THE ROCK ON WHICH IT IS BUILT

THE CHOSEN – SEASON 1 EPISODE 4 • **TIPS:** Start with initial thoughts about the episode. Feel free to spend more than one discussion on any episode as necessary. **NOTES:** Episode time markers and additional content are shown in **BLUE CAPS**.
Please be mindful that episode content is dramatized and at times not directly biblical.

IN CONTROL **WHOLE EPISODE**

Simon doesn't really seem like disciple material. As his life spirals out of control, he takes matters into his own hands. Do you relate to Simon? We often want to do things our way, and think we know what's best. Even after Jesus enters our lives, we usually still want to do things our way.

- How is Simon trapped? What does he do in response?
- Has this portrayal of Simon stretched your idea of what the disciples were like?
- What areas of life are hardest to relinquish control of?
- Eden (Simon's wife) asks him, *"Where is your faith?"* Discuss Simon's response to Eden, and his response to Andrew's news of the Messiah. Why isn't it possible to follow Christ and remain in control? What do the words *surrender* and *submission* mean to you?
- Discuss Simon's crying out to God in the night while he fished. What do you think of his explanation of the Israelites' relationship with God? Share a time when you debated if God was really present in your life.

Read John 1:35-42 and Luke 5:1-11.

- Compare the Bible verses with the dramatic portrayals in the episode. What is different? How did the visual interpretation add meaning to the words?
- Talk about Simon's interaction with Jesus after the catch of fish. What different emotions do you think he felt? How did you feel about Jesus' response to Simon?
- Leaving everything behind was quite literal for the disciples; their livelihoods were dependent on their boats and fishing gear, not to mention their time on the water. But when Simon realized Jesus was the Messiah, his want for control disappeared. What does following Jesus cost you?

GO FURTHER: Discuss Quintus' comment to Matthew (8:21–9:29) - "You worship one God, and yet, you're all divided." How is this still true today? How can you work towards unity - in your family, your congregation, with other Christians?

I WAS... BUT GOD... AND NOW... EPISODES 2 & 4

While we think we are in control of our lives, it's really sin that is in the driver's seat. When we ***repent*** and ***return*** to Him, our lives change and we become the people God created us to be - just like these characters from the New Testament.

Mary was broken, cut off, cast aside and ashamed of who she'd become. **But God** rescued, accepted, and restored her. **And now** she's remembered for being a faithful follower of Jesus and the first to see Him after His resurrection.

Nicodemus was self-centered, proud, and confident in his abilities and learning. **But God** humbled him and was patient with his questions. **And now** he's remembered for seeking answers from Jesus, and caring for His body after His crucifixion.

Matthew was isolated and hated for serving the enemy. **But God** pursued him anyway, called him to follow, and welcomed him. **And now** he's remembered for being one of the twelve apostles.

Simon was self-sufficient, brash, and impulsive. **But God** revealed Simon's limitations and called him to follow the One with no limitations. **And now** he's remembered for being faithful and steady and living up to the name Jesus gave him: Peter, which means "Rock" (Matthew 16:18).

To repent and return requires a change of course and surrendering control. What is your story? (Each chapter of your story is a process - so it's okay if it's still unfolding.)

- I was:
- But God:
- And now:

NICO'S QUESTIONS

11:20–13:17 | 24:00–25:28 | 45:28–46:40

In the episode, the religious leaders talk about John the Baptist's criticisms of them. Watch the ROUNDTABLE and discuss Nicodemus' quest for answers.

- What do you usually think of when you read or hear the word "Pharisee"? What was new information for you from the ROUNDTABLE video?
- What do you think Nicodemus is trying to discover?
- What do you think his first encounter with Jesus will be like?