

STUDY GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE CHOSEN: SEASON 2!

Welcome to the Chosen, season 2 study guide. If you have spent any time around Yosemite Church, I am sure you have heard us mention this strategy a time or two, "Connect with God, Grow with others, Serve with purpose". We believe that when these three things are woven into our daily disciplines, we will see our spiritual growth move us into being the disciples of Jesus we've been chosen to be. So, I've developed this study to help you accomplish just that.

1. CONNECT WITH GOD

Each week will have multiple scriptures that are referenced in the episode or give context to each episode. Take your time with these by S.O.A.P.R.A.Y.'ing each scripture. S.O.A.P.R.A.Y.'ing is similar to S.O.A.P.'ing with an additional tool to help you go deeper in your prayer life.

Scripture - Write down the scripture in your journal.

Observation - Write down the observations you see in the scripture.

Application - Write down how the observations you made apply to you.

Prayerfully Pause - Take 2 minutes to be still with the scripture and see if the Holy Spirit gives you any more insight. Write it down.

Rejoice - Give God elementary to graduate gratitude. Write it down.

Elementary gratitude - being things found relatively easy to be grateful for (the weather, new job, etc.).

Graduate gratitude - being things that challenge or even hurt you, but you remain grateful for the restoring work of your Redeemer (lost your job, diagnosed with an illness, etc).

Ask - Write down the areas you need God's help in. Perhaps, the scripture will be tough to apply to your life and you need His help to make the change?

Yield - Be honest with God about the things you want for your life, but ultimately surrender to His wants for your life. In what ways does the scripture cause you to yield to God's will. Write it down.

2. GROW WITH OTHERS

There will be several questions asked that will correspond to the episode for each week. These questions are designed to develop a greater sense of self-awareness. Self-awareness is the critical link to us having the ability to put off our old sinful nature, to be made new in the attitudes of our minds, and to put on the new nature, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:22-24). How can we grow to be more like Christ if we are not aware of what gets in the way? Then, you will be encouraged to share your responses to the questions with your small group.

3. SERVE WITH PURPOSE

Being a disciple of Jesus means to also serve like Jesus the best we know how. There will be questions each week that will encourage you to live out your faith with action. A few of the weeks will invite you to discover and use your spiritual gifts, to share new ideas and to plan for ways you and your group can be on mission together.

I am looking forward to being on this journey with you for the next 8 weeks. It's my desire to see you rooted and established in the love of the Father who has chosen you to be His before He ever laid the foundation of this earth. Follow the steps below for the best week by week experience.

In Love, Pastor Jake

BEFORE EACH GROUP

- 1. Watch The Chosen episode for the week you are in.
- 2. S.O.A.P.R.A.Y. the scriptural references and spread them throughout the week in your journal.
- 3. Review each question and write your answers in your journal.

WAYS TO WATCH

- Watch for free in the Chosen mobile app (from anywhere in the world)! You can get it here: www.thechosen.tv/app or search "The Chosen" in your Apple or Android app store. From the app, you can stream to your TV using another device, such as Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, Android TV, Chromecast, etc.
- 2. Watch from your computer by typing the following in your browser: https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen

THE CHOSEN Episode 1 - Thunder



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- James & John
- Andrew & Peter
- Thomas
- Ramah
- Ramah's Father Kafni
- Matthew
- Crippled Samaritan

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Mark 3:17
- Luke 9:52-56
- Luke 15:3-7
- John 1:1-18
- John 4:28-30, 39-42
- John 14:12
- John 21:24-25

- The Disciples "Lost" Jesus and became instantly worried. Has there ever been a moment in your life when you feel like you're lost, or have lost Jesus? How did you react? How did that make you feel?
- 2. Ramah's father, Kafni, was resistant to Jesus and the idea of his daughter following Jesus. He made it difficult for Ramah and Thomas to follow Jesus. Why? Has there ever been a time when family or close friends have made it difficult for you to follow Jesus?
- 3. The "Good Shepherd" leaves the 99 sheep to find the one. Jesus pursues us in this same way. Have you ever felt like the Crippled Samaritan, the one Jesus pursued? What was life like then? How did you feel when you encountered the "Good Shepherd" for the first time? How did it change you?

THE CHOSEN Episode 1 - Thunder



4. In this episode Jesus tells Kafni, "I ask a lot of those who follow me, but I ask little of those who do not." What do you believe Jesus means by this?

