

The Chosen Season 1 Study Guide



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The Chosen is a groundbreaking television series that depicts the life of Jesus Christ through the stories of those who met him. Created by Dallas Jenkins, this multi-season series has captivated audiences with its fresh perspective on the biblical narrative. Season 1 serves as the foundation for the series, introducing key characters, themes, and historical contexts that shape the story of Jesus and his followers. This study guide will provide an in-depth look at Season 1 of The Chosen, exploring its characters, themes, and the biblical accounts that inspired its storytelling.

Overview of The Chosen Season 1

The first season of The Chosen consists of eight episodes, each focusing on different characters and their encounters with Jesus. The series aims to portray the humanity of Jesus and those around him, making the biblical narratives accessible and relatable to modern audiences. It creatively fills in the gaps of the Gospel accounts, offering a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural context of the time.

Episode Breakdown

1. Episode 1: "I Have Called You by Name"
 - Introduces Mary Magdalene, known as Lilith, and her struggles with demons and societal rejection.
 - Sets the stage for the introduction of Jesus.

2. Episode 2: "Shabbat"

- Focuses on the lives of several characters, including Simon Peter and his brother Andrew.
 - Explores themes of family, obligation, and the Jewish practice of Shabbat.
3. Episode 3: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
 - Highlights the childhood of Jesus and his relationship with children.
 - Introduces the character of Matthew, the tax collector.
 4. Episode 4: "The Rock on Which It Is Built"
 - Revolves around Simon Peter's struggles with his fishing business and financial woes.
 - The episode culminates in a miraculous catch of fish.
 5. Episode 5: "The Wedding Gift"
 - Depicts the wedding at Cana, where Jesus performs his first miracle.
 - Explores the significance of community and celebration.
 6. Episode 6: "Indescribable Compassion"
 - Focuses on the healing of a leper and the societal stigma attached to the disease.
 - Highlights Jesus' compassion and willingness to break societal norms.
 7. Episode 7: "Invitations"
 - Centers on the call of Matthew and the reactions of others to his discipleship.
 - Explores themes of acceptance, transformation, and redemption.
 8. Episode 8: "I Am He"
 - Features the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.
 - Addresses themes of identity, truth, and the breaking of cultural barriers.

Main Characters

Understanding the key characters in The Chosen Season 1 is crucial for appreciating the depth of the story. Here are some of the prominent figures:

- Jesus Christ: The central figure of the series, portrayed as compassionate, wise, and deeply human.
- Mary Magdalene (Lilith): A tormented woman who finds hope and healing in Jesus. Her story emphasizes redemption.
- Simon Peter: A fisherman struggling with financial difficulties and personal dilemmas. His character arc is one of growth and faith.
- Matthew: A tax collector, portrayed as meticulous and socially ostracized. His journey illustrates the transformative power of Jesus.
- Nicodemus: A Pharisee who begins to question the religious norms of his

time and seeks understanding of Jesus' teachings.

- Mary (the mother of Jesus): Her role showcases the loving and supportive nature of a mother, as well as the challenges she faces.

Character Analysis

- Jesus: In Season 1, Jesus is depicted not only as a divine figure but also as a relatable person who interacts with various social classes. His kindness and invitation to follow him resonate throughout the season.

- Mary Magdalene: Her transformation from a life of despair to one of hope and purpose is a compelling narrative that highlights the theme of redemption. The series portrays her struggle with demons—both literal and metaphorical—making her one of the most relatable characters.

- Simon Peter: Simon's journey reflects the struggles many face in balancing personal ambition with faith. His initial doubt and eventual acceptance of Jesus' call serve as a microcosm of the larger theme of faith throughout the series.

- Matthew: As a tax collector, Matthew is seen as an outsider, yet his meticulous nature and eventual acceptance into Jesus' circle illustrate the breaking down of social barriers.

Themes in The Chosen Season 1

The Chosen Season 1 delves into several significant themes that resonate with both the biblical narrative and contemporary audiences.

