

The CHOSEN

Episode 4 Guide

Length of episode: 47 minutes

Key Bible Verse

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed Him.
Matthew 4:19

Meet the Characters



John the Baptizer – *Matthew 3, 11:1-19, 14:1-12, Luke 1:5-25, 57-80, John 1*
Miraculously conceived shortly before his cousin Jesus, he was the foretold forerunner of Jesus who called Jews to repent in preparation for Messiah. After a faithful ministry, he was imprisoned for his unpopular message and beheaded by Herod. Jesus tags him "greatest of those born of women."



Zebedee, James & John – *Mark 3:17, Luke 5:1-11*
Zebedee is the father of James & John, who along with Peter become Jesus' closest disciples. Nicknamed by Jesus as the "sons of thunder," they were fishing partners with Peter, and like Peter they left everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of Luke 5. They live up to their nickname multiple times in the gospels (Luke 9:54 for instance). John goes on to write a gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelation in the Bible.

Peter – *John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72*
A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. He is brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier's ear, denying Jesus before the cross, and writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – *John 1:40-42, 6:8-9*

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for bringing his brother to Jesus right away. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch. He also plays a key role in the feeding of the 5,000.

Wait – is that in the Bible?

Did John the Baptizer call the Pharisees “snakes”?

Yes – a “brood of vipers” in fact (Luke 3:7). And John was eventually thrown into prison. However, we have no record of Nicodemus visiting John in prison.

Did the Romans hire Matthew to spy on Peter?

We have no record of this in the gospels. All we know is that Matthew did collect taxes somewhere in the region of Galilee, where Peter and Andrew lived. We do not know if they knew each other before Jesus called them together.

Did Andrew try to convince Peter about Jesus?

Yes, “the first thing Andrew did (after meeting Jesus) was to find his brother Simon and tell him ‘We have found the Messiah!’” (John 1:41). However, unlike the plot of *The Chosen*, Simon goes right away to Jesus, and Jesus changes his name to “Peter” (John 1:42). Peter and Andrew, along with other disciples, follow Jesus for some time (maybe even a year!) before the miraculous catch of Luke 5. So, although *The Chosen* depicts that catch as Peter’s first encounter with Jesus, Peter would have had many encounters with Jesus before that. Still, there is no doubt that Peter in transformed by the miraculous catch of Luke 5 and, along with the other fisherman, commits to more fully following Jesus at that point.



Discussion Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. In this episode, we see Peter “stuck between a rock and a hard place.” Have you ever felt stuck like this? What did you do? What did God do?
3. Peter is committed to trying to fix things with his own ideas and strength, even saying at one point “Faith isn’t going to get me more fish!” Why do you think we can be so stubborn and slow to call on the Lord for help by faith?
4. Read Luke 5:1-11. What stands out to you in this passage?
5. Regardless of the full back story to Luke 5:1-11, why do you think Peter was so moved by this miraculous catch?
6. In Luke 5:5, Peter demonstrates a “reluctant obedience.” However, this obedience sets him up to more fully encounter Jesus, which then leads to a “radical obedience”! What can we learn from this?
7. 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 this commentary on Luke 5:1-11:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/15-how-hook-fisherman-luke-51-11>