INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION

THE CHOSEN – SEASON 1 EPISODE 6 • **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.

BE CLEANSED 0:10–2:31 | 14:55–19:45

Read Matthew 8:1-4 and Luke 5:12-16 together. In ancient times leprosy was a vicious condition with no known cure. It deformed its victims by causing lumps as well as scale-like wounds to grow on the body and could even lead to the complete degeneration of skin and twisting of bones. Extremities could rot away leading to blindness or difficulty breathing. Doing the daily work required to survive became nearly impossible. Those suspected of having it were banished from the city to prevent it from spreading. Cut off from their families and friends and any kind of support, death may have seemed like the only relief.

- Knowing this about leprosy, discuss the actions of the leper at the beginning of the show and later when he comes to Jesus. Talk about what it might have meant that Jesus touched him as He healed him.
- Discuss the disciples' reaction to the leper and to Jesus' healing.
- What is significant about the words of the leper, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean"?
- Why do you think Jesus told the man not to tell anyone about the miracle? Watch the **ROUNDTABLE – PART 1**. Discuss the "Messianic secret". Talk about Jesus' responses to those He heals. How are the disciples portrayed? Do they think His miracles should be a secret?

A NEW WAY OF LIFE 10:42–14:48

In his conversation with Quintus, Matthew makes an insightful comment: "Conquest is not simply conquering nations, but imposing a new way of life." In what ways does this describe the people who follow Jesus?

- **Read Isaiah 43:18-19, Galatians 3:25-29, and 2 Corinthians 5:17-18.** Write down and discuss what is *declared* and *proclaimed* and *made new* in Jesus.
- Looking back on the past year, what is new about you? What is one "old thing" that you want to let go of?

PUTTING GOD IN A BOX 29:21–33:06

Nicodemus and Schmuel have a discussion about Scripture, tradition, interpretation, and looking for the unexpected.

- What does Schmuel mean when he says John the Baptist has "appropriated" the words of Scripture? (See Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:11, and Acts 13:25) Who is the successor of John the Baptist?
- What is the difference between the way Schmuel is reading Scripture and the way Nicodemus reads it (in this specific discussion)?
- What does it mean to put "God in a box"? What restrictions or limitations do we put on God?
- Nicodemus asks, *"If God did something that you felt contradicted the Torah, would you tell Him to get back in that box that you have carved for Him? Or would you question your interpretation?"* What do you think? Have you ever questioned your interpretation of the Bible?
- Nicodemus tells Schmuel that *"we are still students... our understanding will never be complete."* Do you agree? How does this understanding apply to how you read Scripture... what you take from a sermon?
- Do you think God stopped speaking with the last word of the Bible? How can we keep our eyes open for "the startling and unexpected" that God is doing?

SPEAKING IN PARABLES

Watch the ROUNDTABLE – PART 2. Talk about Jesus' preaching from the house of Zebedee.

- How do these people respond to Jesus' preaching - the disciples, the town's people, the religious leaders, Nicodemus, the Roman soldiers?
- How does this compare with what you imagine when you read the Bible?
- **Read Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26.** In the healing of the crippled man that was brought to Jesus by his friends, Jesus directly connects His ability to forgive people with His ability to heal their bodies. What does this mean to you? How do you think they are connected?
- Discuss Matthew's evolving thoughts regarding Jesus, in his conversations with Quintus, and Peter, and in his observation of Jesus next to the children on the roof.

GO FURTHER: This episode is titled "Indescribable Compassion". **Read John 10:27-30.** What claims does Jesus make about Himself? How does He care for His "sheep" or followers? Have you experienced Jesus' compassion in your life?