



# The CHOSEN

**Season 4, Episode One** Discussion Guide

A look at the crushing, corrupting power of power—and its limits, too



# The CHOSEN

Season 4 Episode One - Discussion Guide

MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS

## Watch

### Before you get started...

If you're going to watch the episode together as a group, you might want to take a moment before you hit "Play" to ask folks to recall where Season 3 left off. If no one makes note of it, be sure to remind them that John the Baptizer is in prison. If you like, you can even tease the theme of the discussion—the crushing, corrupting power of power and its limits, too—asking them to keep this in mind.

## Discuss

1. John the Baptizer lost his life because he spoke in power to the powers of the world—and his resolve to do so never wavered. How do you think a man so seemingly powerless was able to stand up to the powers?
2. The episode ends with the prophetic blessing that John's father, Zechariah, spoke over him as an infant. Let's listen to it together. **Break to read Luke 1:68-79.** That's filled with a lot of victory talk, which is jarring in the wake of John's death. Is darkness truly being swallowed up by light? Is there reason to have hope?

*Scholars often refer to God's work in the world as a "now and not yet" work—there are ways it's been completed even "now" and ways it has "not yet" been completed (but one day will). The group could explore how the prophetic blessing of Zechariah has already come true in John, while then exploring how it has not yet come true in full.*

3. Zechariah's blessing hints at the crumbling power of the powers. Where do we see glimpses in this episode of just how weak the powers of the world actually are?

*In the midst of discussion, make sure the group doesn't miss the playful fact that Herod, in all his supposed power, was rendered powerless by...a dance. In fact, Chuza even says, "If Herod is pleased, he can't say 'no' to anything." It's a remarkable glimpse of just how powerless the powers can be (and are).*

4. Let's place the story of *The Chosen* alongside our own. Where have you seen the powers of the world crushingly at work in your world—and how do you not lose hope, that you might show John-like resolve?
5. Though power corrupts and crushes, we often want to possess it ourselves. (See Judas at the start of the episode, for example.) Why is it so tempting for us to grasp for power as followers of Jesus? And are there ways for us to push against the pull?

## Pray

After discussion of the last question has died down...

We're going to approach prayer differently in these guides. Here's some suggested verbiage for transitioning the group into a time of prayer: "Given the discussion we just had, I know each of us was comforted by something in this episode, and each of us was commissioned to live life in some new way in light of this episode. And this means each of us could offer up a prayer of thanks, alongside a prayer for God's help in living a new way of life. So, we're going to pray, but here's how we're going to do it: I'm going to ask you two questions, and we're going let your answers serve as prayers, because God is quite able to listen in on this."

### Closing Question #1

If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?

### Closing Question #2

If you were to ask God's help in living life in a new way in light of this episode, how would you sum up this new way of life?

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