Faith and Doubt

- The series portrays the tension between faith and doubt through characters like Simon Peter and Matthew. Their struggles to believe in something greater than themselves reflect the human condition and the journey toward faith.

Redemption

- Mary Magdalene's transformation is a powerful testament to the theme of redemption. The series emphasizes that no one is beyond the reach of grace and change.

Community and Belonging

- The importance of community is illustrated in various episodes, particularly during the wedding at Cana. The narrative encourages viewers to see the value of relationships and support systems in their lives.

Compassion and Acceptance

- Jesus' interactions with marginalized individuals, such as the leper and the Samaritan woman, highlight the theme of compassion. The series challenges societal norms and invites viewers to embrace a message of love and acceptance.

Historical Context

Understanding the historical and cultural context of the time enhances the viewing experience of The Chosen. The series is set in 1st-century Judea, a time marked by Roman occupation, social stratification, and rigid religious practices.

Social Structure

- The series portrays the hierarchy of society, where tax collectors were despised, and fishermen struggled to make ends meet. This backdrop adds depth to the characters' motivations and interactions.

Religious Landscape

- The Jewish faith and customs are central to the narrative. The show incorporates Jewish traditions, such as Shabbat and the significance of the synagogue, providing viewers with insight into the daily lives of its characters.

Discussion Questions

To encourage deeper reflection on The Chosen Season 1, consider the following discussion questions:

1. How does The Chosen portray the humanity of Jesus? In what ways does this influence your understanding of his character?

2. What role does redemption play in the lives of the main characters? How can these stories inspire individuals today?
3. How does the series challenge traditional perceptions of faith and doubt?
4. In what ways does the series highlight the importance of community? How can this be applied in contemporary settings?
5. How do the historical and cultural contexts enhance your understanding of the biblical narratives presented in the series?

Conclusion

The Chosen Season 1 is a remarkable exploration of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, presented through the lens of those who encountered him. By weaving together personal stories, historical context, and key themes, the series invites viewers to engage with the biblical narrative in a new and profound way. This study guide serves as a tool for deeper exploration and understanding of the characters, themes, and historical backgrounds that shape the story. As audiences continue to follow the journey of Jesus and his followers, the impact of The Chosen will undoubtedly resonate for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary focus of Season 1 of 'The Chosen'?

Season 1 of 'The Chosen' focuses on the life of Jesus Christ and the early stories of his disciples, highlighting their personal struggles and journeys before meeting Him.

How does 'The Chosen' depict the characters of the disciples?

The series portrays the disciples as relatable individuals with their own flaws, backgrounds, and life challenges, providing a deeper understanding of their transformation after meeting Jesus.

What unique storytelling techniques are used in 'The Chosen'?

The show employs a character-driven approach, utilizing flashbacks and personal narratives to explore the backgrounds and motivations of key figures in the New Testament.

How does 'The Chosen' handle the historical context of the time?

The series incorporates historical and cultural elements of first-century Judea, providing viewers with a realistic backdrop that enhances the storytelling and character development.

What role does Mary Magdalene play in Season 1?

Mary Magdalene is portrayed as a pivotal character in Season 1, showing her struggle with demons and addiction, and her eventual transformation and redemption through Jesus.

How is humor integrated into 'The Chosen'?

The show uses humor to create relatable moments and lighten the narrative, showcasing the humanity of the characters and making the story more engaging for viewers.

What themes are prevalent in Season 1 of 'The Chosen'?

Themes of redemption, acceptance, faith, and the transformative power of love are central to Season 1, as characters navigate their personal journeys toward Jesus.

Is 'The Chosen' based on the Bible?

Yes, 'The Chosen' is inspired by the Bible and draws from various Gospel accounts, although it also includes fictionalized elements to enhance character development and storytelling.

How can viewers access 'The Chosen'?

Viewers can access 'The Chosen' through its official app, streaming platforms, and various online services, making it widely available to a global audience.

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