

EASTER

A New Day

WEEK 3. JESUS' INVITATION

This week we'll continue to look at the types of people Jesus' invites into the Kingdom. We will begin practicing how we can invite people to experience Him. (If you haven't covered weeks 1 + 2 yet, please do those lessons first, as this lesson builds on those.)

Introduction Question: Think of a time you were recently invited to go to something by somebody. Share whether it was a positive or negative experience and briefly explain why. (If you've got a large group you might consider breaking people off into groups of 3-4 to share.)

Get into small groups of 3-4 (or stay in the same groups if you already split for the intro question): Everything we do tonight will be in these small groups. Folks can simply open up this lesson on our website or app and guide themselves.

Follow-Up from Last Week: Revisit what you chose to apply from last week's passage and share how it went. If you weren't able to do it yet, make a plan to do so this upcoming week.

Jesus' Invitation (Luke 5:27-32):

27 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, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But 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?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Discovery Bible Study (30 min):

- What strikes you from this story and why?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What do we learn about ourselves?

- What types of people does Jesus reach out to?
- What can we apply from this passage this week? Then pray for each other over this.

15-Second Testimonies (15 min): In tonight's passage we can see Jesus extending an invitation to Levi to follow him. Similarly, we too have the opportunity to extend invitations to those around us to encounter Jesus. To help us grow in being able to invite others to encounter Jesus, we are going to practice sharing 15-second testimonies as a way to begin inviting people to encounter Jesus for themselves.

Create your own 15-second testimony based on the following template and practice sharing it with your group (3 times each):

"There was a time in my life when I was _____ and _____ (who you were before Jesus). Then I _____ and _____ (your encounter with Jesus) and since then, I've _____ and _____ (who you are after Jesus). Do you have a story like that?"

Example 1: There was a time in my life where I was angry and selfish. Then I learned about the forgiveness that God had and made Him my King and now I'm full of joy and have a desire to serve others. Do you have a story like that?

Example 2: There was a time in my life where I was fearful and and lonely. Then I encountered the love of Jesus and chose to follow Him completely, and now I know I'm loved and secure. Do you have a story like that?

Praying for Others (15 min): Let's keep committing to pray for our friends, believing God's going to breakthrough in their lives and draw them close to him!

1. Pull out your list of people you've been praying for (or if this is your first week in lifegroup, take a few minutes to compile a list of people in your life who might not be in relationship with Jesus yet).
2. Since the Holy Spirit knows everyone on our lists and knows what they need to hear from God, let's ask the Holy Spirit to give us scriptures or words of encouragement to guide how we pray for each of them. Make sure to write these down so you can keep praying off them or develop them as you continue to pray for these people this week.
3. Share with your small group the words you've received for your people and then pray together for each other's folks.
4. Brainstorm practical plans for how you might reach out to those on your list over the next few weeks (including when, where, how). Lay hands on each other and pray for open doors and for courage. When you do meet with your folks, intentionally look for those opportunities where you can segue into sharing your 15-second testimony and/or share the words God has given you and the prayers you've been praying for them.
5. If you want, email the words you've received to the small group so that you can pray for each other's friends this week.