

## Adult Group Study Guide for June 14, 2020

Series: "Chosen"

Message: "Refined"

Goal: To explore how God uses the trials we face to refine our faith and character.

Key Verse: *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* – Romans 5:8 (NIV2011)

1. Moses is a standout character in the Bible because he led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Many of us grew up watching Moses in the 1956 movie, "The Ten Commandments," by Cecil B. DeMille that often aired on the weekend of Easter. To jog your memory, watch this clip on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahkwQhQZWG8>. What do you remember most clearly from the film or the story of Moses in the book of Exodus?
2. Moses was rough around the edges, so God needed to refine him. Review the story of Moses in Exodus 2:15-17. Moses became a refugee after a threat on his life. His first test was how to handle conflict between two groups of shepherds. How did God use this experience to both test and bless him?
3. Read Exodus 2:21-22. In what ways did the life of a shepherd prepare Moses to lead the people of Israel? [Think about the image of the shepherd in Psalm 23 and Isaiah 40:9-11.]
4. Many of the Old Testament prophets used the analogy of a refiner's fire to explain God's plan to redeem humanity. Check out Isaiah 48:8-10; Jeremiah 9:7; Zechariah 13:8-9; and Malachi 3:2-4. In what ways is the process of refining helpful in understanding God's purpose in our lives?
5. Read the key verse above (Romans 5:8). What difference does it make to know that Christ died for us while we were sinners? What comfort does it give you to know that God loves and accepts you as you are?
6. Max Lucado has written: "God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus." What happens when you think of yourself as a work in progress?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. What does Peter say about the purpose for the trials in our lives? How has God refined you in the past year? What is the ultimate goal of our faith?