

Week Beginning: 10th March 2019

Worship Series: #2 in series



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:31-32

Remember This Week

Jesus comes for those who are struggling and in need of healing. Unless you can admit your deep down and profound need of healing, Jesus has nothing to offer you. When you acknowledge that need, Jesus has everything you need.



At the
TABLE

A place of
HEALING



**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Worship the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who worship him lack nothing.**

Psalm 34:7-8

Lord God, you speak and you act in the world around us, not only to call all people to you, but also to direct and guide us in the way of healing and wholeness. Give us such an awareness of our brokenness that we may acknowledge our need for you and come to you for the healing only you can give – a place at your table forever. Amen.



1. Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.
2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?
3. What careers or vocations are viewed today as "undesirable" or the people in them viewed with suspicion?
4. What is the most memorable banquet you have been to?
5. How easy/difficult do you find it to open your home to others? Explain.

Do you ever feel pressured to do it all? Be the perfect spouse, parent, child, employer, employee, Christian? Here's the truth about having it all together. Jesus has not come for those who have it together, but those who are falling apart. He has not come for those who have made it to the top, but those struggling at the bottom. He has not come for the respectable, but for the despised. He has not come for those who are "healthy, wealthy, and wise," but rather those who are sick, poor, and lost. He hasn't come for the righteous but for the unrighteous, to give them a place of healing.

Read Luke 5:27-32



6. What 's the big idea of this passage in your understanding?
7. Re-read the passage in the Message Translation - how does this change how you hear the reading [Luke 5:27-32](#)?
8. What can we learn about how Jesus calls people to follow Him from what Levi was doing when he was called by Jesus? (5:27-28)?
9. What does this passage teach us about grace?



10. *Jesus describes His call as a call to repentance (v32). Levi responds immediately to Jesus by leaving everything behind (repentance). In what ways is Jesus' call to you a call to repentance?*
11. *In verse 30 the Pharisees grumbled that Jesus and His disciples were eating and associating with sinners. What actions and/or behaviors of Christians do you most often grumble about? Why?*
12. *What was the reason Jesus gave for being willing to hang out with Levi?*
13. *Someone once said "Satan knows your name, but calls you by your sin; Jesus knows your sin, but calls you by your name." Why does that make all the difference and what can you learn from that to apply to your own life?*

It's ironic that the Pharisees have a go at Jesus for 'eating and drinking with tax-collectors and sinners' and yet they are there at the meal addressing Jesus. What's the difference? They are sick/unhealthy/sinful but won't admit it, whereas Levi acknowledged his brokenness and sickness and asked Jesus to make a house call!! The Pharisees perceive that they are good and the others are bad. They would never eat and drink with sinners like Jesus does. But are modern day Pharisees much different? Think about it. You may be a Pharisee if you won't spend time or associate with certain co-workers because you're afraid they might make you look bad with their attitude, language or values. You may be a Pharisee if you have put yourself in the category of "good" and when you look at others you put them in the category of "bad." Think of some other examples where it's easy to slip into the same attitude as the Pharisees of Jesus' day. The truth is, as the Bible tells us, that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And yet, Jesus came into this world to 'seek and save the lost', to call, not the righteous, but the unrighteousness to repentance. Only those who know something is wrong book an appointment to see the doctor; to get some help. Only the sick need physicians, and only those who know they are in need, are eager for help. When we acknowledge our brokenness and sin, and turn to Jesus for help, he is able to bring healing to us.

14. *Think about the Lord's Supper. How does Jesus bring healing to both our body and soul each time we come to his table?*

The word for hospitality and hospital come from the same Latin word. At the hospital and at the table where hospitality is shared, there is healing. When you open your door to someone and invite them to join you for a meal, you are sending this message: "You matter to me and you matter to God."

15. *In what ways have you experienced healing around the table in your own or other's homes?*
16. *Who are some non-Christians that you could invite around for a meal? What holds you back? How might a meal at your place be an opportunity for them to meet the God who brings healing?*

- * Praise God for sending his Son into the world to make 'house calls' for those who are sick and in need of healing. Thank Jesus for inviting us and giving us a place at his banquet of grace. Ask the Holy Spirit to use our table as a place where people experience his healing presence.
- * Pray for the young people preparing to Step-Up to Communion at Newcastle that God would use this time to draw them deeper into his life as they prepare to eat and drink the meal he gives for our healing.
- * Pray for the new service that is beginning at LifeWay straight after Easter that God would use the fellowship at the table to bring healing and life to those who come along.
- * Pray for the courage to invite some non-Christians into your home for a meal this Lenten season and then go boldly do it!

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, there is healing for you at Jesus' table. Amen.

