



Intro to Discussion on “The Chosen”

Content below adapted from “Bread for Beggars.”

This is an independent discussion group.

- This is *not* a companion study by the show writers. This discussion guide was put together by the Pastor at Rock of Ages Evangelical Lutheran in Payson, Arizona.

The Chosen is NOT the Bible.

- The opening credits of The Chosen include the following statement: **The Chosen is based on the true stories of the gospels of Jesus Christ; some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all biblical and historical content and artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the gospels.**

The Chosen is family friendly BUT best for adults and older children.

- The first episode has a couple of scenes that are a bit scary. Otherwise, the show is very watchable even with younger children. However, before you watch the show with your children, be sure to explain to them that the show is based on the Bible and that there are parts of the show that are NOT in the Bible. Whether you watch alone or with your family, after you watch, open your Bible and read the accounts the episode is based upon; then compare and discuss them.

The Chosen should cause you to read and dig into God’s Word in the Bible.

The Chosen is biblical historical fiction.

- It is based on the true stories of the gospels and real history, but still an interpretation.
- If you have read anything by Lynn Austin or Francine Rivers you have experienced biblical historical fiction. Consider some newer works such as “I Was There When the Giant Fell” written by my college and seminary classmate Adam Nitz. It’s the story of David defeating Goliath told through the eyes of a fictional character Benaiah. Like, “I Was There When the Giant Fell,” The Chosen drops the viewer into the life and times of Jesus and his disciples.

The Chosen will not appeal to or engage everyone.

Don’t get your theology from entertainers.

Why watch or read biblical historical fiction or Christian entertainment?

- The goal of this study group is to grow in discernment and learn how to best evaluate and how to best make use of this series and any other Christian-based entertainment source such as novels, music, and movies.

Perspective from the writer, Dallas Jenkins, who grew up Baptist.

-The Chosen creator and writer Dallas Jenkins in 2019 interview with Bread for Beggars Curator Mark Parsons and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Student Tyler Swiderski. (Unlisted YouTube video link <https://youtu.be/RhLWzlfjiGU>)

- *“I’m an Evangelical; it’s coming from an Evangelical perspective.”*
- *“I was a Bible major in college, I’ve been a believer my whole life.”*
- *“We don’t necessarily want it on television or Netflix ...because in Hollywood the golden rule is those who have the gold make the rules.”*
- *“It’s not Scripture. It’s a show. It’s a historical show based on history, based on Scripture, based on the historical context of the time. We are not the Word of God.”*
- *“It’s meant to be a show you can enjoy just like any other show... but obviously there are deeper truths to be found.”*
- *“I don’t want the show to be treated like it’s Scripture.”*