**THE CHOSEN – EPISODE SEVEN**

**INVITATIONS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God gives us the waters of new life. Come, people of God, let us open our lives to receive God’s living water. Let us open our hearts to sing God’s praise. O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. Make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Make us places of refreshment. Root us and establish us in love, help us hear the cries of those who are in need and who thirst for justice this day. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**Isaiah 41:17 – 18**

When the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I, the Lord, will answer them, I will not forsake them, I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water.

**PSALM 63**

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God**

O God, you are my God, I long for you.

My body seeks you as in a dry and weary land without water.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God**

I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and your glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God**

So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God**

For you have been my help and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me up.

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God**

**TABLE TALK EPISODE SEVEN**

* What impacted you most in this episode? So far which character can you most relate with as you think about their various spiritual journeys?
* Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew decided to answer Jesus’ call to follow him? How do you experience Jesus calling you? What have you risked to follow Jesus?
* Jesus and Nicodemus talked about the nature of the Holy Spirit. How do you recognize the effect of the Holy Spirit in your life?
* Jesus tells Nicodemus there is a lot he would give up but more he would gain in following him. What have you gained from following Jesus that has been greater than what you gave up?
* Explain the difference between knowing about Jesus and being an established believer.

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION EPISODE SEVEN**

* While faith and reason are not opposites, expressing faith in God invites us to move beyond our own finite levels of human comprehension and control. Can you describe a time when your experience with God invited you to move beyond your own capacity?
* What do you think Jesus is inviting you to do to help him build his kingdom?
* Reflect on Nicodemus’ journey to Jesus. What causes led to Matthew and Nicodemus to respond so differently to Jesus’ invitation?
* What comes to mind when you reflect on the term “born again”? In your own words, explain what Jesus meant when he said one cannot see the kingdom of God unless on is born again?

**PRAYER POINTS EPISODE SEVEN**

In scripture, Jesus often retreats to be alone, to think and to pray. Do you take time to be alone with God? What is your prayer life like – how do you pray, when, where, how often? Do you think your prayer life needs help?

* Thank God for sending Jesus as our Redeemer.
* Ask God for ever-increasing faith.
* Thank God for the gift of eternal life. Ask God to help you follow Christ more closely.
* Ask God to help you give up to God the things that still hold you back from following Jesus more closely.
* Pray for patience and compassion to accept all people whom Jesus has called into the Body of Christ.

**SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS EPISODE SEVEN**

Read John 3:19 – 21.

* In what ways is Jesus like light? In what ways are people asleep?
* What in your life and heart are you still keeping in the dark, away from the transforming light of Jesus?

**TABLE TALK EPISODE EIGHT**

* What impacted you most in this episode?
* As you think back over the whole season, what has impacted you most about Jesus? In what ways has your understanding of Jesus been sharpened, challenged, or changed as a result of viewing this first season?
* What do you think Nicodemus missed out on by not following Jesus when others did? In the scene where Nicodemus makes the decision not to follow Jesus, what do you think he was weighing out in his mind as he made the choice?
* In this episode, the disciples are introduced to radical change in their lives. What new things are you afraid Jesus might lead you to? Feel free to name more than one.
* The disciples were asked to travel throughout the region, telling people about Jesus with no provisions of their own. What do you imagine your response to Jesus would be if he asked the same of you?
* In this first season of The Chosen, we have seen Jesus heal the sick, forgive sin, and remove shame. Share about how he has done one of these things for you.
* Samaritan women were regarded by Jews as ritually impure, and therefore Jews were forbidden to drink from any vessel they had handled. What was significant about Jesus choosing to talk to a Samaritan woman? How can you model that today?

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

* In this episode, Jesus explains he asked Simon to make sacrifices ion order to follow Jesus. What sacrifices have you made to Follow Jesus?
* Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, freeing him to journey with Jesus. What would you like Jesus to heal in your life to free you to follow him more closely?
* On their journey through Samaria, the disciples were questioning Jesus every time something did not go as expected. In what ways do you wrestle in your faith to trust God and not doubt God when things don’t go as you expected?
* What tangible activity may God be calling you to say or do as a disciple to put your faith into action?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* Thank Jesus for his patience and compassion in your life as a disciple.
* Give thanks to the God who sees you, in all of your gifts, needs and brokenness.
* Ask God to help you be open to interacting with people from different backgrounds and to share with them the living water that Jesus offers.

All **material for The Chosen** can be found at <http://windsorheritageparishes.ca/the-chosen/>

**The Shepherd – The Chosen** youtube.com/watch?v=9DmTXsg3AWY

**The Messengers – The Chosen** youtube.com/watch?v=m0hdRaw2Boo&t=21s