



The CHOSEN

Season 4, Episode Three Discussion Guide

A look at the dark trajectory of upward mobility



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MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS

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Before you get started...

This episode ends in devastating fashion, and folks will surely want to talk about it. The challenge for you as a leader is that the fallout from what happens is shown in the *next* episode, which will be the focus of the next group discussion. Maybe tell them this, while also telling them the questions that follow do still manage to speak to this episode's ending.

Discuss

1. James, John, and their mother, Salome, are obsessed with gaining a higher status among others. Upward mobility is an obsession of ours, too. Why?
2. Some characters already hold higher status: the Pharisees, Roman rulers, Quintus, Gaius—even the disciples, in their being “chosen.” What are the challenges and temptations that come with upward mobility—for them, and then also for us?

Don't be afraid to explore the dark trajectory of upward mobility. Because we're so often careless with the power we hold, lives can be lost, literally and spiritually. We see this with Quintus and also the Pharisees. And remind the group that James and John once wanted to “call down fire” on their enemies in an earlier season (see Luke 9:54).

3. Let's turn a little more positive: are there ever circumstances in which the desire for upward mobility is okay? What circumstances come to mind?
4. If you were to naturally or rightly gain higher status—and with it, power and influence—what are some ways to avoid abusing your power and influence?

Pray

Here are 2 questions to guide your group's closing prayer:

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