

FISHING

Group Guide:
Week 4

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Describe a memorable dinner party you've had. What made it memorable?
- What's one of the worst sicknesses you've had? How did you get well?

INTRODUCTION

The gospel is the good news of salvation through Jesus. That means, however, that to tell someone the gospel is to tell them they need saving. This creates a tension, because the gospel is only good news if you're willing to accept the bad news. At an interesting dinner party, Jesus shows his disciples how to engage this tension with compassion.

READ & DISCUSS EXAMINE THE TEXT FOR YOURSELF

READ: Matthew 9:9-13

DISCUSS:

1. After calling a tax collector named Matthew to be one of his disciples, Jesus and his disciples then sit down for a meal, then other tax collectors and sinners come to join them. What's surprising or interesting to you about this dinner party? How does it shape your thinking about "fishing for people"?
2. In verse twelve Jesus compares what he's doing to a doctor healing patients. In what ways are these people at the dinner party with Jesus "sick"?
3. The Pharisees ask Jesus' disciples why he's eating with tax collectors and sinners. Let's turn the question around: Why do you think the Pharisees wouldn't eat with tax collectors and sinners? If the Pharisees' attitude is a cautionary tale, what is your takeaway?

CHRIST CONNECT SEE HOW THE TEXT POINTS US TO JESUS

Jesus is the Great Physician who heals the sick. Not only did Jesus associate with tax collectors and sinners at this dinner party, but he was crucified between two criminals on the cross. His death was for all people—tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, you, and me. When we remember what he's done to make us well, we'll be willing to reach out to those who are spiritually sick and bring them to Jesus.

PRAY

1. Pray for wisdom and boldness to engage sinners *and* to call out sin for the sickness it is.
2. Pray for the mercy (compassion) that God is seeking in his people.
3. Pray by name for those you're trusting to come to faith in Jesus.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?