

The CHOSEN

Episode 3 Guide

Length of episode: 38 minutes

Key Bible Verse

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. When he had placed his hands on them and blessed them, he went from there" -Matthew 19:14-15

Meet the Characters

This remarkable episode features Jesus interacting with a group of children and no other characters.



The main characters among the children are named Abigail and Joshua. Although we do not see these children named in Scripture, they represent the many children Jesus would have interacted with throughout the course of His ministry. Jesus' love for and protection of children is clear in passages like this:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. - Matthew 18:1-6 (see also Matthew 19:13-15 and 21:14-17)

Wait – is that in the Bible?

Did Jesus hang out with kids like this?

We have no record of Jesus encountering children early in his ministry, but based on Matthew 18:1-6, 19:13-15, and 21:14-17, such situations would not be surprising.

Did Jesus camp out on his own?

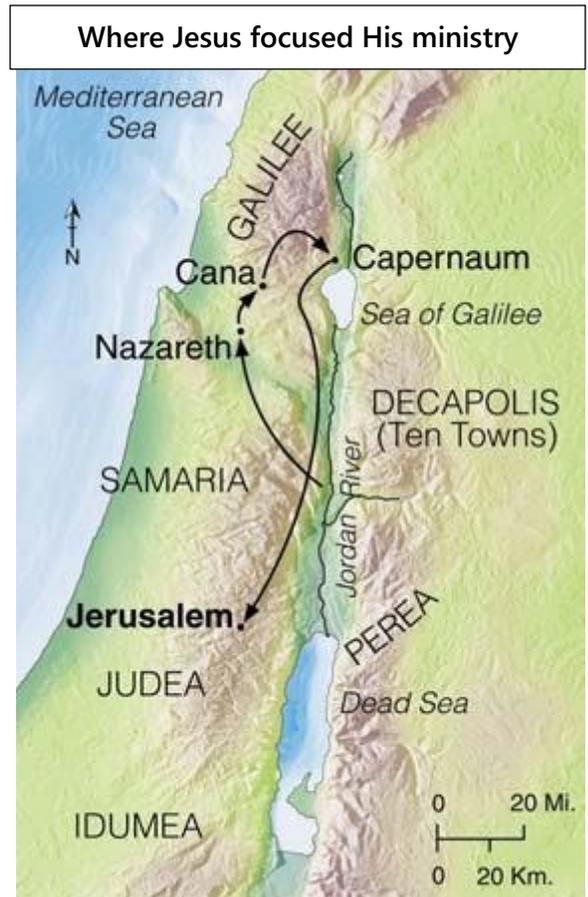
We have no record of Jesus setting up a camp like this, but He does say “the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). We know he stayed in homes of others later in his ministry, but we do not know of his situation early on.

What is the “Shema” that the children recited?

The “Shema” is Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and is considered a confession of faith Jews. “Shema” is the word “Hear” that begins Deuteronomy 6:4. The Shema is recited twice daily by Jews and also includes Deut 11:13-21 & Num 15:37-41.

Did Jesus pray with such anguish to the Father?

There is no record of such anguish early in his ministry, though he certainly toils in prayer on the night of his arrest (Matthew 26:36-46). And he often withdraws from crowds in Scripture to be alone with the Father (Mark 1:35). So this depiction is not inconsistent with the pattern in the gospels.



Discussion Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. We saw Jesus building a fire, cooking, washing his feet, sleeping, waking up, praying, singing, working, brushing his teeth and washing, and of course playing a lot with children. What was it like to experience the humanity of Jesus on display?
3. Why do you think the creators of The Chosen devoted a whole episode to Jesus interacting with children?
4. Read Matthew 18:1-6, 19:13-15, and 21:14-17. What do we learn about what Jesus thinks of children in these passages?
5. Jesus says we must “change and become like little children” in order to enter heaven. What does he mean by that?
6. How can we continue to nurture a childlike faith and wonder in Jesus even when we mature in our walk with Him?
7. How can you be more attentive and affectionate toward the children in your home, church, and neighborhood, like Jesus?
8. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?

For Further Study

Read more about the humanity of Jesus that was on display in this episode:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/jesus-is-fully-human>