



Sermon discussion guide

July 2, 2023

Bad Company

Read Luke 5:27-32. What are the key events?

The Invitation.

Levi is a tax collector. What was the reputation of a tax collector? Today, who has the same type of reputation in our community?

Jesus mingled with outsiders. This can sound a bit warm and fuzzy until we realize that some people are outsiders because of the hurt or damage they have caused, like tax collectors. Why do you think Jesus hanging out with these people was a challenging issue for some of the people around him?

Sometimes we think we don't measure up to other people's standards, but we should care more about Jesus' standards. What would you say are Jesus' standards when it comes to being with people?

We are meant to believe our past or present brokenness are so big Jesus could never love us again. How does Jesus' invitation to Levi challenge those thoughts? Do you feel like there is something in your life that keeps you from experiencing Jesus' love for you?

Levi got up, left everything and followed Jesus. It is important for us to know you cannot "follow" without "leaving." Is there something in your life that you feel like Jesus is asking you to leave? What would it look like for you to take a step this week to leave that?

The Meal

Luke portrays Jesus as either coming from a meal, eating a meal or going to a meal. It appears that one of Jesus' strategies for reaching people was to eat a meal with them. Why do you think Jesus ministered to people through meals?

We have a massive opportunity to use shared meals for relationship building in which spiritual growth and coming back to Jesus could take place. Have you ever looked at having a meal with others in this way? If yes, share—if not, how would that look?

How does our culture value or devalue eating meals with others? Is it something you feel like you do regularly?

What are some steps you could take to begin incorporating sharing a meal with others into your regular schedule? How could you keep it simple?

The Scandal

Eating a meal with those on the outside of society is a big deal. In Jesus' time what did the religious system of that time say you had to do before you could be accepted? Talk about the different message Jesus brought.

Jesus seemed to be willing to eat with people as they were changing, while they were changing, before they changed and with the hope that they would change. How does it make you feel hearing that? How can we follow Jesus' example?

Jesus' invitation to Levi and the meal that follows show us his love for all people. Where have you been challenged through this conversation? Who are you going to share a meal with this week?

Invite

Summer is a good time to invite someone to join your small group, or even to begin one. Consider who you start meeting with or inviting to your group to begin a new way of growing in your faith with others.