

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 2, 2008

Passage: Luke 5:27-32

Memory Passage: Luke 5:31-32

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:27-28.** What is this tax collector's name? What is he called in Matthew 9:9? Was it sinful to collect taxes? What had John urged tax collectors to do in their repentance (Luke 3:12-13)?
- (b) Why is it amazing that Jesus would call this tax collector? What did the Jews generally think about those who were tax collectors (Luke 18:11; Matthew 21:32)?
- (c) What did the Apostle Paul say about himself in 1 Timothy 1:15-16? Why did Jesus come into the world? How did Paul see himself? Is this any different than the way people come to Christ today?
- (d) Is Levi's response to the call of Jesus the same for everyone (Luke 5:10; Matthew 19:27; Luke 14:33; Luke 14:26)?
- (e) What is the essence of being a Christian (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:23; Matthew 19:21; John 1:43; John 10:27; John 21:19-21)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 5:27-28 and discuss what it means to be a Christian. Can a person be a Christian who does not see himself as a sinner? What does it mean to forsake all and follow Christ? Are the details of that call the same for every person? Pray for someone that does not know the Lord. Pray that they might see their sin and come to Christ.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:29.** What did Levi do after he decided to follow Jesus? Is he the only one to do this (John 1:41; John 4:29; Acts 10:24-48)?
- (b) *Where* does much of the ministry of the church seem to take place in the NT (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2; Acts 2:46; Acts 5:42; Acts 18:7)?
- (c) Define hospitality. Who are we to be hospitable to (Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:2)?
- (d) What impact do you think *a lifestyle of hospitality* would have on believers? On non-believers? Why do you think hospitality to believers is mentioned more than to non-believers?
- (e) Read Luke 14:12-24. What picture of the gospel is portrayed by this parable? What does Jesus tell his disciples to do in their invitations?
- (f) *Family* Read Luke 5:29 and Hebrews 13:2. Discuss hospitality. Why is it important? What message are we sending when we are not hospitable? What kinds of things could you do as a family to reach out to others with the gospel? Take some time to commit your home to the Lord that it might be used for the sake of His kingdom.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:30-32.** How is the grace of God evident by Jesus eating with these people? What kind of an attitude did the religious people of that day, especially the Pharisees, have toward sinners (Luke 7:36-39)?
- (b) Do Christians have this attitude toward sinners today? How does it affect our evangelism?
- (c) What should be our attitude toward sin and sinners (Jude 1:22-23)? What is the picture of "pulling them out of the fire" (Zechariah 3:2)?
- (d) Read the rest of Zechariah 3. *When* is that iniquity removed (Zechariah 3:9)? What is the responsibility of those who have been forgiven (Zechariah 3:10)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 5:30-32 and Zechariah 3. Talk about the picture of salvation that is found in Zechariah 3. What has Jesus done for us to make us clean before God? What should be our desire once we have been forgiven? Pray that God will give you a heart of compassion for the lost.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:31-32.** How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees? What did he say was his primary purpose?
- (b) Was Jesus suggesting that the Pharisees did not need a savior (also Luke 15:7)?
- (c) What do Romans 3:10 and Romans 3:21 tell us about every person's need? What was Jesus saying to the Pharisees?
- (d) Read Luke 18:10-14. What does this tell us about how a person is justified?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 5:31-32 and Luke 18:10-14. Why do people go to a doctor? How does Jesus apply this to the reason people come to him for salvation? Why do some people not come? Pray for some people who need to see their sin and Jesus as the only savior.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matthew 9:9-13.** What are the similarities and differences between this passage and Luke? What additional insight does Matthew add in Matthew 9:13?
- (b) What does this tell us about what God really desires from us? Is this unique to the New Testament (Proverbs 21:3; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8)?
- (c) What today would people think makes them right with God? What matters to God (Matthew 15:8)?
- (d) How is a heart of mercy and compassion essential for reaching lost people (Jude 1:22-23)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Matthew 9:9-13 and Jude 1:23. What should be our attitude toward non-believers? Have you ever been guilty of acting toward sinners like the Pharisees did? Ask the Lord to forgive you for failing to remember the greatest of your own sin and the greatness of His mercy toward you.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 5:27-32. What is the first step in becoming a Christian? Can a person who does not see his sin really be saved? What was Jesus saying about the Pharisees? What are some ways that we can reach out more effectively to sinners who need Christ? Pray that God's mercy might be clear to all who realize their need of a savior.

**DATE:** March 2, 2008

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***A Friend of Sinners***

*“I have come, not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*