

Life Group Discussion Guide

HEALER OF STORIES

Matthew 9:9-22

Stuart Jones - March 3, 2019



INTRODUCTION

The longer we are Christians, the more we are aware of our own sinfulness. The great hymn writer, Robert Robinson wrote, "Prone to Wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love." Thankfully, God's grace shines on us even more abundantly when we turn back to Him in repentance of our own sins. Robinson also wrote, "O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!" God does not abandon us in our weaknesses, but He restores courage, confidence and self-worth. We serve a mighty God!

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Did you have a nickname growing up or maybe you still have one. Tell the group how you got it or about a funny nickname of someone you know.
2. Jesus seemed to flourish in awkward situations—eating with those everyone hated, getting laughed at when He said the girl wasn't dead, she was merely asleep. Tell the group about one of your awkward moments in life. Don't be shy, we've all been there.

EVALUATE IT

1. Why are labels so hard to shake off even though we know His grace is sufficient? Why do people struggle personally to shake off the labels they have been given accurately or inaccurately?
2. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Why were the tax collectors in Jesus' day so disliked and why was it such a social shock that Jesus had dinner at a tax collector's house? Who would be the equivalent in 2019?
3. Stuart said, "There are a lot of us who only come to Jesus when we have exhausted every other possible solution." Why do people do this? Why is Jesus the last option instead of the first? What is the relationship between desperation and faith?
4. Three people came to Jesus. One had an inadequate lifestyle, another had an inadequate motive and the third an inadequate faith. Does bringing Matthew in and healing the others mean Jesus approved of their lifestyles? Why or why not? What then do His actions signify?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Stuart said, "And even if other people are able to look past it and get over it, sometimes, if we're honest with ourselves, we're the ones who can't get over our own story." Are there elements of your past that you've struggled to get past? Why?
2. Jesus is the One who includes the outcast, gives life to the dead and heals the sick who merely touch his clothes. Do you believe that whatever junk lives in your past Jesus is adequate to forgive you and help you live like it is gone? Explain.



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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