**STUDY GUIDE – EPISODE ONE**

**I Have Called You by Name**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ISAIAH 43: 1 – 5**

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; and the flames shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your saviour. … Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you. … Fear not, for I am with you.

**ONE ON ONE CONVERSATION**

What word or phrase struck you from the reading?

What do you think God is saying to you through this?

**NOTES ON TABLE CONVERSATIONS**

* Sharing is optional. Each person shares on the level where they feel comfortable.
* Listen respectfully and openly. There is no discussion or commenting on what is shared.
* Participants are encouraged to share in the first person – I feel…
* Participants are encouraged to wait to share a second time until others who wish to do so have spoken.
* Anything shared in the group is confidential and does not leave the group. It is meant to be a gift for this group alone.

**TABLE TALK**

* What character stood out most for you? Why? Which character did you identify with most?
* What impacted you most in this episode and why?
* What did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Was your impression or understanding of Jesus sharpened, challenged or changed?
* Do you have a scripture passage that brings you comfort in difficult times?
* Isaiah 43 reminds us God loves us & is with us: that we belong to God – can you remember times you have experienced God’s love & presence?

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

* What have you taken home to ponder and pray about?
* We have been shown each character’s life before their encounter with Jesus. What do you think an encounter with Jesus may look like? How can an encounter with Jesus change you? Have you ever experienced a major life change as a result of encountering Jesus? What happened?
* Jesus called Mary by name – it was very personal. Have you ever experienced Jesus calling you on a personal level? Do you believe Jesus knows you by name?
* Redeemed, called by name, you are mine – how can you remind yourself of this truth? What does “I have called you by name, you are mine” mean to you? How does this impact your life today? When have you needed a reminder that you belong to God?
* Prayer Points
  + Thank Jesus for being your Saviour and loving you.
  + Ask God to help you remember daily that Jesus knows you by name and has redeemed you.
  + Pray for the grace to turn to God in any difficult situations you are dealing with today.
  + Ask God for the wisdom to help others who need to know they are loved by God.
  + What from this experience of this episode would you like to bring to God in prayer?
* Read Luke 4: 14 – 21 where Jesus reads from Isaiah in the Old Testament and claims he is fulfilling the scripture as Messiah.
* Read Luke 4:31 – 37 where Jesus delivers someone from a demon – similar to how he might have delivered Mary Magdalene.
* Read Psalm 139 and remember how much God knows and loves you.