



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: Come and See

Suggested Week of Use: December 11, 2022

Core Passage: John 1:40-51

News Story Summary

The national box office debut of *The Chosen Season 3: Episodes 1 & 2* took place the weekend of November 18. The theatrical release was due to the extreme popularity of *The Chosen* since the arrival of its first episode (via an app) in 2017. In December of 2021, the creators released a special episode as part of a larger Christmas special (*Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers*) that also played in theaters. On November 21, the Monday after its release, *The Chosen* came in second behind the new Marvel offering *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. *The Chosen* only played in about 2,000 theaters, but it still earned more than \$10 million dollars during opening weekend.

Written and directed by Dallas Jenkins, *The Chosen* is the largest ever crowd-funded television show about the life of Christ and those He selected to follow Him. While no human recounting of Scripture or biblical events is perfect, such film adaptations can be useful to spark conversations about the gospel or challenge believers to learn more about what the Bible says. In Season 2: Episode 2 (*I Saw You*), Philip challenged Nathaniel to “Come and see” who Jesus is—an event that led Nathaniel to place his faith in Jesus. The depiction of Philip’s conversation with Nathaniel presents a very simple, conversational way for believers to talk to others about their personal faith in Christ and to invite them to come and see Jesus for themselves.

For more about this story, search “The Chosen Box Office.”

Focus Attention

To supplement FOCUS ATTENTION, ask: *When was the last time someone challenged you to come and see something for yourself? What was your response? What did you discover?* Explain that a lot of people, especially those in Hollywood, can be skeptical of Christian movies—especially when they go up against the likes of a Marvel movie. Say: *Sometimes, you don’t know what will happen until you do it.* Read the information about the release last month of *The Chosen* in theaters across the country. Emphasize that no human adaptation of Scripture can ever be perfect, and a movie should never be seen as a substitute for personally digging into God’s Word. Discuss the possible doors for ministry a film like *The Chosen* could open. Point out that today’s session focuses on how Jesus’s early disciples experienced Him for themselves—and encourage others to do the same.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE, call for adults to share which character (Andrew, Peter, Philip, or Nathaniel) in this session best represents them and why. Ask: *What are some things that keep people from inviting others to follow Jesus?* Discuss responses. Remind adults of the story about *The Chosen* in theaters and how that plays into today's session. Encourage them to look for ways to use similar intersections between faith and culture to help people "come and see" Jesus more clearly. Point out that our own inability to recognize Jesus and what He has done for us could hinder us from sharing Him with others. Continue with the Challenge activity to close this lesson.