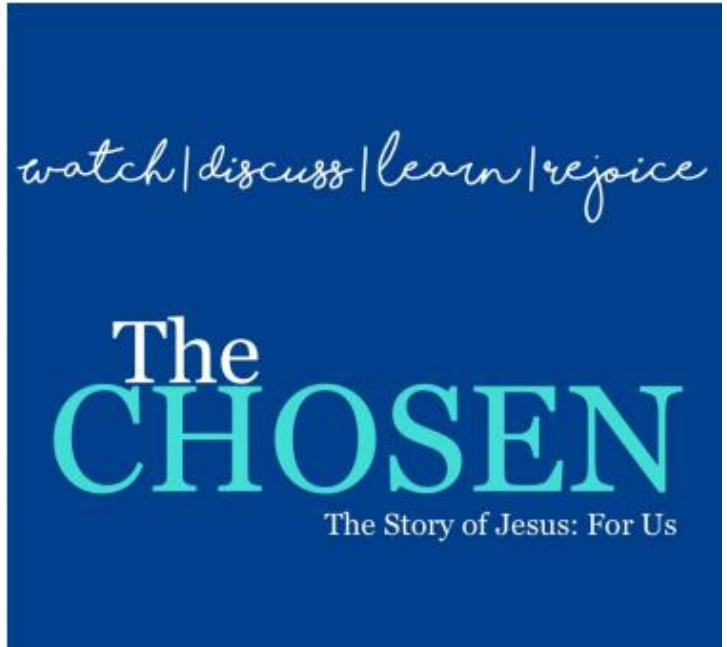


Group Guide



For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 5- The Wedding Gift



EPISODE 5

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Luke 2:41-52
- ▶ 1 Kings 19: 19-21
- ▶ Proverbs 30:4
- ▶ Jeremiah 33:10-16
- ▶ John 2:1-12

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary the Mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Nicodemus, Simon Peter, Thomas

QUICK SUMMARY

In this beautiful, happy episode, we first see Jesus in a definitive moment of His childhood, which provides us important clues to His career ahead. Fast-forward to adulthood: He has begun to call followers, but at first they're confused. Yes, they believe; what do they do next? Nicodemus interrogates John the Baptist while Jesus and his students make their way to a wedding

celebration in Cana. During the ceremony, Jesus' mother Mary makes a special request.

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

CONVERSATION STARTER

What did you hear or see that first created a curiosity about Jesus in you?

TheBigQuestion:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? Which character, event or line stood out to you most? Why?

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

EPISODE 5 QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Jesus' parents struggled in raising him?
2. What did you think of Eden's response to Peter's calling?
3. Instead of condemning John, Nicodemus sat down and said "Tell me about your ministry." When was the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said "Tell me more."
4. In the opening scene, Mary's desires and expectations collided with Jesus's. Even though Jesus's relationship with the Father ranks higher than Jesus's relationship with Mary, Jesus assented to Mary's wishes. What does this story tell us about obedience and listening to family?
5. Who has been praying for you through your life hoping for you to find purpose in following Jesus? Have you found that purpose? How has it changed your path?
6. As Jesus was turning the water into wine, Thaddeus told Mary Magdalene: "Once you make that first cut into the stone, it can't be undone. It sets into motion a series of choices ...and it will never be the same." Jesus made a deliberate choice when he began his public ministry, and he knew where that choice would lead him and his followers. Do I recognize where following Jesus might lead me—and do I still want to follow him throughout this life and into the Next? Are these moments when I feel it's too hard?
7. In the episode, Mary Magdalene was quite content not knowing where Jesus was leading them. How do you deal with not knowing where Jesus is leading you?
8. In the episode, Thomas witnessed his first miracle and begins his journey of belief. How much "seeing" do you need in order to believe?

PERSONAL NEXT STEPS

Renew and Refresh – This week read John 2:1-11; Luke 2:41-52

Self-Check

- o Who could I bless this week like Jesus blessed the people at the wedding at Cana?
- o How can picturing Jesus having fun with His followers improve how you interact with Him? Are you having enough fun as you journey with Christ?

Go Forth – Is there a "doubting Thomas" in your life that you could have a faith conversation with?

Pray – Thank the heavenly Father for permitting us to ask anything in Jesus name.

QUOTES

Nicodemus to John the Baptist: *"I am looking in places I would never go because I am searching for an explanation for something I cannot unsee."*
"I hope my next students ask the same questions. I hope when the time comes, they will tell others about me like you have." (Jesus)