



VINCENT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



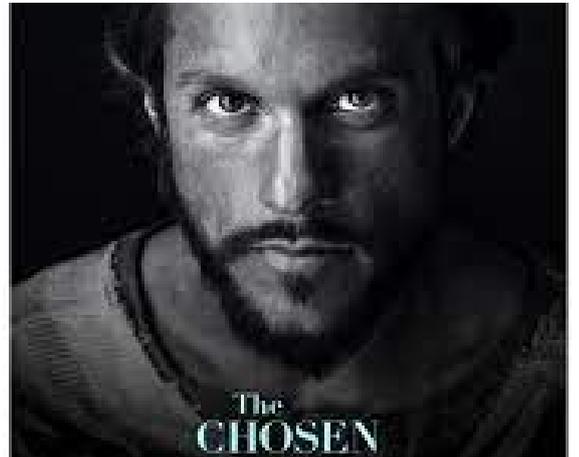
EPISODE 1: "I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME"

Set the Stage:

This episode introduces several characters from the gospels including:

- Simon, who will one day be known as Peter;
- Andrew, Simon's brother;
- Matthew the tax collector;
- Nicodemus the Pharisee; and
- Mary Magdalene (a.k.a. Lilith)

There is very little in this episode that can be tied directly to the gospels, as it is primarily concerned with establishing the backgrounds for its main characters before it gets to the stories about them that we know from the Bible.



Scripture Study:

Isaiah 43:1-3 (ESV)

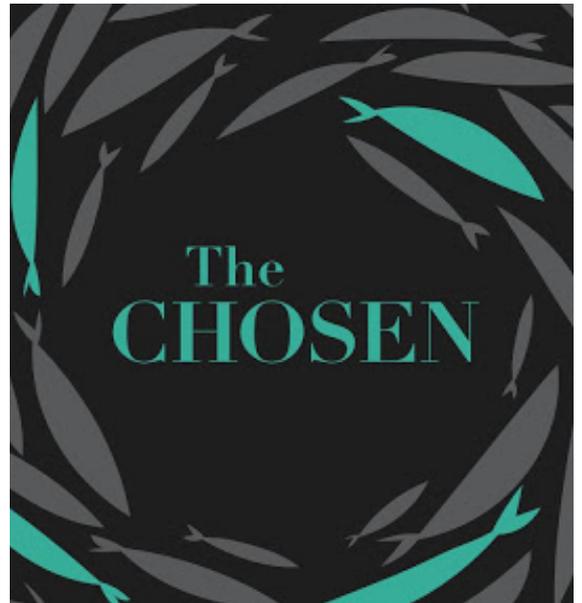
But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Session 2 Discussion Questions:

- What from the first episode stood out to you? What maybe surprised you? What has left you thinking more about what you just watched?
- How does Jesus' approach to placing himself in the physical locations he did - such as depicted in his interaction with Mary - differ from how the modern day Church conducts itself in interactions with people? In your view does the Church act more like Jesus or like the Pharisees on this topic? How do you personally feel about that?
- Nicodemus asked what if what we see of God isn't the whole picture, what if it's more beautiful and more strange than we could ever imagine. Has God changed your view of Him? How? What has God exposed about Himself as you've grown to know Him more deeply?

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Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You... are mine.



Bible Exploration:

- Isaiah 43:1-3 (Israel's Only Savior)
- Luke 8:1-15 (Mary, Seed Parable, Parable Meanings)
- Mark 16:6-11 (Jesus appears to Mary first)
- Luke 11:14-20 (Jesus and Demoniacs)

