

"WALKING WITH THE CHOSEN" | FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: "THE ROCK ON WHICH IT IS BUILT" | EPISODE 4

You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence. ~ Acts 2:28 NLT

OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for calling people like us to follow you. We have no great faith, no theological degrees, nothing that would impress you. And yet you call us to walk in a living, loving relationship with you. You take us from what we were to what we can be. We praise you and declare: "The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, my Savior!" (Psalm 18:46). In your exalted name we pray, Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

When do you find yourself most likely to follow someone or someone's ideas?

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 2:1-8; Matthew 4:18-22

WATCH VIDEO

The Chosen | Season 1 | Episode 4 *(Please note that artistic license has been taken with character portrayals and dialogue.)*

Scan to Access Episode 4



EXPLORE THE TEXT

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead as you work through the questions in this guide. Cover what your time allows and encourage everyone to finish the guide on his or her own.

1. Describe the scene where Jesus calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him in Matthew 4:18-22. How were their lives changed when they encountered Jesus? What did they give up?
2. Read Luke 5:1-11. (Also seen in Episode 4 of The Chosen) 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 with him. Explain the correlation. What does it mean to "leave everything" and follow Jesus?

3. To follow Jesus means to surrender and submit, which is hard for us because we like to be in control! "But it's simply not possible to retain control and follow at the same time – and following Jesus is required to be in relationship with Him." In what area of your life do you find it most difficult to relinquish control (relationships, job, the future, other)? What do James 4:13-15 and Proverbs 3:5-10 recommend instead?
4. Reflect on this quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." (Also see Matthew 10:38-39; 1 Peter 2:21.) Explain in your own words why salvation through faith in Jesus is free but following Him costs us everything.
5. What question did Jesus ask his disciples in Matthew 16:13-20? "We answer that question every day 'Who do you say that I am?' by what we believe and do. If we really believe Jesus is who He says He is, it will affect the way that we live." (Blue Letter Bible). Have you ever thought of asking that question about the choices you make each day? How would it make a difference?
6. The rock and foundation upon which our faith is built is Jesus himself and the truth that he is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. (Matthew 16:16) (Also see 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 2:4-6.) How do you build on this faith and continue to follow Jesus? Please read Colossians 2:1-8. What does the phrase "rooted and built up" mean to you? (verse 6) (Also see Ephesians 4:1-3; 4:20-24.)

FOLLOWING JESUS

Direction is found in God's presence.

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." – Psalm 25:4

As you reset at this time of year, how will you follow Jesus more closely: serve in a different ministry; join or lead a Life Group; share Jesus with friends or neighbors in a unique way; read God's Word and pray every day; treat others how Jesus would; other.

"The call to follow Jesus is the call to joy, for to follow him is to walk in the light of his love and to live in the hope of His resurrection." (Martin Franzmann, "Follow Me") Are you joyfully following Jesus? If not, pray for Jesus to fill you with his light, hope, and love.

"To follow Jesus is to embark on a journey where every step is taken in faith, every challenge met with his strength, and every moment lived in his grace." (Martin Franzmann, "Follow Me") Since a journey with Jesus is always uncharted territory, set objectives and goals on deepening your conversations with him so your faith increases, and you rely more and more on his strength and grace.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I often pray like Peter, "depart from me for I am a sinner." I know I am unworthy of your love, and yet you forgive my sins and raise me to new life in you. Thank you for patiently and faithfully leading me. Give me humility and resolve to keep following you, wherever you lead. Please change my course if I am veering from your path! Holy Spirit, make me more like Jesus every day as I extend his invitation to follow him to my family, friends, neighbors, and those I don't know. Praise you Jesus, for you are the foundation of my faith and the rock on which I stand. In your steadfast name I pray, Amen.

Our Father...