

# The Chosen

## Episode 1



Most of this episode introduces backstories on several people, including:

- Mary of Magdala / Mary Magdalene – Luke 8:1-3 (*Maps* are on other side)
- Nicodemus: Rabbi / Teacher of Israel – John 3:1-36 and John 19:38-42
- Matthew / Levi: Tax Collector – Matthew 9:9-13
- Simon Peter: Fisherman – John 1:35-42
- Andrew: Simon Peter's brother and also a fisherman – John 1:35-42



Also several background issues are introduced, including:

- Roman Occupation of Israel: Romans despise Jews and Jews hate Romans
- Demon possession: *We're not afraid of you. You have no power here, Teacher.* Nicodemus tries but fails to deliver Mary from multiple demons
- Red Quarter: places of gambling, drinking and prostitution
- Fishing on the Sabbath: Can a good Jew fish on the Sabbath / Shavat? Why don't the Romans patrol the Sea of Galilee on the Sabbath?
- Roman collection of taxes: they place a heavy toll on the average Jew. Peter & Andrew try to pay off their debts by fighting and gambling, but to no avail
- Peter decides to turn in his fellow Jewish fishermen to the Romans for fishing on Sabbath to repay his debt, but Andrew wants nothing to do with it
- Tax collectors: like Matthew are despised by both Romans and Jews. Matthew has to hide in a wagon in order to arrive safely at the place of collection; he also has a Roman Guard named Gaius to protect him from his own people



Where is *The Chosen*: Jesus?

- He appears only in the very last scene
- He appears in a speak-easy / bar and meets Mary there
- He delivers Mary from demons in a strong, yet tender way:  
*Mary. Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.* Isaiah 43:1 and Mark 16:9



Discussion Questions:

1. In this first episode what caught your attention / confused you / surprised you?
2. Is this how you would start the story of Jesus? If not, how would you?
3. Where did you see *legalism* in this episode? How about *grace*? How about oppression? Freedom?
4. Why were tax collectors so despised / why was Matthew hated by his own people?
5. How did the beginning of Mary's story relate to the last scene between her and Jesus?
6. Considering the stories of fisherman owing taxes, Roman occupation, Mary's exorcism, how do you think this episode will set up future episodes in *The Chosen*?

# FOR THE FAMILY:

Activities to help families connect with and reflect on The Chosen together.



## Map Challenge:

1. Color the bodies of water blue.
2. Find "Bethlehem" and circle it in any color you want. This is where Jesus was born!
3. Find "Nazareth" and draw a squiggly around it. This is where Jesus grew up!
4. Find "Magdala" and put a diamond around it in any color you want. This is where Mary/Lilith was from!
5. Find "Capernaum" and put a box around it in any color you want. This is where the action happens in Episode 1!
6. Color the area of the Decapolis green.
7. Color the area of Samaria/Judea/Idumea purple.
8. Color the area of Perea red.
9. Color the area of Trachonitis orange.
10. Color the area of Galilee red.



## Make a Connection:

"I have called you by name. You are mine."

Discuss names in your family. Go to [www.behindthename.com](http://www.behindthename.com) (there are many other name websites you can also find) or use a baby name book. Talk about why you chose your child's name. Tell the meaning of it and/or the family history.

## Talk About It:

- Read *Psalms 139:13-17*. God knew everything about you before you were even born! How does that encourage you?
- How would you feel if you met Jesus at a restaurant or store? Would you be afraid? Nervous? Excited? Where do you know you will meet Him someday?
- At the end of the episode, why did Mary stop running from Jesus and end up hugging Him?