

# The CHOSEN

Episode 7 Guide

Length of episode: 35 minutes

## Key Bible Verse

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

## Meet the Characters



**Matthew** – *Luke 5:27-32*

Also known as Levi, he was a despised tax collector when Jesus called him from his tax booth to follow Him as one of the 12. He “left everything and followed him” and invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus. He also wrote the gospel of Matthew.

**Nicodemus** – *John 3:1-21, 7:45-52, 19:38-42*

A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme religious and political council in Jerusalem during New Testament times. His encounter with Jesus in John 3 is the occasion for the well-known verse John 3:16. He boldly helps to bury Jesus after the crucifixion.



**Mary Magdalene** – *Luke 8:2-3, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-18*

One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been “cured of evil spirits and diseases” and were following Jesus. She had been delivered from seven demons. She is there with Jesus at the cross and is the first one Jesus appears to when He is risen.

**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 Moses make a bronze serpent in the Old Testament?**

Yes, and anyone who lifted up his head to look at it on the pole was saved (Numbers 21:4-9). Jesus illustrates from this account in order to help Nicodemus understand his need to believe in Him and be born again (John 3:1-15).

### **Did Matthew leave just like that to follow Jesus?**

Matthew (9:9), Mark (2:14), and Luke (5:27-28) tell us that Matthew left everything after Jesus said "Follow me." The show helps us to imagine the drama of that moment!

### **Did Quintus express concern to Nicodemus about Jesus?**

There is no "Quintus" in the Bible although there are centurions like him. The gospels do reveal plenty of political tension early in Jesus' ministry (Mark 3:6), but we do not see this kind of conversation with Nicodemus.

### **Was Matthew rejected by his parents?**

The gospels do not comment on Matthew's parents, but the portrayal of him as a traitor is accurate to how he would have been viewed by his own people.

### **Was Nicodemus born again?**

We don't know for sure, but we see Nicodemus identifying with Jesus unashamedly twice later (John 7:45-52, 19:38-42).

## Discussion Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. What ideas or images come to mind when you hear the term "born again"?
3. In your own words, explain what Jesus meant when He said one cannot see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.
4. What do you think Peter was feeling when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him?
5. Jesus tells Peter to "get used to different." What are some ways you have had to "get used to different" as you have grown in knowing and following Jesus?
6. Jesus tells Nicodemus there is a lot he would give up, but much more he would gain in following Him. What have you gained from following Christ that has been greater than what you gave up?
7. So far, which of the characters can you most relate with as you think about their various spiritual journeys?
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

Learn more about being born again:

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference\\_media/you-must-be-born-again](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference_media/you-must-be-born-again)

