

# Group Guide



*For listening, discussion & reflection*

*EPISODE 1- I Have Called You By Name*



*watch | discuss | learn | rejoice*

## The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

### EPISODE 1

#### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Isaiah 43:1
- ▶ John 3:1
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 9:5

#### CHARACTERS

Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Peter and Andrew

#### QUICK SUMMARY

We are introduced to Mary Magdalene & a few of the disciples, getting to know who they are before meeting Jesus. The Pharisee Nicodemus attempts to exorcise a demon-possessed woman in Capernaum's Red Quarter named "Lilith" but is unsuccessful, causing him to question his faith. The brothers Simon and Andrew, who are fishermen, struggle with their tax and gambling debts. Following a failed suicide attempt, "Lilith" returns to her father, who is unable to help. As she is leaving, she encounters Jesus Christ, who

identifies himself as the Creator of humanity and calls her by her true name - Mary Magdalene.

After reading through the summary, watch this episode, then work through the following reflection questions:

#### CONVERSATION STARTER

What were your expectations before watching this first episode?

#### TheBigQuestion:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

#### Bring to Group:

Write a paragraph about how this episode helped you think about Jesus' intentionality and timing in His encounters with people.

## EPISODE 1 QUESTIONS

1. Which characters stood out to you most? Why did they move you?
2. Who was the more identifiable character for you - Nicodemus/Mary Magdalene? Why?
3. Did Peter's marriage surprise you? Why?
4. What did you think about how enticing wealth was for Matthew and yet how hated he was for his willingness to work for Rome and extort his fellow Jews?
5. What were your impressions of Nicodemus and his helplessness before the demon-possessed Mary Magdalene?
6. What did you think about the timing of the appearance of Jesus?
7. In what ways can you identify with Mary Magdalene?
8. Jesus called Mary by name; it was very personal. When have you experienced Jesus pursuing you on a personal level?
9. What does an encounter with Jesus do to people? How is your encounter with Jesus changing YOU?
10. What parts of your "before" has God redeemed, and which are you most grateful for?
11. How does "I have called you by name, you are mine" impact you today?
12. Who is someone in your life who needs to "come and see" Jesus? Pray for that person, then go make the introduction. Trust Jesus to do the convincing.

## PERSONAL NEXT STEPS

**Renew and Refresh** – This week read Luke 8:1-15 and Mark 16:6-11

### Self-Check

- o Take some time this week to timeline key events in your life where you experienced Jesus pursuing you.
- o Are you currently running from Jesus regarding some area or situation in your life? How can remembering Jesus' kindness toward you in the past, influence your decision making in this situation?

**Go Forth** – This episode depicted God's individual pursuit of each person He has created.

- o Who can I share this incredible news with who is outside of my faith community?
- o Who is someone in your life who needs to "come and see" Jesus? Pray for that person, then go make the introduction. Trust Jesus to do the convincing.

**Pray** – Thank God for His relentless pursuit of you. Ask God to help you see where you may be running from Him. Ask Him for courage to turn toward Him with all of the situations you are currently dealing with. Ask God to give you confidence and the words when sharing about faith in Christ.

## QUOTES

*"What if it's more beautiful and strange than we could ever imagine?" (Nicodemus)*