



A Discussion Guide for Season 3 of *The Chosen*.

Episode 1: Homecoming

Summary: Following the Sermon on the Mount, the disciples return to Capernaum to deal with the fallout of Jesus' growing fame. They navigate changing family dynamics, particularly Matthew's tentative reconciliation with his parents, and the controversial arrival of Judas Iscariot into the group.

Icebreaker: What is the best and the hardest part of coming back to a small town (like Caledonia) after a major life event or a long time away?

Guiding Metaphor: The Ripple Effect. Jesus' sermon was the stone dropped in the water; the disciples' changing lives and relationships are the ripples hitting the shore.

Unpacking the Truths:

- How did the different characters (Matthew, Simon, Judas) react to the "high" of the Sermon on the Mount fading into the reality of daily life?
- Matthew seeks out his family to make amends. What does this episode teach us about the difficult, messy work of reconciliation?

Application:

- Think about a "mountaintop" spiritual experience you've had. How can you carry that inspiration into your ordinary, day-to-day responsibilities this week?
-

Episode 2: Two by Two

Summary: Jesus does the unexpected: He sends the twelve apostles out in pairs, telling them to take no money or extra clothes, to preach the gospel and heal the sick. Meanwhile, Simon Peter struggles with leaving his wife, Eden, behind to carry the burdens of home.

Icebreaker: If you had to pack for a week-long trip with no money and only a small bag, what is the one non-essential comfort item you'd try to sneak in?

Guiding Metaphor: The Buddy System. Like pairing up on a canoe trip down the Grand River, you have to trust your partner to navigate the rapids and share the load.

Unpacking the Truths:

- Why do you think Jesus paired up specific disciples who had contrasting personalities (like Matthew the former tax collector and Simon the Zealot)?
- What does the tension between Simon and Eden teach us about the unsung sacrifices of those who support ministry behind the scenes?

Application:

- Where is God asking you to step out of your comfort zone and trust Him completely right now? Who is a "partner" in your church family you can lean on for support?

Episode 3: Physician, Heal Thyself

Summary: Jesus returns to His childhood home of Nazareth. During the synagogue service, He reads from the Isaiah scroll and declares Himself the fulfillment of the prophecy. His friends and former neighbors, unable to accept that a local carpenter is the Messiah, turn into an angry mob.

Icebreaker: Think of someone you knew as a child who grew up to do something completely unexpected. How hard was it to update your mental picture of who they are?

Guiding Metaphor: The Hometown Hero vs. The Prophet. It is often incredibly difficult to see the divine at work in the deeply familiar.

Unpacking the Truths:

- Why were the people of Nazareth so offended by Jesus' message, even though they initially praised His teaching?
- How does Jesus respond to being rejected by the people who watched Him grow up?

Application:

- Do we sometimes put God in a "familiar box" based on our traditions? How can we stay open to God working in ways that disrupt our expectations this week?
-

Episode 4: Clean, Part 1

Summary: The apostles return exhausted but exhilarated from their mission. In Capernaum, the local water cistern breaks, causing tension and revealing the fragility of the community. We are also introduced to Jairus, a desperate synagogue leader, and a woman suffering from a chronic bleeding condition.

Icebreaker: Describe a time you were completely physically, mentally, or spiritually exhausted. What is the very first thing you do to recharge your batteries?

Guiding Metaphor: The Empty Cistern. When our personal or communal wells run dry, we are forced to seek out Living Water.

Unpacking the Truths:

- The disciples come back arguing about who performed the best miracles. What does this reveal about human pride, even in the midst of doing good work?
- Both Jairus and the bleeding woman are introduced as people facing impossible, hopeless situations. How do their different social standings affect their struggles?

Application:

- When your own "cistern" is empty from the demands of work or caring for others, what practices help you refill your spiritual reserves?

