

- Sing one or two songs from morning worship (printed in bulletin, available at redeemerprestemple.org under the “Resources” tab)
- Read the Scripture passage (printed below and in bulletin)
- Pray with a specific focus on people and situations in the group (spiritual growth, needs, encouragement, rejoicing)
- Pray for the truths discussed from the Scripture study to more deeply permeate our lives and empower us for service and mission together.

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the Levis of our society, the people we would consider socially unacceptable and unwelcome? How does Jesus call us to respond to them?
2. Are there any ways that the call of Levi relates to your own story of redemption, or your hopes for others in your life?
3. Where does the Pharisaical spirit persist in your own heart and in the church today? Why do we think of pleasing God more in terms of the delights we give up than the joys we receive?
4. How does the gospel open your heart to joy in life and the willingness to embrace other "sinners"?
5. Why is celebration such a vital ministry for our church? Where can Redeemer foster "front porch" spaces for lost friends and neighbors to encounter the love of Christ and have an opportunity to belong even before they believe?

Announcements

- SENDING SUNDAY May 19

Luke 5:27-39

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

³³ And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." ³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." ³⁶ He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"