

The CHOSEN

EPISODE 7 - INVITATION

***Shifting Sand** - We live in an unpredictable world. There are natural disasters, terrorist attacks, car crashes, and cancer. And, as it turns out, global pandemics. While there's definitely order in creation (math, science, patterns, logic), there's also chaos and complexity. For goodness' sake, 80 percent of the ocean on our globe and 96 percent of the visible galaxy beyond remain unexplored—and we know even less about our own brains. We know we have them and that they're amazing, but we don't fully grasp their intricacies and potential or how connections are made and lost.*

The truth is that we can't fathom all that God has made, and we certainly can't control it. And that freaks us out. We fear life's apparent instability because we strongly desire the opposite. We want to know our needs will be met. We want to be safe and healthy and know that we'll have enough money to make ends meet. We want to feel solid ground beneath our feet. But in episode 7 called "Invitations," the ground is shifting, and the tax man whose life had been predictable, ordered, clean, and controlled is struggling to make sense of it.

"Everything's like sand in a flood ..."

Take heart, Matthew. Because all the things we don't know and can't control point us to the One who does know and can control and is.

- What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?: An Interactive Bible Study

Main Characters - For each main character write things you learn about them: their past, current situation, struggles, personality.

Scenes and questions to consider can be found on pages 2-3. A more reflective guide can be found on pages 4-5. Use this one only after watching the episode.

Matthew -

Gaius -

Quintus -

Nicodemus -

Simon -

Jesus -

Other Disciples -

I. In the Desert

1. What was Joshua struggling with? According to Moses, what was the purpose of the bronze snake?

II. Matthew and Gaius

III. Nicodemus

2. How is Nicodemus interacting with his wife and with Quintus? Why?

3. Quintus says he and Nicodemus want the same thing. What is Quintus concerned about? How has what Nicodemus want changed?

4. What does Nicodemus say concerning the desire to stomp out some teachers?

IV. Jesus and his Disciples

5. What important lessons does Jesus share with his disciples in this section? What is Jesus focused on?

V. Matthew and his mother

6. What is Matthew's relationship with his family? Why?

7. What is Matthew seeking? What has he been getting?

VI. A Rooftop Meeting

8. What has led Nicodemus to this meeting?

9. Take note of how Jesus teaches and acts with Nicodemus. Take note of how Nicodemus reacts to what he hears and learns.

10. What questions does Nicodemus have? What answers does Jesus give? Why is Nicodemus struggling with the answers?

VII. Get Used to Different

11. How does Matthew react to the invitation to follow? How do the disciples react to this invitation?

12. How is Jesus, his humanity, his intimate care and compassion stressed in this episode?

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 7- Invitations



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 7

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Numbers 21:4-9
- ▶ Matthew 9:9-13
- ▶ John 3:1-21
- ▶ Psalm 2:11-12

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene

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?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Reflect on Nicodemus' journey to Jesus. How did he go from being a devout Pharisee to sitting in front of Jesus? What character qualities did he exhibit?
2. If you feel comfortable sharing - how have you experienced being "born again?"
3. How do you recognize the effect of the Spirit in your life?
4. Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? Especially in comparison to Nicodemus' hesitation?
5. Stories like that of the bronze snake can be shocking to us today. What caused the Israelites to suffer? What daily habits can you cultivate so that you obey as quickly as Matthew did?

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QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. What did you think of Peter's reaction to Jesus calling Matthew? How can you have the same reaction today?

QUOTES

Jesus to Mary: "With their faith, they would have found a way whether you brought them to the roof or not."

Matthew: "My whole world, everything I thought I knew, what if it's wrong?"

Jesus to Andrew: "You are there to guide our guest, not to be my protector."

Jesus to Nicodemus: "If I have told you of earthly things, and you do not believe, how can I tell you heavenly things?"

Nicodemus: "My whole life I have wondered if I would see this day."

Peter (about Matthew): "Do you have any idea what this guy has done? Do you even know him?"

Jesus: "Yes."