

S1 EP. 1

I Have Called
You By Name

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

The
CHOSEN
Connect

The CHOSEN *Connect*

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S1 EP. 1 *I Have Called You By Name*

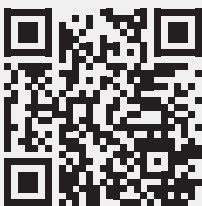
WHY CHOSEN CONNECT?

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.

S1 EP. 1 *I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME*



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 THIS MATERIAL

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 1 episode 1

TRACK 1: I WANT TO DEEPEN MY FAITH

In the power of..

Initial reflections

In this episode, we meet Mary of Magdala before she meets Jesus. Her life is dominated by demonic powers, and neither she nor Nicodemus has any power to break their grip on her.

- What did you think about this episode's portrayal of demonic powers and Mary's experience?
- How did this episode challenge or align with your understanding of spiritual warfare?

Dig in

Spiritual warfare is not an easy topic. While the demonic possession Mary experienced was an extreme case, everyone experiences attacks from the enemy. We all struggle against the destructive power of sin in our lives. But unlike Nicodemus, we have access to the power of Christ within us to help us overcome.

Let's read Ephesians 6:10-17.

- What does this passage tell us about the enemy we face and the resources we have to overcome his attacks?
- What does it mean that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the ... spiritual forces of evil ..."? (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)
- Are there any ungodly influences in your life that have power over you, burden you or keep you from God? What steps can you take to stand firm against the enemy's attack?



Respond

As a little girl, Mary learned a Bible verse (Isaiah 43:1) from her dad. This verse travelled with her. And even when she let go of this promise, God did not let go of her.

- What place does God's Word have in your life? Share a verse or passage from Scripture that travels with you and encourages you.
- What does the world say about you? What does God say about you? Which do you listen to?



Season 1 episode 1

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

Focus on the margin

Initial reflections

Mary is a possessed, desperate and traumatised young woman. Humanly speaking, her situation is hopeless. Nicodemus tells his students that she is beyond human help.

- What strikes you about Mary as you see her in the series? What are her beautiful qualities and what obstacles get in her way?
- Are there people or situations in your life that you view as hopeless, the way Nicodemus looked at Mary? Do you expect God to intervene? Why or why not?

Dig in

People like Mary lived on the margins of society, excluded by others. But Jesus sees those who are unseen. When he redeems people, he redeems them out of the isolation of sin and into the community of his Father's family.

Let's read Colossians 3:9-14.

- How does this passage describe the community of the redeemed?
- What does it mean for a person to “take off your old self” and “put on the new self”? (Colossians 3:9-10 NIV)
- How have you seen God work through a community or individuals with these qualities to restore people who are broken or isolated?



Respond

We are Jesus' hands and feet in the world. In this episode, we watched Jesus see and embrace Mary when she was ignored and rejected by everyone else.

- Who is Jesus calling you to see and embrace? What steps can you take to reach out to them?
- Pair up with someone near you and pray for these people, their circumstances and opportunities to show them the love of Jesus.



Season 1 episode 1

TRACK 3: I WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS MEANT

Living with doubt

Initial reflections

In this episode, we see Nicodemus begin to doubt his own convictions. Everything he thought he knew is being shaken. But instead of becoming defensive, he is curious and desires to seek truth. Meanwhile, his wife tells him to stick with the status quo.

- What stands out to you about Nicodemus? In what ways do you resonate with his character?
- Have you ever experienced doubt or confusion that caused you to question a core belief? How did you respond?

Dig in

Remember the scene when Nicodemus stands in front of the mirror. He wonders if the Law is only a blurry reflection of a much more glorious reality.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.

- What does this passage tell us about the knowledge we possess?
- In ancient times, mirrors only gave blurry reflections. What does it mean that “now we see only a reflection as in a mirror” while “then we shall see face to face”? When is the “then” referring to? (1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV)
- The ultimate knowledge this passage points us to is relational. One day, we will know God as he already fully knows us. What does this promise suggest about the way in which we should pursue and use knowledge?



Respond

In many Christian traditions, Nicodemus is honoured as a positive example of curiosity. Unlike many other Pharisees, he did not react with fear or judgement when Jesus showed up challenging his status quo. Instead, he was open and asked honest questions in pursuit of the truth.

- Are there any areas of your faith you have avoided exploring out of fear? Where does that fear come from?
- How can you make more room for curiosity in your journey of discipleship?



Season 1 episode 1

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

Eyes open

Initial reflections

Mary almost gave up hope. She had clung to the promise of Isaiah 43:1 for so long without seeing the reality of it in her life. But just as she was about to give in to despair, a dove caught her eye. She followed it to a tavern where Jesus was waiting for her.

- Can you relate to Mary's experience of holding onto a promise from Scripture but not seeing its reality in her life? Share, if you feel comfortable.
- Can you tell us about a situation where God used something physical, like the dove in this episode, to draw your attention to himself?

Dig in

God is spirit, and he can communicate directly to our spirits. But, there are two tangible ways he speaks to us: through his Word and through his creation. His love is present all around us ... if only we have eyes to see it.

Let's read Psalm 19:1-8.

- What does this passage tell us about the testimony of creation and Scripture?
- What kind of knowledge about God do the skies and other parts of creation reveal to us? How do they speak, if not with words?
- Are your ears open to the testimony of creation? If not, what steps can you take to pay closer attention to God's presence around you in his creation?



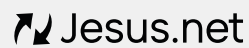


Respond

In the show, Mary's experience of the dove leading her to Jesus is a dramatised portrayal of a much more commonplace truth: God is always present and always trying to catch our attention.

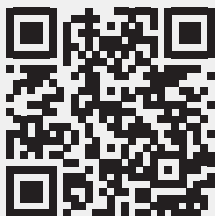
- How has God been catching your attention lately? How do you need to respond?
- Pair up with someone next to you and pray for God to attune your senses to his presence this week. Next time, come ready to share how you noticed God!

The CHOSEN Connect



The Chosen Connect materials have been created by Alongsidiers, OneHope, Jesus.net, and Living Image.

Chosen Connect's heart is to make disciples and walk alongside others as they follow Jesus.



Did you like this dicussion guide?

Find more at jesus.net/home.

Watch the series on The Chosen app or at watch.thechosen.tv.

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