

11: Call to the Lost

Accompanies the 3/21/2021 Sermon

BIG IDEA

Jesus calls his disciples to give their lives in service to others by not just serving people like them, and people who are already disciples of Jesus but to love and serve those who have not yet surrendered to Christ. The Gospel calls us to seek and serve those who are far from God, even when fellow believers are uncomfortable with it.

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- *Have you ever known someone who goes to their doctor for everything... even when they don't need it? They get a gray hair and they visit the doctor, their cat is sick and they visit their doctor, etc... They don't need a doctor and yet they go all the time. Have the group share (without sharing the person's name). What is your response to these kinds of people? (or are you one of these kinds of people? And why?)*
- *Have you ever known someone who never goes to the doctor... even when they really need to? They are experiencing grave pain, or stiffness in their chest, etc... They desperately need a doctor and yet they don't go. Have the group share (without sharing the person name). What is your response to these kinds of people? (or are you one of these kinds of people? And why?)*

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpacking its meaning.

 Have someone in your group read **Luke 5:27-32**.

 **The CONTEXT of Luke:**

The Gospel according to Luke is a biography about the good news (or Gospel) of Jesus. Luke was a gentile (non-Jew) physician who accompanied the Apostle Paul in some of his evangelism/mission endeavors. Luke's desire in his Gospel is that his

readers (*Theophilus and us*) would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and that we might have confidence in our faith in Jesus.

- What stood out to you in this passage? Why did that stand out to you?

- In Luke 5:27 & 28 Jesus calls Levi (later named Matthew) to himself. What do we learn about Levi in this passage? Why might this be important context about Levi? What did Levi leave to follow Jesus? Why might that be important context?

- Levi in typical Greek businessman fashion throws Jesus a great feast or banquet and invites his friends and connections. Why don't the religious leaders of that time (the Pharisees) like it?

- How does Jesus' perspective differ from that of the Pharisees? What do you think is the point of this for us today? How do we gain the perspective of Jesus in our day and age and not our modern-day Pharisees?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group, giving particular thought to how we are called to live based on what the Scriptures have said.

1. Practically speaking, what does it look like for you to follow Jesus in calling sinners to Jesus?

2. How can we as a Life Group move towards inviting those who don't know Jesus into our community?

3. What does it look like for you personally to *Give Your Life in Service to Others* in the way that Jesus is talking about in this passage? What things have you found helpful? What things have been challenges or barriers?

4. Spend some time together in prayer as you close and ask God to show you how you can give your life in service to others this week, especially in this area of calling the lost.