

# The Chosen

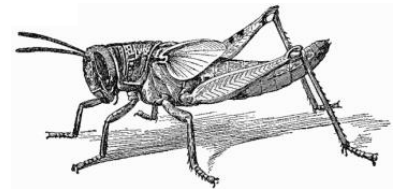
## Episode #1 (Season #2)

### *"Thunder"*

Welcome Back! Picking up where the first season left off, the number of disciples is growing. And they've still got a LOT of learning to do. This episode focuses on several characters, but John is the main focus. Tension builds among the disciples as they wrestle with Jesus' increasing fame in Samaria. Jesus rebukes James & John for their prejudice and, after a near-violent encounter, gives them a new nickname.

### **"Behold, I am eating a new bug."**

I know The Chosen's writers added this sentence to the interview with Simon and Andrew for comic relief, but there is some truth to it, as the Bible does say John the Baptizer did eat bugs (Matt. 3:4 and Mark 1:6)!



The "bugs" he ate were locusts. Being a Jewish guy, John would have only eaten animals considered kosher, as listed in Leviticus 11. Locusts fit into a kosher diet because of their leg structure. They have legs that are jointed above their feet, which qualifies them as kosher, as opposed to other bugs (Lev. 11:21). Although we don't consider locusts a delightful addition to our diet, they would have been an adequate source of nutrition in the wilderness, where John spent his time.

### **"During Shiva?"**

John's mother (also Jesus's mother) questions his timing in recording the story of Jesus's days on earth. She appears concerned and asks, "Why now? During shiva?" Shiva is the Jewish time of grieving and mourning. When someone in the family dies, the rest of the family *"sits shiva."* Shiva means "seven" and is typically seven days long, during which time the family stays together (usually in the deceased's home) and takes time to comfort and support each other.

The disciples are together at the beginning of this episode to sit shiva in mourning Big James. John takes advantage of this time when they're all together to get the story of Jesus's life from those closest to him.

### **Morning Prayers**

When Jesus wakes up in the morning, he says a prayer before he even gets out of bed. This prayer is a tradition, primarily among Jewish people even today, and it's called the Modeh Ani.

Here's the Modeh Ani in English: ***I am thankful before You, living and enduring King, for you have mercifully restored my soul within me. Great is Your faithfulness.***

**Scripture to read this week** *(check the box when you've read the passage):*

- ☐ John 1:1-18 and Genesis 1:1-2:3
- ☐ Mathew 4:18-22
- ☐ Luke 9:51-55
- ☐ Psalm 16
- ☐ Luke 15:1-7

- ❶ Throughout the episode, take note of all the planning that the disciples make. How do their plans match with what Jesus does? What does this show and teach us?
- ❷ Have you ever thought of the story of the good Samaritan from the perspective of the robber? Why is that important for what Jesus is trying to teach the disciples?
- ❸ When Jesus stayed overnight in the Samaritan priest's house, He was asked why he didn't correct the priest when he said one room was haunted. "I don't address everything at once," He replied. How grateful are you that God is patient with our ignorance?
- ❹ The disciples were gathered to mourn the loss of John's brother James. He had been martyred (Acts 12:1-2). Why is it good to simply reflect on Jesus during hard times?
- ❺ [John:] 'Is that a good thing?' [Jesus:] 'Today it wasn't.'  
When Jesus calls John (& James) 'thunder' he says that fiery passion can be both a gift and hindrance. Share about a personality trait that usually is an asset but that sometimes gets you into trouble.



*Thank your Heavenly Father for seeking you as a lost sheep. Ask Him to show you ways you where you could repent and see others with value the way He does. Reflect on how you've grown spiritually and ask God to help you be someone who regularly and tangibly helps someone else grow in their faith.*