

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Let the Future Begin” (pt. 1) – 08.23.2015

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

Bottom Line: God is always for me in every situation.

INTRODUCTION/ICEBREAKER:

This week Pastor Adam discussed how cul-de-sacs can be a great place to build a home, but a terrible way to live. Cul-de-sacs got us thinking about our childhood neighborhoods. What was your neighborhood like when you were a kid? What were some of the games you played with your neighborhood friends? Favorite memories?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Matthew 9:9-13

Everyone can relate to Matthew's story one way or another. He was a man who made mistakes in his life and undoubtedly regretted some of his decisions. He was a unjust tax collector who profited off his own people and was despised by many. Yet, he couldn't change his decision because the Romans would have punished him. He was stuck.

1) In what ways does Jesus interact with Matthew?

a. Jesus comes to him - Matthew didn't go to Jesus. Jesus came to Matthew. Why is this important (Romans 5:6; Galatians 4:3 - Jesus doesn't pursue to punish, but to save).

b. Jesus sees him - Jesus sees and knows the real you.

c. Jesus wants to be with him - Jesus wasn't afraid of Matthew's mess, didn't ask Matthew to clean himself up and he loved the real version of Matthew.

2) Do you believe Jesus wants to be with you/is for you in the same way he was towards Matthew? Why or why not?

- Read and trust the truth of Scripture - Rom. 8:31; Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:13; Mark 10:27

3) How does real change come into our lives?

a. When we are truly known and loved by God.

b. The cross says you are so wanted and loved that Jesus would die for you.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

1) Do I believe God is for me in my _____ or against me in my _____?

2) In what areas of your life do you feel stuck? Take time to pray for one another.

3) If God could change Matthew's life, heal a blind man, raise Lazarus, feed 5000 and resurrect Jesus, what can he do in your life?