

## **IBD Week 1 -- Luke 5:1-11**

### **Thank everyone for coming. Re-communicate the purpose of the group and what the time will look like.**

This is a spiritual discussion – this means that I don't want to do all the talking. We can all share our thoughts and questions and learn from each other.

You don't need to know anything about the Bible, just be curious and open.

We will be looking at stories from Jesus' biographies.

You can ask any question you want.

### **Getting to know each other**

If people don't know each other, share names, majors, hometown, where they live on campus, what are they hoping to get out of the group.

Who is a person that you really respect? You would say, "I want to be like them?" Why? (You share first)

### **Read Luke 5:1-11**

#### **Who are the main characters and what do we know about them? (Stick mainly to what the passage says about them)**

Jesus – not a fisherman, teacher/rabbi

Simon (Peter) – boat owner/fisherman, became one of the 12 apostles

James and John – Also fishermen, Like Peter, became a part of the 12 apostles

#### **What can we learn about where this story takes place? What do you picture it would be like?**

By a lake, people gathered around (good acoustics by a lake), fishermen by the shore washing their nets after a long night's work, Jesus gets into Peter's boat

#### **If you were in Peter's place, would you have obeyed Jesus' (a carpenter) instruction? --Why or why not? Why do you think Peter did?**

-Probably knew Jesus before – they had seen Him heal a demon possessed man, and Jesus had been to Peter's house and healed His mother-in-law (Mark 1)

-Respected Him enough to call Him Master

-Showed a significant amount of faith

#### **What does the catch of fish tell you about Jesus?**

He is God

#### **How did Peter's view of Jesus change? How did his view of himself change?**

#### **Have you ever been in a situation like Peter (give an example)? (When he encountered God, he understood his sinfulness in a new way.)**

-High school basketball player thinks he's great, until he plays 1:1 with Michael Jordan.

-Don't this question out drag this out if they don't come up with anything

#### **Why would Peter tell Jesus to go away?**

-he was afraid, Jesus had power, and he didn't know what to do with Him, he didn't think he was worthy to follow Jesus or even be around him

#### **Why do you think Jesus responds to Peter the way He does? What does Jesus want with Peter's life?**

- He wants Peter to follow Him, to leave everything behind, to learn from Him and be like Him.

- Start catching men

#### **What things might have kept Peter from following Jesus?**

#### **Can you identify with Peter in any way? What do you think Jesus wants with your life?**

-Are you like Peter initially and want Jesus to go away or do you think Jesus is asking you to follow him?

-Don't give any answers, just let them talk

**Target:** They would begin to understand who Jesus is and that just as he called Peter, he is calling them to follow Him.

Could stop after 1<sup>st</sup> section if you are out of time, but keep going if you can.

## **Luke 5:27-31 - wk 1 section 2**

**Start with just reading vs27-28**

**What do you think Levi's life was like when Jesus met him?**

-stealing and taking advantage of others, making money, wealthy, self-focused, maybe felt guilty under the surface

**Why would Jesus want a man like Levi to be with Him?**

-How were tax collector's viewed?

-What do you think might have gone through Levi's head, when Jesus invited him to follow? – feelings of unworthiness, difficult to let go of the pursuit of wealth

**What is similar about how Peter and Levi respond to Jesus' invitation?**

-response is the same – left everything and followed

**In order to follow Jesus what did both Peter and Levi have to leave? What was "everything" for them?**

- livelihood, family, familiar environment, control of their life, certainty of the future

**In order for you to follow Jesus, what might He be asking you to leave behind?**

**Read verses 29-32**

**Tell me about the setting. What do you think might have motivated Levi to throw a party? Who did he invite?**

**Who did he not invite?**

Wanted his friends to meet Jesus, wanted to honor Jesus. He invited his friends (tax collectors and those who associate with tax collectors. Did not invite respected religious figures.

**How did the religious leaders view Jesus' attendance? Why? How did Jesus answer their complaint?**

They viewed him as being friends with "sinners." They viewed them as people God would not want to associate with.

He says that it is perfectly natural for Him to hang out with sinners because he came to call them to repentance

**What does He reveal about His mission?**

He came to be a physician. He came to heal those who are sick. He came to call people to repentance.

**What is repentance?**

(change of heart and resulting change of life) The one who knows he is a sinner knows what he needs to turn from.

**What does Jesus' answer tell you about the hearts of the Pharisee's?**

-They thought that they were healthy – they didn't see any need for Jesus to heal them. They thought they were pleasing to God on their own. Jesus is not pleased with this.

**In that society, those who followed the practices of the religious leaders were considered "healthy," while those who did not were considered "sick." Who on our campus would Jesus see as the healthy? Who would he consider to be sick?**

- He would see us all as sick. The healthy are the ones who realize they are sick and turn to Him to meet their need. The sick are the ones who are satisfied with their religious performance and don't think they need Him.

**Does Jesus see you right now as healthy or sick? Why? How do you think He wants you to respond?**

If I see myself as healthy -> realize I'm self righteous and really sick

If I see myself as sick -> Repent and follow Jesus

**Target:** They would understand that those who follow Jesus are the ones who realize that they are sick. Just like those who are healthy physically don't seek a doctor, those who think they are healthy spiritually will not see any need for Jesus. They would also understand that Jesus is not impressed with religious performance but he associates with and loves those who are willing to acknowledge their need.

## **Week 2 - Luke 7:36-50**

### **Intro Question:**

**Have you ever been forgiven by someone when you didn't deserve it? How did that affect the way that you viewed that person?**  
(As the leader you share first to give them an idea of what you mean).

Review last week – Jesus called Levi – Has not called any Pharisees to follow- but He will go to a Pharisees house and eat.

