

# The CHOSEN



## Viewing Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

*EPISODE 1: I Have Called You By Name*

### EPISODE 1

#### Scriptural References

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Luke 8:1-3
- John 20:11-16

#### Characters

Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Andrew

#### The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Watching Notes

- Which characters stood out to you most? Which were most interesting? Most moving?
- What did you think about the timing of the appearance of Jesus? What were the filmmakers saying about Jesus' intentionality and timing?

**NOTE:** *This episode has scenes of demon possession and may be too intense for younger children.*

“Adonai” is translated “Lord”. It is the word that the Jews used to refer to God, in place of His revealed name, “Yahweh”. In order to “not take the name of the Lord in vain”, the Jews developed the practice of never actually speaking that name, but instead calling Him “Adonai”. You will notice in many versions of the Bible that LORD is in all caps in the Old Testament – this is to indicate to us that the actual word there is “Yahweh”.

**NOTE:** Throughout The Chosen series, there is added backstory to the accounts from the Bible, especially in episodes 1-3, which are largely based on historical and cultural background and conjecture. These portions are fictionalized and not taught in the Bible. *The Chosen* is not meant to replace God in our minds or hearts, but to present a *visual aid* to one's existing journey with the Lord. Part of the purpose of this study is to help people discern from what is found in the Bible and the fictional parts were added.

## Discussion and Learning

Mary is from Magdala, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Magdala was a wealthy commercial village at which the fishermen on the Sea sold their fish. From there they were then shipped overland to the Mediterranean Sea and around the Roman empire. What would this indicate about Mary's financial status, and how is this reinforced in Luke 8:1-3?

Some have identified Mary as the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-39. This idea gained traction in the early church and is reflected in *The Chosen*. However, there is no evidence that she is this woman. There is proof, however, that she is the first person to whom Jesus appears after His resurrection, as you've already read.

Much of *The Chosen* is intended to fill in potential 'backstories' for the biblical characters. It's painting a picture rather than just giving us the bare bones. As someone said, it's painting rather than pointing. Of the characters we've met today, here's what we know for sure (the rest is conjecture):

*Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling council in Jerusalem) (John 3:1)*

*Mary was from Magdala and had seven demons cast out of her. (Luke 8:1-3)*

*Matthew was a tax collector - employed by the Romans but considered a horrible traitor by his fellow Jews. Horrible because he was viewed as a collaborator with the enemy, and because he made his money by charging more than the Romans asked him to collect. (Matthew 10:3)*

*Simon (Peter) was married (Mark 1:30) and had a brother named Andrew (Matthew 4:18)*

Fishing on Shabbat (aka The Sabbath, beginning at sundown on Friday and lasting through sundown on Saturday) was strictly forbidden in Jewish law.

What were your images of the characters you saw today, prior to watching *The Chosen*?

Did *The Chosen* provide any happy surprises or shifts to these images? Any surprises with which you weren't comfortable? Give reasons for your answers.

What did you like about the backstories presented here? Is there anything you'd change, given what you've seen so far?

***How did Jesus appear to you? Like you thought? Different?***

***What will you take home with you and ponder further?***