JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

THE CHOSEN – SEASON 1 EPISODE 3 • **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.

BLESSING WHOLE EPISODE

Read Mark 10:13-16.

After watching Jesus' interactions with the children, think about what Jesus "blessing" children might mean.

- How have you thought about blessing until now?
- Make a list of Jesus' responses, reactions, activities with the children. What feelings or memories did watching these scenes bring up? Could it be that this is what it means to bless someone?
- What would it mean to "be a blessing" to someone else (Genesis 12:2)?

SELF–WORTH

Like the little children, Jesus cherishes each of us. But we don't always feel so valued. Perhaps, like Mary, in the first few episodes, we feel we're too broken to be loved. Or maybe like Simon, we think that we need to find "self-worth" on our own - that it's up to us to find inner peace, self-acceptance, and identity. Our society and culture offer **self-help** and **self-medication** as ways to grow in self-worth.

Self-help: the use of one's own efforts and resources to achieve things without relying on others.

Self-medication: activities (some good, some not) that help you feel better, but whose effects eventually wear off (i.e. eating, working out, gaming, using drugs, reading, watching TikTok, traveling, shopping, daydreaming, setting goals, overworking, sleeping, being busy, partying, posting, etc.)

- How do you self-medicate?
- What has been your experience with self-help?
- **You belong to God.** How would your life be different if you were grounded in the truth that your value doesn't lie in *who you are*, but rather ***whose you are***?
- God tells you - ***you are mine***. Use Isaiah 43:1-4 to write a prayer finding your self-worth in God's eyes.

JUSTICE AND THE LAW 20:12–23:07

Read together Exodus 21:22-25 and Matthew 5:38-42.

Discuss Jesus' conversation with the children about the laws, justice, and their behavior.

- What do you know about Mosaic Law? What was new to you in the way Jesus' discussed it with the children?
- Consider the context of the giving of law in Exodus. What was God trying to urge the people to do? How does their circumstance of wandering in the desert frame the laws given (Exodus 19:3-6)? How does God want them to be different from the people around them?
- Discuss Jesus' reinterpretation from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). What is His focus?
- Discuss Jesus' conversation with the children. How should they (***we***) be different?
- Who has the authority to deliver justice? How can we deal with injustice in our lives?
- **Read Micah 6:8.** What is the difference between *acting justly* and *meting out justice?*

WHY ARE YOU HERE? 23:55–25:50

Take turns reading the verses from Luke 4:16-30.

- Discuss the re-framing of Jesus' reading of Isaiah 61 to the children versus in the synagogue as described in Luke 4.
- Discuss the children's response compared to the people in the synagogue. Describe the different emotions and actions taken by each. Why do you think it was portrayed in this way in the episode?
- What is special about a child's faith (Matthew 18:1-4)? How was that portrayed in the children's questions?
- Why do you think Jesus responded to their question with this verse from Isaiah?

GO FURTHER: Talk about the opening scene of Jesus praying (00:10–1:05). What emotions did He show? How did it make you think about prayer and Jesus' relationship with His Father?

THE SHEMA

The *Shema* was (and is) the daily prayer of Jews (recited by the children 15:00–15:53). With these words, Moses was not only reminding the Israelites of their responsibility to teach their children about their relationship with God, but also how to conduct their whole lives around their covenantal relationship with God.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! Blessed is the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.

These opening sentences are followed by the verses below.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Deuteronomy 11:13-21

Numbers 15:37-41