**DISCUSSION AND STUDY GUIDE FOR THE CHOSEN – SEASON THREE**

**EPISODE ONE – HOMECOMING**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 5: 38 - 45**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other cheek to them as well. If anyone wants to go to the law with you over a tunic, hand them your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with them for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on the one who wants to borrow. You have heard it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father who makes the sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”

**BLESSING: NUMBERS 6: 24 - 27**

May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord shine his face upon you and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace, Amen.

**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 quote was the most meaningful or impactful to you? Why**?**
* Which characters stood out to you the most? Which were the most interesting? Which were the most moving?
* Jesus’ teaching in the sermon on the Mount seems like upside down thinking for our world. Which of his teachings impacted your thoughts the most after hearing it just now?
  + Was there a teaching that really connected with you – why is it significant and how does it connect with what is going on in your life right now?
  + What do you need to do to respond to Jesus’ words?
  + Could you see that the disciples were moved by Jesus’ words? What showed they were moved?
* Joanna takes Andrew to see John the Baptist. What did John mean when he told Andrew, “In all that he said to those 100’s of people, there was something just for you. There always is.”
* How have you experienced that when reading scripture, listening to a homily, reading a spiritual book?
* The Judas – Jesus interaction. What are your thoughts? Jesus knows Judas will betray him and yet he welcomed him into the family – why do you think Jesus did this? What does that say about Jesus and how he is with us in our lives?
* Jesus asks Judas “Are you ready to do hard things? What hard things has God asked you to do and have you been successful? A more challenging question – what hard things has God asked you to do but you have not listened and followed? Why?
* At the beginning of the episode, Matthew expresses his skepticism over what God has done for “our people” in 100 years? In 50 years? When have you ever felt overlooked by God? How did it impact your life and your relationships?
* Joseph the Pharisee is recording what is happening in Capernaum. Who is Jairus and what does he recommend that Joseph do with his writing? Why? Why didn’t Joseph seal his scroll before he gave it to Jairus for the cellar?
* Matthew’s father has disowned him in this episode. Do you think there is anything you can do that would cause your heavenly Father to disown you? Why or why not?
* Why do you think Jesus taught his followers to reconcile with other people before trying to make it right with their heavenly Father?
* According to Jesus, who has a responsibility to seek reconciliation? How does Jesus illustrate the urgency of pursuing reconciliation? Why is seeking reconciliation so urgent? Why is forgiveness so powerful?
* Andrew and Matthew each acted on what they heard from Jesus’ sermon. What were the results of each? What was your reaction to what Matthew’s father says to him in the doorway?

**SCRIPTURE CONNECTED TO THIS EPISODE**

This scripture can be accessed at The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops’ website

bible.usccb.org/bible

* Numbers 6: 24 – 27 priestly prayer of Aaron

**Segments of sermon on mount from episode**

* Matthew 5:21 – 26 seek reconciliation before bringing gift to altar
* Matthew 5: 38 – 40 offer no resistance to one who is evil
* Matthew 5: 43 – 45 love your enemies
* Matthew 6:25 – 33 do not worry about your life
* Matthew 7: 12 Do unto others whatever you would have them do to you
* Matthew 7:24 – 27 person who built house on rock