



Week of December 26, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Christmas story take on new meaning for you this year? How does Jesus' "good news of great joy" transform your life today?
2. Read Luke 5:27-32. Why is Levi (*better known as Matthew*) an unlikely choice for Jesus? What criticism did Jesus experience because of this choice and how might this have affected his popularity?
3. If Jesus had picked those more like him, what would His ministry have looked like? Would the Good News have taken on a different meaning?
4. Paul said, "The more you love Jesus, the more you'll love people who don't." Who comes to mind when you hear that? Who, or what group of people, might God be prompting you to invest in a relationship with?
5. Paul made 4 statements in the talk. Which of these is most difficult for you and why?
 - a. Jesus leaned relationally in the direction of those He disagreed with most.
 - b. Jesus was not concerned with guilt by association.
 - c. Jesus refused to be dragged into debates that distracted from what mattered most.
 - d. Jesus didn't judge non-Christians for behaving like non-Christians.

6. What can your group do this next month to encourage each other to wade into some messes like Jesus did?
7. Discuss what your group can do to make space for more people to experience community. What would it look like to multiply leadership so that more people can take next steps spiritually in groups?

Moving Forward

Ask yourself, “What does it look like for me to love like Jesus and walk towards the messes?” Who do you need to walk towards? Where do you need to start serving? How do you need to start giving so that God can use you? The more you love Jesus, the more you’ll love people who don’t.

Luke 5:27-32

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, ²⁸and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ²⁹Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”