- What lesson can you learn from James & John in how you are to be (or not be) towards others who are different from you?
- 2. Who have you been hesitant to plant spiritual seeds in because of the differences between you?
- 3. In your journal, write out a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide you and empower you to be aware of the opportunities to serve people who are different from you.

THE CHOSEN Episode 2 - I Saw You



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- Thaddeus
- Phillip
- Nathanael
- Andrew & Peter
- Thomas
- Ramah
- Mary Magdalene
- Matthew

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- John 1:43-51
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- Ezekiel 39:6-10
- Romans 12:4-8
- Proverbs 16:9

- Nathanael did everything right. He loved God with all of his heart, wanted to do great things for God just to have it all crash down before him. Has this ever happened to you? If not, how would you respond if it did? If yes, what was that like for you? Did it push you away from God or draw closer?
- 2. Matthew found great comfort in having Philip a part of the crew. Why? What did Philip do that set him apart from the rest of the disciples?
- 3. Matthew, frustrated with feeling like he doesn't quite track along with the rest of the disciples, feels like there is a world that everyone lives in and then there is him, the outsider. Have you ever felt this way around other Christians? Have you ever felt unaccepted by other believers of Jesus? Have you found acceptance in Jesus? How so? Why was Nicodemus so shocked about the news about Mary Magdalene being seen in her right mind?

THE CHOSEN Episode 2 - I Saw You



- 4. Simon wanted structure and hierarchy. Of course he saw himself on the top of the pecking order. What do you feel Simon's motives were?
- 5. Jesus knew the intrinsic worth of every person. He said, "Each brings something unique to the whole. I want every voice heard. We can all learn something from each other." In what ways are you unique? Why do we need each other?
- Nathanael had his plans, but the Lord had His own for Nathanael. How did Jesus both affirm Nathanael and redirect his path? Tell of a time when God has redirected you.

- How have you ever gone out of your way to make someone feel included and not excluded? Who's next? Who are you willing to bring along in your walk with Jesus?
- Have you discovered your unique gift designed to serve the Kingdom of God? Type this link (http://www.pointsnorthsys.com/SHAPE_ Yosemite/Logon/Logon.aspx) in your browser and take the assessment. Bring your results to the group and share them with others.
- 3. Take a moment in prayer, and in your journal write the list of spiritual gifts and ask for God's wisdom in how to use them.

THE CHOSEN Episode 3 - Tension



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- Mary Mother of Jesus
- The Disciples

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Matthew 7:1-5
- Psalm 139:7-12
- Zechariah 14:1-5
- Luke 4:40
- Matthew 4:24

- Little James has a disability, but has not asked Jesus to heal him of it. Why do you think that is? Is there something you have in your life that only the power of Jesus can restore?
- Andrew asked the question, "What would you do for unlimited money or what would you give up?" The disciples' answers varied, but what's your answer to this question?
- 3. Like the Jews and the disciples, we have our own expectations of God and the way we see Him fulfilling His promises. The Messiah is not what everyone was expecting. Have you ever experienced God not meeting your expectations? What was that like for you?

THE CHOSEN Episode <u>3</u> - Tension



- 4. Mary Magdalene experienced trauma as a child and in her anger rebelled against God. Has there ever been a time when, in your anger, you were rebellious towards God? How did He meet you in that season and love you to where He wanted you to be?
- 5. Simon has clearly stated that he will never forgive Matthew. Do you agree or disagree with Simon's reasoning? Explain your answer from a biblical perspective.

- Forgiveness is easy to receive, but can be difficult to extend. Pause for a moment and in your journals write down an inventory of the hurt you may not have forgiven. Contemplate each decade of your life and ask God to give you His heart to forgive.
- 2. If it is mentally, and emotionally safe to do so, make an attempt to let bygones be bygones.
- 3. Is there a person in your life that feels hurt with you? Maybe you feel there was nothing wrong done on your part, but they are still hurt with you. How would Jesus want you to serve that person?

THE CHOSEN Episode 4 - The Perfect Opportunity



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- The Disciples
- Simon the Zealot
- Jesse
- Shmuel
- Atticus
- Rufus
- Zealots

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- John 5:1-16
- Psalm 69:9
- Zechariah 8:20-23
- Exodus 20:8-11

- The Zealots were trained to kill in the name of God- El Shaddai. What religious groups do the Zealots remind you of today?
- 2. What do the Pharisee's and the Zealots have in common with each other?
- 3. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness in their exile from Egypt. Jesus tells His disciples, "Everyone has wandered through the wilderness at some point." What did He mean by this? What wilderness have you gone through?
- 4. In this episode, Jesus invites Matthew to come along with Simon and John. What do you feel the significance being included may have had on Matthew?

