcoming as Jesus, or do you tend to avoid people who are different from you?
- What do you do when it's hard to connect with others—or when you're struggling to figure out where you belong in a group dynamic?
- What's one step you can take this week to make your words more life-giving, encouraging, and Christlike?

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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