

Session 3: This is Chosen

February 24 – March 2, 2019

THIS IS US
GOD'S WORD • OUR STORY

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers:

- Share a time when you were chosen for something.
- If you have time, use the book [The Complete Book of Questions](#) to continue getting to know each other. Have a group member a number between 301 and 400, look up the question for that number and encourage everyone to answer. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.

2. Briefly share any plans for your next meeting.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

As you read the passages below, think about what each passage adds to your understanding of what it means to be chosen by God. It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. As a group, look up and have someone read Deuteronomy 7:1-9.

Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Bible and the last book of the Torah. These first five books are also referred to as the Pentateuch, The Law, or Moses. They were the "original Bible".

Deuteronomy means "second law" and contains the final five sermons of Moses as the Hebrews were about to enter the Promised Land of Canaan. Moses reminds them of their history, all that God had done for them, and the laws they were to continue to obey as God's chosen people.

- What word would you use to describe God's choosing of the Hebrew people as it is described in this passage? Exclusive, Expansive, Other.
- Describe the range of feelings that you imagine one of God's chosen people would have when hearing this read?

2. As a group, look up and have someone read Isaiah 43:1-13.

If you open your Bible to the middle, you will often find the book of Isaiah. Briefly review this helpful tip for remembering the content of the Hebrew Scriptures, what we call the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written before Jesus. There are five sections in the Old Testament and you can unlock the number of books in each section by remembering this combination: 5 – 12 – 5 – 5 – 12.

Here are the five sections of the Old Testament:

- 1) [The Torah](#) (5 books, Genesis – Deuteronomy)
- 2) [History Books](#) (12 books, Joshua – Esther)
- 3) [The Writings](#) (5 books, Job – Song of Songs)
- 4) [The Major Prophets](#) (5 books, Isaiah – Daniel) *Isaiah is the first of the Major Prophets.*
- 5) [The Minor Prophets](#) (12 books, Hosea – Malachi)

- God is the speaker in this passage. As you read this passage, decide which one of the comforting statements you find most compelling. Share this with your group and your reason for your choice.
- What does this passage add to your understanding of what it means to be chosen by God?

3. As a group, look up and have someone read Ephesians 1:3-14.

The book of Ephesians is in the New Testament. The New Testament is usually found just shy of three-fourths of the way through your Bible. The New Testament was written after Jesus and begins with the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Next comes Acts which describes the actions of the first followers of Jesus after he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Then comes the letters Paul to various groups of Christians and individuals. In the New Testament Paul's letters are in order from the longest (Romans) to the shortest (Philemon). Ephesians is the fifth longest letter and comes after Galatians and before Philipians.

- What does this passage add to your understanding of what it means to be chosen by God?
 - Discuss your understanding of what it means to "having been predestined" (v. 11). What does this add to your understanding of what it means to be chosen by God?
4. At the end of the sermon, Pastor Steve gave an answer to the *scandal of being chosen* in regards to those who may appear to have not been chosen. Discuss your reaction to his answer.
 5. How can you make God's Word from this lesson to be more your story?

Summary

Being chosen is us. We do not chose God, God chooses us. This third major theme taught throughout the Bible fills Christ followers with ridiculous assurance, but causes others to scoff at what the Bible teaches. The amazing grace of being chosen by God is the clearest insight into the love God has for all people. Our mission is to announce to all people that, through Christ, God has chosen them to be God's beloved children and that through faith in Jesus they are adopted into God's eternal family. Next Step: Whenever you have doubts, look in the mirror and say, "God chose me, I am chosen."

Next week we will learn that **This is Redemption.**

Pray (5 Minutes)

Think of one person you care about and, as far as you know, is not yet a follower of Jesus. Remembering that you always have the freedom to pass, have each person briefly share who they have in mind. In this time of prayer, you are invited to name that person before God and ask God to lead that person into a saving faith. The prayer will move around the circle with the leader beginning and ending the prayer.

When it comes your turn, you are invited to pray out loud for the person you have in mind. You can use your own words or say this prayer and fill in the blank with the name of the person you have in mind: **"God, the Holy Spirit, lead (name of person) to trust and follow Jesus."** If you wish not to name someone out loud, say, **"Come, Holy Spirit, and lead all people to trust and follow Jesus."** and the next person will know to continue.

For the leader: You are invited to begin and end the prayer in your own words or use this following:

Begin with: **"Loving and choosing God, in second Timothy 2, verse 4, you inspired the Apostle Paul to teach that you "want all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (2 Timothy 2:4) Send your Holy Spirit to lead into a saving faith those that we now name before you."**

End with: **"Loving and choosing God, we love the people we have named, but we know that you love them even more. Compel, inform, and use us in whatever way you know will be effective to share the good news of Jesus with those we have named so that they will come to trust and follow Jesus, and be saved. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen."**

If it would be appropriate, consider inviting the people you have named to join your life group.