THE CHOSEN Episode 4 - The Perfect Opportunity



- 5. Jesus told Jesse that the pool had nothing to offer him before healing him. What do you turn to in attempt to satisfy, fulfill, or in his case heal you in ways that only Jesus can?
- 6. Jesus healing Jesse moved him from invalid to validated. Have you ever felt invalid? Disregarded? Underestimated? How did that make you feel? How has the love of Christ moved you from invalid to validated?

- Who do you know that needs you to pursue them the way Jesus pursued Jesse? In your journal write out a prayer asking Jesus to open their heart and ears to and to give you the heart and words to share His love with them.
- 2. In the community we live in, there are hundreds of "Jesse's" who are needing to experience the healing love of Christ through you. In your journal write down any ideas you have for you and your group to go and serve your community together.
- 3. Jesus wanted to make sure that His disciples witnessed Him serving and validating the intrinsic worth of every person. As a small group, set a date for when you will go into the community. Next, think about who you are going to invite to be a witness to God's love in action. Write their name down in your journal and begin praying over them.

THE CHOSEN Episode 5 - Spirit



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- Simon the Zealot
- Jesse
- Shmuel
- Atticus
- Mary Magdalene
- Ramah
- Caleb

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Psalm 139
- Luke 3:1-20
- Luke 4:31-37
- Luke 6:7, 11
- Matthew 13:34-35

- Something is definitely happening with Mary Magdalene. From the Roman to the demon, her past is haunting her. What do you think is going on? In your new walk with Jesus, have you ever had something or someone from your past show up unexpectedly? What was that experience like? Similar to Mary?
- 2. Simon the Zealot, a physically well trained warrior for God, was no match for demon possessed Caleb. How does Ephesians 6:10-20 relate to this scene? What can we learn from this encounter with evil?
- 3. Ramah, Mary, and Matthew are committed to learning scriptures. They are hungry to learn more about God. Have you made being in God's Word a regular habit in your life? How has reading your Bible changed your life? If you haven't, start now. It will change your life, I promise. He promises.

THE CHOSEN Episode 5 - Spirit



- 4. Have you ever had a time when you felt rejected or not wanted? In this episode, Jesus looked Simon the Zealot in the eyes and said, "I have everything I need. But I wanted you." Do you know that you are wanted by Jesus? Is there anything in your life that makes you feel like He wouldn't want you?
- 5. John the Baptist, aka Creepy John, wanted Jesus to get this show on the road already! "I must confess, I am eager for you to get to the point.", Creepy John says to Jesus. Has this ever been true for you? How do you behave when you feel that Jesus isn't moving quick enough?
- 6. "I am going to tell stories that make sense to some people, but not to others." What does Jesus mean by this?

- In this episode, though shaken, Mary still made it a point to help Ramah with her reading. Are you willing to do the same for others? Who will you come alongside and open the Bible with? Perhaps a mentor or a mentee?
- Who do you know that isn't aware they are wanted by Jesus? Pray for that person, and reach out via call or text reminding them that God loves them.
- Jesus died for you so that you will live for Him. In what ways is your life currently being lived out for Christ?

THE CHOSEN Episode 6 - Unlawful



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- Mary Magdalene
- Ramah
- David
- Abiathar
- Matthew
- Peter
- Shmuel
- Yanni
- Elam

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Psalm 20:7
- John 8:1-3
- 1 Samuel 21:1-6
- Luke 6:6-11
- Matthew 12:1-18
- Psalm 19:7

- While walking and talking, Mary, mother of Jesus, talks about Jesus sacrificing His income as a carpenter to do what He was born to do. How about you? Would you sacrifice your income to do the will of the Father? What reservations or hesitations would you have?
- 2. "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." Such a good verse in response to Ramah's worry. How might you struggle with placing your trust in creation over the Creator?
- 3. Mary gave the guy at the bar a run for his money, but Jesus made a run for Mary's heart. Jesus looked at Mary and said, "Look up. I forgive you. It's over." Do you remember a time in your life when Jesus uttered those words to you? How has the forgiveness of Jesus changed your life?

