

Grades 9-10

Session 5

The Chosen Recap

- Last session we started episode 2 of "The Chosen." Matthew confirms Simon Peter's claims that he made a deal with Praetor Quintus, the Roman official. Simon Peter's deal is that he is going to tell the Romans when his fellow Jews are fishing illegally so that he can pay off his taxes with the money the Romans give him. Eden (Simon Peter's wife) gets on Peter's case for being secretive and for working instead of resting on the Sabbath, which is the Jewish day to rest and honor God. Nicodemus, the Pharisee (religious leader) investigates the miracle (Mary's healing from demons) reported in the Red Quarter. He can't believe his eyes when he sees that Mary is healed because he thought that only God could cast the demons out of her. Little does he know (at this point) that it actually was God (Jesus) who healed her.
- We talked a lot about Shabbat last session. Shabbat is the Jewish meal celebrated each week on the Sabbath, which is the Jewish day of rest. The Christian day for rest and time with God and family is Sunday! The rest of this episode compares each character's Shabbat dinner.

Theme Verse

- The last couple of sessions, you were challenged to memorize Isaiah 43:1... this is a reminder to memorize it so that you can recite it to your leaders the next session!
- This session we got a new theme verse. Our new verse is Psalm 145:8 - "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy."
- Mercy and grace are words we often hear in church, but what do they mean?
- Mercy is not receiving the punishment we deserve. Pause and think about a time you were spared a punishment you deserved (shown mercy).
- Grace is receiving an undeserved gift. Pause and think about a time you received a surprise gift or blessing that you didn't earn or deserve (shown grace).
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us is the perfect example of both mercy and grace. The consequence of sin is death and separation from God for eternity. However, since God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to die in our place. We didn't receive the punishment we deserved for our sins - God showed us mercy.

- We receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus when we trust in Him. God shows us grace by offering us salvation even though we don't deserve it.

Watch "The Chosen"

***Watch "The Chosen" episode 2 from 26:48 until the end of episode 2.**

God Loves His Children

Precious in His Sight

- When it comes to God's love, it's not about our age, our appearance, our abilities, or anything else we may or may not bring to the table. It's about what already is. We are precious to our Maker. We don't deserve His everlasting love, and there's nothing we can do to earn more love.
- Think about this... let's say a brand new baby boy is born. His parents will care for him and love him more than anything in the world. Just looking at their new baby will make them smile. The baby didn't have to do anything to earn his parents' love. The parents love him just because he's their child. That's it.
- It's the same thing with God. He loves us no matter what. Always and forever... simply because we are His children. There's nothing we can do to make God stop loving us.

OT Context

- In the Old Testament, the people of God were sometimes described as the children of God, and occasionally God was referred to as a father or compared to a mother. Of course, the point is that God loves His chosen people the way good parents love their children. Good parents do anything, endure anything, sacrifice anything to care for their own. Now multiply that by a gazillion, and you're in the ballpark of God's love for His people.
- Just as a parent pursues a stubborn child, again and again God pursued (and still pursues) His people at great cost, to great lengths, and with unrelenting mercy and grace.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 19:13-14 and read the verses.

Here are the verses for your reference.

"Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:13-14).

- Okay... that last part would've been a head scratcher for those listening because parents in the ancient world didn't appreciate childhood the same way we do. It's not

that parents had loveless, utilitarian attitudes toward their children; on the contrary, children were thought of as blessings.

- But in Jesus' times, a person's contribution heavily weighted their value, and young children couldn't contribute much. Children in ancient times were expected to start working as soon as physically possible. Childhood just wasn't a cherished time of life.
- **Abigail and Joshua** (you will meet them in episode 3) are fictional children created for "The Chosen," but they're based on real interactions as well as Jesus's words about children: to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. Unlike most of the adults who came in contact with Jesus, the children knew they had nothing of value to offer Him except their love and excitement to be there... and Jesus welcomed them. He wanted to spend time with them, hug them, and heal them. He **wanted** to. He accepted them, not because of who they were or what they could do, but because of who He is and what He does.

Watch "The Chosen"

***Watch "The Chosen" Episode 3 from the beginning until 13:00 (when Jesus goes to sleep).**

- In this episode, Jesus befriends and teaches a group of children who discover his camp on the outskirts of the town of Capernaum.
- Pay close attention to Jesus' attitude and how He welcomes the children instead of sending them home.

Discussion

Discuss the following questions with a family member or friend or journal your answers in your Christian Formation journal.

- What did you think of the beginning of episode 3? What part stood out to you?
- What did you learn about Jesus today? What did you learn about His personality?

Read Galatians 3:28:

- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." What does the part of episode 3 that you watched have in common with Galatians 3:28? (We are all precious in the eyes of Jesus... no matter who we are.)
- What are some characteristics of a good parent?

- Having a not-very-good parent can negatively affect the way we see and respond to God. Read Jeremiah 31:9-11, and underline the ways God is a good Father while you read:
- "With weeping they shall come, but with compassion I will guide them; I will lead them to streams of water, on a level road, without stumbling. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, you nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: The One who scattered Israel, now gathers them; he guards them as a shepherd his flock. The Lord shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from a hand too strong for him" (Jer. 31:9-11).
- How does this verse show that God is a good Father?
- What other qualities does God have that make Him a good Father?

Recap

- This session, we talked about God's love for His children. He adopted us into His family. He is the ultimate Father to us, and He wants a relationship with us. That means He wants to talk with us daily, comfort us, and guide us. We can always count on Him to be there for us.