

Grades 9-10

Session 7

Surrendering to Jesus

Opening Prayer

Begin with prayer, thanking God for your blessings.

The Chosen Recap and Theme Verse

Theme Verse

- This week, we got a new theme verse, which we will have for the next few weeks.
- The verse is Psalm 145:8 - "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy."

Those who came in person received a Bible verse card. Ask your leader at the next session for the card if you'd like one. Remember, if you memorize this verse, you get a prize that week and a Mega Prize entry.

"The Chosen" Recap

Read:

- So far, we've watched episodes 1 and 2 and the first half of episode 3. In episode 3, children discover Jesus' camp and befriend him. He loves the children and teaches them.
- In that episode, we see how patient, loving, and caring Jesus is. He loves us in the same way.
- We're going to skip the rest of episode 3 and the beginning of episode 4. I'll summarize the first half of episode 4. As some of you might know, Simon Peter made a deal with the Romans. He has to pay a lot of taxes to the Roman government.

- He's so desperate that he told the Romans he would show them which Jewish people (His own people) were fishing illegally at night. In return, the Romans agreed to forgive his debts (the money he owed).
- However, Simon Peter is in a Roman boat searching for the Jewish fishing boats at night, guilt overwhelms him and he purposefully steers the Roman boat in the wrong direction. The Romans think Simon Peter is lying to them about the Jewish boats, and one of them cuts his ear with his sword.
- In the next scene, Simon Peter confesses to some of the Jewish fishermen. He asks for their forgiveness and then is bold enough to ask for their help in getting out of his mess. They accept the apology but can't help him by sharing their fish because they need it to feed their own families. Simon Peter is trapped.
- Meanwhile, Praetor Quintus, the Roman official, asks Matthew to spy on Simon Peter to see if he lied to the Romans.
- In the next scene, Simon Peter tells his wife, Eden, about his dangerous deal with the Romans. He explains that they could lose their house and boat or that he could go to prison or even be killed by the Romans. Eden gets in a fight with Simon Peter and asks Him "Where is your faith?" She condemns him for trying to do everything on his own instead of relying on God's help and guidance. We're beginning the episode right after their fight.
- We will skip over two other scenes in this episode as well. In these scenes, Simon Peter finds out that Matthew is spying on him. He and Matthew talk about his situation. Matthew tells him to turn himself in, but Peter says he will fish all night in hopes of catching enough fish to pay off his debts. However, Simon Peter knows that he won't catch enough. He just doesn't know what else to do.
- In the meantime, the religious leaders are gossiping about John the Baptist. Most of the religious leaders don't like John because he is

preaching a message they don't want to hear. He's telling everyone to repent for their sins - even the religious leaders. Nicodemus, however, is very intrigued by John and decides to question John, who is now in prison for his preaching.

Watch "The Chosen" (25 min)

Watch Episode 4 of "The Chosen" from 19:13 to 21:32 and from 25:29 to 46:41 (you can skip the 2 scenes in the middle if you'd like).

God is in Control

Read:

- Most people like being in the "driver's seat." We would rather use Apple Maps or Google Maps than wait for someone else to tell us where to turn because we like to look ahead.
- We want to see what's coming and to know exactly how many miles are between us and our destination. We want to choose the route, which lane to be in, what's playing on the radio, and whatever fast-food drive-through sounds good in the moment.
- **We want to be in control.**
- Incidentally, so does God, and when we belong to Him, His way of doing things trumps ours. Or at least, that's how it's supposed to work. In episode 4 of The Chosen called "The Rock on Which It Is Built," Simon Peter is in the driver's seat - or whatever the fishing boat equivalency of a driver's seat is. And it isn't going very well.
- However, when we surrender to God and follow His path for our lives, we will be filled with peace and joy. God can see the bigger picture and has a good plan for each and every one of us. We just need to trust and follow Him.

Read Luke 5:1-11 in your Bible.

Discussion

Discuss these questions with someone or write the answers down in your journal.

- What area of your life do you find most difficult to give up control of (relationships, sports, school, future plans)?
- The moment Simon Peter realized he was completely unworthy to be in Jesus' presence was also the moment he left everything behind to follow Jesus and remain in His presence. How would you feel or what would you do if you realized the savior you had waited for all your life just performed a miracle for **you**?
- Salvation through Jesus is free but following Him costs us everything. What does this mean?

Explanation: Remember that surrendering to Jesus doesn't mean giving up what we love and becoming a slave to Him. In fact, Christians who surrender to Jesus are the only ones who experience true freedom - we are no longer slaves to sin and death. Surrendering to Jesus means giving up what is bad for us and opening our hearts up to Him so that He can transform us and empower us to change the world. Surrendering everything to Him means we don't "turn on and off" our Christianity. We need to live out our faith on a daily basis.

- Why does Jesus deserve "our everything"?

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

- In those verses, Jesus clearly states that not all people who claim to know Him and follow Him actually do. What is the evidence of a true follower? (Hint, hint: reread the second half of verse 21.)

Explanation: As we mentioned before, we can't just claim to be Christians and then not act like Christians. If we truly accept Jesus as our Savior and accept His free gift of salvation, we will love Him so much and be so thankful that we will strive to live for His glory. Of course, we all sin and choose to run away from

God at times. But what matters is that we repent and return to God - that we make the commitment to follow Jesus daily.

- What area of your life do you need to leave behind or surrender in order to follow Jesus more fully?

Ideas: Not spend so much time on social media and replace that time with prayer or reading the Bible, not spend time with friends that pull you away from Jesus, not watch TV shows that pull you away from Jesus, etc.

Write down one thing in your journal that you will "surrender" to Jesus for the next week. Maybe you won't go on a certain social media app for a week and pray more each day. Maybe you choose to give up worrying for the week and ask for the Holy Spirit to calm you when anxious thoughts begin to bubble up. Or maybe you give up arguing with your siblings for the week and choose to forgive quickly.

Surrendering to God

- If you want to dive deeper into this topic, read this session's accompanying handout called "Surrendering to God."

Recap and Closing Prayer

Recap

- Today, we discussed what it looks like to surrender our lives to Jesus. How would your life change if you let Jesus take the wheel? If you sought His path for you? If you've never surrendered to Jesus as Lord, you can change that today. Ask Jesus to give you the courage to surrender to Him and to accept Him as Lord and Savior. For those of you who already follow Jesus, thank Him once again for dying for your sins, for raising you to new life in Him, and for patiently and faithfully leading you. Ask Him to give you specific direction for the decisions you have to make and for the way you need to go. Pray for the perseverance to keep following Him. Wherever you are in your faith journey, take a moment to talk to Jesus through prayer right now.