THE CHOSEN Episode 6 - Unlawful



- 4. What do you believe the significance of Jesus pairing Matthew & Simon together will have on one another?
- 5. Mary went missing, Andrew, Phillip and Jesus are hurt by the news of John the Baptist, and they have no food to eat for the next day. When asked what to do, Jesus said to pray. We can often be caught up in the whirlwind of life, but is prayer your first response to trying times? Why is it difficult to use prayer as our first line of defense against hardship?

- "He fixed me once and I broke again.", said Mary. Have you ever gone right back to the life that Jesus saved you from and felt horrible for it? How did you press through? What would you tell someone who is currently going through this?
- 2. In this episode, Simon and Matthew found Mary and spoke about the good she had done in her new walk with Christ reminding her of her worth. They take her out of crisis and isolation and bring her back to the group where she had love and acceptance. Who do you know that you can speak hope into and invite them into your group where they can experience acceptance?

THE CHOSEN Episode 7 - Reckoning



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- The Disciples
- Shmuel
- Yanni
- Yussif
- Quintus
- Atticus
- Gaius
- Tamar
- The Paralytic

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Luke 6:37
- Matthew 6:5
- Matthew 6:9-13

- In this episode Jesus says that this next sermon He is going to give will be a big one and that it will draw several people. He mentions, "Signs & Wonders". What are the differences between the two?
- 2. Andrew is scared. He is worried about trouble coming Jesus' way and fearful that what is happening to John the Baptist will inevitably happen to Jesus. Andrew's fear has him out of character. Do you have a similar reaction when faced with fear? What would you say is your biggest fear in life? What does scripture say about fear?
- 3. When Jesus was detained He told the disciples, "I will be back". In a frenzy, the disciples are wanting to take matters into their own hands. Mary quoted Proverbs 3:5-6 when Andrew was blaming her. Do you have a tendency to take matters into your own hands? How does this scripture guide you through that?

THE CHOSEN Episode 7 - Reckoning



- 4. Yussif, a Pharisee in disguise as a commoner says, "Shmuel is threatened by what he cannot understand." How true is this of you? How true is this of the world we live in today?
- 5. The disciples are realizing they handled the situation wrong and want to handle things more like Jesus. The disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. How does this prayer guide you in your daily walk with Christ?

- Tamar the Ethiopian said, "I can't keep what I know inside" and felt compelled to share what she witnessed with everyone. Jesus gives us insight to the work He is doing in us so that it will become a work He does through us. In your journal write your story and be brave enough to share in your small group.
- Think about a person you know who could use prayer right now. A friend, family member, co-worker? Text them and let them know you are praying for them.

THE CHOSEN Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains



KEY CHARACTERS:

- Jesus
- The Disciples
- Judas
- Rabbi Shammai
- Shmuel
- Yanni
- Atticus
- Gaius
- Tamar
- Ramah
- Mary
- Eden

CONNECT:

S.O.A.P.R.A.Y the following scriptures:

- Proverbs 139:13-16
- Matthew 5:1-16
- Matthew 7:12
- 1 Timothy 4:8

- While giving Tamar a brief overview of the disciples, Thomas makes a statement. "They all love our Rabbi and want to follow Him the right way. They just can't agree on what that right way is." How do you see this truth in the body of Christ today?
- 2. The Sanhedrin is divided. The party to the left wants to reform the law of Moses while the party to the right wants to hold true to their traditional views and practices. How do you see this in the world today?
- 3. The disciples were worried about getting the set up right for Jesus' sermon. Mary was worried about knowing as much scripture as possible to not fail in her faith again. Worry is taking what you fear out of God's hands and placing them in your own. Do you worry? Politics? Family? Work? Finances?

THE CHOSEN Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains



- 4. How can you "Seek first the Kingdom of God" better in your daily life?
- 5. How did it affect you when Jesus spoke the Beatitudes ("blessed are you") and you saw scenes from His disciples for each one? Which one is he speaking to you today?
- 6. What was your first reaction when you realized Judas had entered the scene?

- Did you notice how each of the disciples were doing what came most naturally to them when preparing for the big sermon? How did their individual contributions help with the overall execution of reaching people?
- 2. How are you currently using your natural abilities and spiritual gifts to help with the overall execution of reaching people in your church? If you are not currently doing so, where could you see yourself serving?

