



JESUS

Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. Propheted Messiah. He is just beginning His ministry and is in the process of choosing His disciples.



JOHN

Brother to Big James, and son of Zebedee. Previously a fisherman. A key follower of Jesus and the eventual author of the Gospel of John. Known as beloved by Jesus, Himself.



SIMON PETER

Husband to Eden, brother to Andrew, is following Jesus with passion. He is brash at times, but a natural leader. Someone that many in the group look up to.



MATTHEW

Previously a tax collector. Looked down on by some in the group. Acts as a scribe recording Jesus words and deeds. Eventual author of the Gospel of Matthew.



Simon the Zealot

Devoted to serving God by destroying the enemies of Israel. Has his beliefs challenged when Jesus does a miracle.



Jesse

The invalid at the pool of Bethesda, portrayed as Simon the Zealot's brother. Disabled for 38 years.

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

SEASON 2 / EPISODE 4



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

First Congo Lenten Series

Episode 4

Scriptural References

- John 5:1-16 - Healing at the pool
- Psalm 69:9 - quoted (Zealots)
- Zechariah 8:20-23 - quoted
- Exodus 20:8-11 - Sabbath command (10 commandments)

Story Background / Cultural Context

Jesus and his disciples have made their way to Jerusalem for the Festival of Tabernacles. This festival brings Jews from all over the world to Jerusalem. Tensions are high with the Pharisees; however, Jesus knows of a man needing healed at a pagan pool.

The artistic backstory of Simon the Zealot are introduced along with many historically accurate practices of the zealot sect of Judaism.

Episode Quote

"You're not coming back here. That life is over. Everything changes now" - Simon Peter

Discussion Questions

- Which characters stood out to you most? Why?
- What did learn from this episode regarding: Sabbath practices, Festival of Tabernacles, and the zealots?
- John 5:5 tells us that Jesse was disabled for 38 years, what does his presence at the pool say about his desire to be healed?
- What was the stated goal of the zealots? In what ways can passionate people be so wrong about God's Will? (Mark 15:7 was Barrabas a zealot?)
- Jesus tells Jesus that the pool has nothing to offer him, in what ways do we turn to a "pool" instead of Jesus?
- Take time to pray together.