



SESSION 2 - INVEST

SERIES BIG IDEA

We want to be a community of people who are on mission together so that more and more people accept Jesus' invitation and find their way back to God.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Jesus continually invested in relationships to help people find their way back to God.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:9-13

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

Get the group chatting and discussing what it means to include another person. The cultural symbols of inclusion were a little different in the first century than today, but all of us have experienced feeling included and included.

BIBLE STUDY

Use this time to explore how Matthew may have felt about Jesus' investment. In the beginning, perhaps he felt skeptical, nervous, or unworthy. Maybe Matthew beat himself up far more than society did or perhaps having been taken advantage of his whole life, Matthew spent his days only looking out for himself. Any kindness would have been questioned.

Help your group explore how Jesus' response to the Pharisees would have made Matthew feel. Matthew and his friends understood their place in the world, and yet Jesus honored them by sharing a meal. He claimed their importance by being worthy of his time.

LIFE APPLICATION

Take your time working through these questions. They are intended to steer the group towards conversations of worth and value by framing the topic around Matthew's perceived quality, both by the world and by Jesus. Spend time helping those in your group explore how they can use their gifts to bring glory to God.

CHALLENGE

Share with the group the name of one person you feel God is calling you to invest in relationally. Spend some time praying over the specific names asking God to help you see them as he does, showing you both their goodness and the ways you can care for them. Make a plan this week to follow God's prompting.