



EPISODE 3 – JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

The CHOSEN Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and asked, "Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child, had him stand in the middle of them, and said, "Amen I tell you: Unless you are turned and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives a little child like this one in my name receives me. (Matthew 18:1-5)

Watch

Historical fiction often introduces new characters in order to elaborate on a theme. This episode introduces Abigail and Joshua, two children who interact with Jesus.

Discuss

- 1) Describe how "The Chosen" presents Jesus' mode of living at this time. Evaluate this interpretation based on what we know from history and Scripture.
- 2) Jesus did live a hard life on the road. Note the way the episode showed him bandage a wound. He lived as "a man who was well acquainted with suffering." (Is 53:3) Why is this truth significant?
- 3) It wasn't uncommon for Jesus to be alone. Read Luke 5:16 to see what he often did while alone. How well did this episode capture that truth?
- 4) List some examples this episode gave of Jesus showing concern for children.
- 5) Evaluate: was there anything in this episode which could be misleading or misunderstood as contradicting Scripture?
- 6) Share: This is historical fiction. Did it offer you any helpful perspectives on the culture of the time? Did anything help you appreciate anything found in the true gospel accounts?
- 7) Identify: the main theme(s) of this episode and discuss how they fit with the themes found in Scripture.

Learn

- a) Compare this presentation with the prophecy of the Messiah in Isaiah 40:11

- b) List some of the accounts in the New Testament when Jesus interacts with children and compare it with what is found in episode 3.

- c) Apply: What makes a good teacher? Brainstorm at least three ways Christians can better reflect the love of God to children.

- d) How are the children's different opinions of Jesus reflected in what we see today?

- e) Note how Jesus expresses a surprising opinion regarding his future adult disciples. He often used children to rebuke his disciples for their pride. Share some occasions when we might need this same reminder.

Rejoice

- 1) In this episode Jesus discusses his work of calling people. It is followed with the dialogue at the bottom of this page. Expand on how this quote conveys sin and grace.

- 2) In order to redeem us Jesus had to become like one of us. How does this episode show this and emphasize this in ways you maybe hadn't thought of before?

- 3) This episode presents Jesus nearly driven to tears as he hears the children proudly praying the "Shema" they were taught at a very young age. Centuries had passed by this time when the people of Israel had often spoke what was right but didn't always respond to the Word with faith. Briefly recount the unfaithfulness of the children of Israel in Scripture and contrast it with God's unfailing love for them and desire to gather them (Mt 23:37). How does his faithfulness in coming in the flesh to redeem sinners change your faith to a childlike joy?

Abigail: "What if they don't like you?" Jesus: "Many won't. This is my reason for being here."
