

## Notes for “The Chosen” series (Season 1) small groups Pastor Barry Foster

*The following notes offer some background information, brief explanations related to Scriptural content and context, and suggestions for things to look for when viewing the episode. One practical note: you may find that it is easier to understand what is being said if the captions are turned on when viewing the show.*

### Episode 3 “Jesus Loves the Little Children”

One of the things that we can note through the story so far is that the creators of “The Chosen” have intentionally told the story in a non-linear fashion. This can be difficult for audiences who are more accustomed to direct storytelling, where the plot follows the main character straightforward through the entire narrative. “The Chosen” frequently goes back and forth among the characters (especially in the first two episodes). This is done in part because this is a feature of contemporary storytelling, and in part because the story is more focused on the various characters and the things they have in common (or the things that contrast them with one another). The director likes to tease the audience, by introducing a character without telling you everything about him or her, but giving you clues and hints that will be developed later. (Sort of like Luke, the biblical author!) Instead of having Jesus dominate the story, the disciples are often the primary focus of the camera and carry much of the weight of the narrative. This may seem odd, but it actually can help us to think about how we might relate to them and how we might see ourselves in the story.

Episode 3, however, focuses on Jesus and a group of children who come to visit him while he is living in the country near Capernaum. The episode is shorter than the first two. We are introduced to an important aspect of the ministry of Jesus—his setting. He is a traveler, who goes to cities and villages, but lives in the countryside much of the time.

*Some things to look for:*

1. Note what the creators have imagined Jesus would need to live, and what he might have been able to secure for himself.
2. Note also his method of instruction: memorization of his teaching, of Scripture, of songs. It is also important to recognize that he always appeals to the Old Testament Scriptures as authoritative.

*Some questions to consider:*

1. What would it look like for Jesus to live outside in Galilee?
2. Consider what life was like in the first century in Galilee. How much of one’s life, one’s day was focused on procuring and securing food, lodging, clothing?
3. The children express various opinions about Jesus. How does this relate to the overall story? What does it resemble from the gospels?