

Group Guide



For listening, discussion & reflection

S2 EPISODE 4- The Perfect Opportunity



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The
CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 4

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ John 5:1-16
- ▶ Psalm 69:9
- ▶ Zechariah 8:20-23
- ▶ Exodus 20:8-11

CHARACTERS

Jesus, the disciples, Simon the Zealot, Jesse (the invalid), Shmuel (Pharisee), Atticus (Roman inspector), Rufus (Roman procurator), Zealots

QUICK SUMMARY

As Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, a new enemy follows them, while a familiar enemy awaits.

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

CONVERSATION STARTER

Do you think miracles still happen? Why or why not?

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 4 QUESTIONS

1. In the episode when Jesus mentioned “everyone has had wilderness experiences,” what do you think He meant?
2. In history, the Jewish Zealots justified using force and violence to preserve their religion. What is Jesus’ way of bringing people to faith in God?
3. The paralyzed man and his brother both responded to pain and suffering in different ways – yet ways that would not end their pain. What is your default to ease your pain but really doesn’t help?
4. In the episode, when Jesus was asked why He didn’t wait until sundown to perform the miracle, He replied, “Sometimes you have to stir up the water.” What do you think He meant?
5. Simon the Zealot and Jesse (invalid by the Pool of Bethesda) are creatively connected as brothers by the series. How did the back story give you insight into the misery of Jesse whom John 5:5 tells us had been disabled for 38 years? How might his presence at the Pool of Bethesda indicate his desire to be healed?
6. What was the stated goal of the Zealots? Why were they able to justify murder? How can someone be so passionate for God and be so wrong as to how to please Him? (Freebie: Mark 15:7 hints that Barabbas may have been a Zealot.)
7. Simon, the Zealots and Pharisees all wanted to please God. Who are you praying for to embrace grace and turn from legalism?
8. As you witnessed the disciples’ preparation for the Festival of Booths, what thoughts did you have about the significance of religious

tradition/heritage? About the importance of experiencing God in community?

9. Jesus knew who He was looking for at the pool. He went seeking Jesse. Who are you “looking for” to experience Jesus?

10. Jesus told Jesse the pool had nothing to offer him. What do we turn to that cannot satisfy/provide/help you? In what ways do you turn to a “pool” instead of Jesus?

11. As Jesse carried out his mat, he was confronted by Shmuel who accused him of working on the Sabbath. How did this example of legalism gone rogue impact you? How/when might you be guilty of a similar mindset?

PERSONAL NEXT STEPS

Renew and Refresh – This week read John 5:1-16.

Self-Check

- o How do you answer Jesus’ question, “Do you want to be healed?”
- o What false belief are you letting keep you paralyzed?

Go Forth – Who do you know that is far from God that might be moved closer to belief if they were to watch this episode?

Pray – Thank God for Jesus’ healing power that is always available to you. Ask God to help you overcome your reliance on counterfeit solutions that are holding you back.

QUOTES

“You're not coming back here. That life is over. Everything changes now.” – Jesus

“I know a thing or two about prophecies that sound impossible.” - Mary