



SEASON THREE

Catholic  
Commentary  
On *The*  
CHOSEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Catholic Commentary on The Chosen* helps Catholics engage with the immensely popular TV series depicting the life of Christ.

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EPISODE 1:  
**HOMECOMING**



In this episode, Dr. Michael Barber and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger dive into Season 3 of *The Chosen* and unpack its first episode: “Homecoming.” Highlighting the episode’s theological significance for Catholics, they reflect on *The Chosen’s* interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew’s response, the mystery of evil, and the call of Judas.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Moved by Jesus’ words, Matthew resolves to make amends with his father. Reflect on Matthew 5-7. What stands out? How does Jesus’ teaching urge you to take action today?
- Grace is God’s life in us. Through grace, we are transformed into Christ. How have you seen grace at work in your life, enabling you to do the impossible and love as Jesus does?
- How does *The Chosen’s* depiction of Judas challenge you to consider the mystery of evil?



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EPISODE 2:  
TWO BY TWO

In this episode, Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger explore Episode 2 of Season 3: “Two by Two.” They consider the real consequences of following Jesus, how Jesus calls his disciples both in spite of and because of their pasts, and how suffering can glorify God when it is transformed by grace.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Matthew hears Jesus and responds with action. Do you hear Jesus speaking to you? How do you respond?
- Jesus wants to send you as he sent the apostles. Pray with Matthew 10. How is the Lord inviting you to be on mission?
- Matthew was a tax collector before following Jesus; Christ used even Matthew’s past for his purposes. What past experience is the Lord leading you away from as he calls you? Ask him to show you how he will use this experience in his plan.
- *The Chosen* presents Little James as having a physical disability. Jesus explains this trial will allow him to give a greater testimony to Jesus’ love. What cross in your own life does the Lord desire to use in this way?



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EPISODE 3:

PHYSICIAN,  
HEAL YOURSELF



Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger are back to discuss Episode 3 of Season 3 of *The Chosen*: “Physician, Heal Yourself.” In this episode, they discuss Jesus’ return to Nazareth, the challenges of portraying the Son of God in media, Jesus’ authoritative display in the synagogue, and his miraculous escape from danger.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Read Luke 4:17-20, 23-30. What stands out to you about this scene? Ask God to speak to you through Sacred Scripture.
- *The Chosen* highlights both Jesus’ divinity and humanity. When you think of Christ, do you focus more on his divinity or humanity? Ask God to help you know Jesus more fully by keeping both natures in mind.
- While in the synagogue, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and proclaims a Jubilee Year. Read Isaiah 61. What stands out? How does Jesus fulfill the words of Isaiah?



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EPISODE 4 AND 5:

CLEAN,  
PARTS 1 & 2



**E4:** *The Chosen* depicts two powerful miracles in “Clean, Part 1”: the healing of the woman with the flow of blood and the raising of Jairus’ daughter. Join Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger for another episode of *Catholic Commentary on The Chosen*. In this episode, they discuss ways *The Chosen* draws on Catholic tradition, the cost of discipleship, and the relationship between faith and reason.

**E5:** Join Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger as they unpack the Catholic and scriptural roots of “Clean, Part 2”, highlighting the ways *The Chosen* brings biblical events to life.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Reflect on both miracles shown in this episode (Mt 9:18-26; Mk 5:21-43; Lk 8:40-56). What stands out? In what ways do you need healing? Talk with Jesus about what arises.
- The goal of every Christian’s life is to reflect Christ. According to tradition, Veronica helps Jesus by caring for his bleeding face—his flow of blood—as he carries the Cross. How are you called to model Christ’s life to those around you? Ask the Father for the grace to be more like his Son.
- Through the purity laws of the Old Testament, Jews were set apart from the rest of the world as God’s chosen people. Which practices in your life show that God has set you apart as one of his own?





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EPISODE 6:  
**INTENSITY IN  
TENT CITY**



Sit down with Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger as they continue discussing Season 3 of *The Chosen*. In this episode, they consider *The Chosen's* increasingly intricate narrative and its portrayal of the complexities of discipleship.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- The show explores the complexities of discipleship. To live as a disciple is not always easy or straightforward! How have you experienced this truth in your own journey?
- Each audience interprets Christ's words differently. When Jesus speaks to you, how do you understand his message of Good News?
- What stood out to you about the presentation of Jesus and the apostles in this episode?



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EPISODE 7:  
**EARS TO HEAR**



Join Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger as they continue discussing Season 3 of *The Chosen*. In this episode, they unpack the historical background of the Decapolis, the depiction of the apostles struggling to understand Jesus' words, and the tradition of John as the beloved disciple.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- The disciples struggle to understand Jesus' words. When you do not understand his teachings, do you wrestle with his words?
- *The Chosen* presents John as the beloved disciple. However, this individual's identity is intentionally left ambiguous throughout the Gospels to encourage you to see yourself in this role. Do you believe that you are beloved by God?
- This episode depicts the disciples discussing their strategies for evangelization. What tactics do you use to share the Gospel?



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EPISODE 8:  
SUSTENANCE

Dr. Barber and Dr. Hefelfinger discuss the last episode of Season 3 of *The Chosen*. In this episode, they consider the scriptural and Jewish tradition of the queen mother, *The Chosen's* depiction of the Pharisees, and the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Scripture and Jewish tradition present the idea of the queen mother, who intercedes with the king on behalf of the subjects. How does Mary ultimately fulfill this role? Ask for her intercession in your life.
- The multiplication of loaves is a eucharistic miracle providing spiritual and material food. How do you understand the Eucharist? Do you believe it is truly Jesus' Body and Blood that nourishes you materially and spiritually? Talk with Jesus about what arises in response to these questions.
- The apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. Where is your own faith lacking? Ask Jesus to increase your faith in these areas.