Episode 5: Clean, Part 2

Summary: The storylines from the previous episode collide. The bleeding woman pushes through a massive crowd to touch the hem of Jesus' garment and is instantly healed. Immediately after, Jesus goes to Jairus' home and raises his young daughter from the dead, crossing major cultural boundaries of ritual purity.

Icebreaker: When was a time you felt completely out of your depth and had to ask for help from a surprising or intimidating source?

Guiding Metaphor: Reaching for the Hem. True faith often requires us to break through societal rules and our own shame to reach out to God.

Unpacking the Truths:

- According to the laws of the time, the bleeding woman and the dead girl would have made Jesus "unclean." Instead, Jesus makes them clean. What does this say about God's grace versus religious rules?
- Why did Jesus stop the crowd to point out the woman, rather than just letting her heal quietly and slip away?

Application:

- Who in our wider community might feel like an "untouchable" outcast today? How can our church be a place that reaches out to them with healing rather than judgment?
-

Episode 6: Intensity in Tent City

Summary: A massive "tent city" of pilgrims forms on the outskirts of Capernaum to see Jesus. Jesus heals two blind men while navigating rising political tensions with Rome and the religious authorities. Meanwhile, Eden's private grief over a miscarriage is revealed, highlighting the quiet suffering that happens while everyone else is focused on the miracles.

Icebreaker: Have you ever been in a massive, shoulder-to-shoulder crowd (like at a major concert or festival)? Did you find the energy exciting or totally overwhelming?

Guiding Metaphor: Finding the Signal in the Noise. In a chaotic world filled with political and social noise, we have to listen hard for the voice of Christ.

Unpacking the Truths:

- The two blind men show incredible persistence in getting to Jesus. How does their physical blindness contrast with the "spiritual blindness" of the religious leaders in this episode?
- Eden's storyline is heartbreaking. Why is it important to recognize that sometimes, while others are experiencing miracles, faithful people are still enduring profound grief?

Application:

- How can our small group create a safe space for people to share their "unseen" griefs, like Eden's, without rushing to fix them with toxic positivity?

Episode 7: Ears to Hear

Summary: Jesus intentionally leads His disciples into the Decapolis, a predominantly Gentile (non-Jewish) region. He heals a deaf man, which causes a massive, multi-cultural crowd to gather. The disciples are deeply uncomfortable being in foreign territory surrounded by historic enemies.

Icebreaker: Have you ever traveled somewhere where you didn't speak the language or fully understand the local customs? How did you manage to connect with people?

Guiding Metaphor: Crossing the River. We are often called to leave the comfortable shores of "our people" to bring grace into territory we consider foreign or hostile.

Unpacking the Truths:

- Why were the disciples so resistant to ministering in the Decapolis? What were their cultural roadblocks?
- Notice the gentle, highly personal way Jesus heals the deaf man (taking him aside, using touch). What does this teach us about how God approaches us individually?

Application:

- Who are the "Gentiles" (people outside our usual comfort zone, politics, or background) that God might be calling our church to engage with in our local area?
-

Episode 8: Sustenance

Summary: The massive crowd in the Decapolis is starving after listening to Jesus for days. Using just five loaves and two fish, Jesus miraculously feeds the 5,000. Later, He sends the exhausted disciples across the Sea of Galilee. They encounter a terrifying storm, and Jesus walks on water to rescue them, calling Peter out onto the waves.

Icebreaker: What is your ultimate, go-to "comfort food" when you are completely stressed out or exhausted?

Guiding Metaphor: The Loaves and the Storm. God can take our meager, inadequate offerings and multiply them, and He is the only true peace when the storms of life hit.

Unpacking the Truths:

- Jesus asked the disciples to feed the crowd, knowing they couldn't. Why did He ask them to bring Him what little they had first?
- During the storm, Peter sinks when he takes his eyes off Jesus and looks at the wind and waves. How does this mirror our own struggles with anxiety and faith?

Application:

- Think of a situation where you feel like you only have "five loaves and two fish" to offer (in your time, energy, or resources). How can you hand that over to God this week and trust Him with the outcome?