

Key Takeaway

God carries us not by removing all difficulties, but by seeing us in our lowest moments, sustaining us through ongoing challenges, and intervening at God's perfect timing. Through crisis, ongoing struggles, and periods of waiting, we discover that we are never abandoned - God's carrying looks different for everyone but is always present.

mc+

The
CHOSEN

Disciple Re<<ind

Week 4. "I am Carried"

The Chosen, Season 2, Episodes 2-4

Lutheran Lens

Baptism

Through the sacrament of Baptism, we are brought closer to Jesus through the promise of eternal life! Most Christian communities agree on that much, but the exact details... that's a different story. For ELCA Lutherans, Baptism stands alongside Communion as one of our most important religious practices. However, the ELCA does not limit baptism to an affirmation of belief. Instead, Baptism serves as the physical representation of God's promise that Jesus was sent into the world not to judge us, but to save us through Him. This promise carries us through every season of life.

Biblical Foundation

Supporting Scripture.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NLT)

Different Perspective.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Revelation 1:1-20 (NRSV)

Dig Deeper!

Here are additional texts that show God's boundless nature:

In Moments of Crisis

Psalms 102:1-2

Isaiah 43:2

During Long Waits

Isaiah 40:31

Habakkuk 2:3

Through On-Going Struggles

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Romans 8:26-28



/THE-CHOSEN



Week 4. "I am Carried"

The Chosen, Season 2, Episodes 2-4

Small Group Discussion

Nathanael Under the Fig Tree

(S2, E2) – John 1:43-51

I am carried... when I'm crushed or broken hearted; when my dreams lie in ashes.

1. **Burned Dreams:** What dream, plan, or calling have you had to "burn" or let go of that you believed was meant to glorify God?
2. **Fig Tree Lament:** Like Nathanael quoting Psalm 102 ("Hear my prayer, O Lord... Do not hide your face from me"), what honest prayers have you cried out to God in your lowest moments?
3. **Godly vs. Worldly Grief:** How do you distinguish between grief that leads you closer to God versus grief that leads you away from God?

Jesus Labors Sleeplessly

(S2, E3) – Luke 6:12-19

I am carried... through ongoing struggles; Jesus works tirelessly on my behalf.

1. **All-Night Prayer:** Jesus spends the entire night in prayer before choosing the disciples. When have you felt overwhelmed by big decisions or circumstances, and how might knowing that Jesus prays for you change your perspective?
2. **Crowds Pressing In:** People travel from far away seeking healing, creating overwhelming demand on Jesus. Does it comfort you to know that Jesus understands the feeling of being overwhelmed by others' needs and expectations?
3. **Power Going Out:** Luke 6:19 says "power was coming from him and healing them all." When you feel drained or depleted, how does Jesus replenish and carry you through demanding seasons?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

This week, when you feel overwhelmed or exhausted, pause to notice one specific way Jesus might be working on your behalf - through people, circumstances, or inner strength you didn't create yourself.

CHURCH CHALLENGE

How can our congregation better support people through impossible circumstances, speaking words of life when others have given up hope? (Think outside the box!)

Jesus Heals on Sabbath

(S2, E4) – Mark 3:1-6

I am carried... through long seasons of waiting; God's timing is not our own.

1. **38-Year Wait:** The man at the Bethesda pool waited nearly four decades for healing. How does the church support people in long seasons of waiting for breakthrough or for answered prayer?
2. **Perfect Timing:** When you look back on delays in your life, what do you notice about God's timing that you couldn't see while you were waiting?
3. **Stirring the Water:** Jesus intentionally disrupted religious comfort to bring healing. How is God calling our church to "stir up the water" when Gospel truth conflicts with member's needs?