### **Who is Jesus interacting with in this story?**

Simon – Pharisee (religious leaders among the Jews who prided themselves on keeping God's law)  
Woman of the city – considered a sinner, maybe a prostitute, definitely had a bad reputation

### **What do you think might have motivated Simon to invite Jesus to dinner?**

- wasn't to honor Him because he didn't treat him as an honored guest (custom to have a servant wash the feet of guests because of the dusty roads.)
- he did call him "Teacher" so he must have had some level of interest or curiosity about Him.

### **What would have motivated the woman to enter the house of a religious leader as an uninvited guest?**

- faced ridicule and scorn by going into Simon's home
- what were her actions communicating – gratitude, love
- she had nothing to lose, didn't care about the opinions of the guests
- annointed him with very expensive perfume – probably very costly to her

### **How did Simon respond to her extravagant actions? Why?**

- Judges, condemns both of them
- said to himself, "If he were a prophet, he would have known that she is a sinner"
- assumes that Jesus thinks about people the same way he does – assumes he would not want the woman to touch Him.

### **How did Jesus respond to each? What does he want each to understand?**

- asks Simon a question to try to show him the true condition of his heart – because he does not think he is a sinner, he has no real love for Jesus. Jesus wants him to understand that his need is much greater than he thinks – Simon needs a savior just as much as the woman. He does not tell Simon that he is forgiven – Simon has no faith.
- Reassures the woman that she is forgiven, her faith has saved her. Communicates compassion and that He values her love for Him.

### **Why do His radical statements prompt a response from the other guests?**

- He is saying, "I can forgive sins." The only one able to do that is God, Therefore Jesus is saying "I am God!"

### **When Jesus says, "Your faith has saved you, what is she saved from?"**

- a great debt that she could not pay
- Romans 3:23 – all have sinned
- Romans 6:23 – consequence of sin is death
- Ephesians 2:8-9 – saved by grace, it is not our own doing

### **Do you think she was forgiven because she loved or did she love because she was forgiven?**

### **Which character in this story do you most identify with? The Pharisee, the woman, or the guests?**

- We can all have 3 responses to Jesus:
  - Pharisee: I don't need Jesus
  - Woman: I definitely need Jesus
  - Guests: What's going on? How can Jesus forgive sin?

**Target:** They would understand the greatness of their debt to God because of their sin, but they would also understand that Jesus has authority to forgive sin. They would be able to identify where they are at in the story (which character do they most closely identify with). They would also understand that turning to Jesus in faith is key. (Note: during week 3, we will cover what God is asking us to specifically put our faith in).

### **Supplemental** Luke 8:40-56

Jesus says faith saves. How do you see faith demonstrated by Jarius and the woman? How does Jesus respond to their faith?

### **Week 3 Luke 23:26-49**

We have read a few passages in Luke looking at the life of Jesus, but tonight we are going to fast-forward to the most crucial event in all of history – his death.

#### **Background information**

- Pharisees (religious leaders) continue to grow more angry with Jesus because he reveals their hypocrisy. They set many traps for him but are not successful in convicting him of sin.
- They were looking for a way to put him to death when He was in Jerusalem for the Passover (main Jewish feast), but they feared the people because Jesus was popular.
- For a bribe, Judas (one of his disciples) agrees to betray Jesus at night.
- **Read Luke 23:1-25 for background if you have time** – Jesus is on trial, Pilate and Herod can find no guilt in him. However, the priests and the crowds insist that Jesus be crucified, and Pilate is afraid to stand up to them.

**What are the people in this passage saying or thinking about Jesus? What would you be feeling if you had been there?**

- some were mourning, some mocked him and did not believe, a centurion praised God and believed that Jesus was innocent

**Do you see any significance in Jesus being crucified with criminals?**

- Isaiah 53:12 - ...but he was numbered with the transgressors...- fulfilled prophecy
- Only criminals were crucified. Jesus was counted as one who had broken the law even though he was perfectly righteous. No one could prove him guilty of sin. He was dying for the sin of others rather than his own.

**What stands out to you about the way that Jesus responded to His enemies? Why do you think He was able to respond in this way?**

**Contrast the two criminals: How did their views of Jesus differ? How did Jesus respond to each? The criminals represent two possible responses that a person can have toward Jesus. Which one do you most closely identify with?**

- Hostility and unbelief or Embrace and faith, There is no middle ground here.

**Luke mentions two phenomena, darkness & a torn curtain, that happened between noon and 3pm while Jesus was on the cross. What do you think might have been the significance of each?** (if this part is unclear to you, ask your Bible study leader or one of the staff)

- darkness (probably a solar eclipse) – symbolic of God the Father turning His back on Jesus and pouring out His wrath on sin.
- Curtain being torn –curtain in the temple symbolized our separation from God because of our sin (Isaiah 59:2) – When it was torn, it symbolized that Jesus had fully paid for sin, and the way was now open to be in relationship with God.

**Who killed Jesus? Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to die such a brutal death?**

- God killed Jesus. This was the only way He could forgive us and have a relationship with us. Otherwise, our sin is in the way.
- John 10:17-18 – Jesus lay down his life of his own will, no one took his life from him. He did this in obedience to His Father.

This would be a good time to do the Bridge or review it with your group to illustrate our need for Christ's death, what Jesus actually did on the cross to bring us to God, and how we can respond. If you have already done the Bridge, you can still go back and review using truths discovered in the passage. They might put themselves in a different spot.

**Target:** They would understand that sin separates them from God and deserves death, that God because He loves them sent Jesus to die and bear the full punishment for their sin. They would also understand that a response to these truths is required. We can either reject Jesus and trust in our own goodness to make us right with God or we can renounce any hope in our own goodness and put our faith in what Jesus did on the cross to make us right with God.

If the group is going well, you can discuss the idea of continuing to meet after spring break if desired.