

w e e k e n d m e s s a g e s e r i e s

Lunchroom



September 7, 2025

Then he [Jesus] added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices, for I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’”

-Matthew 9:13

Reflect

Pause and be still for a moment. Invite Jesus to speak to you from his word.

Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 9:9-13 NLT

What is it from these verses that grabs your heart or sparks curiosity?

Put yourself in Matthew’s shoes for a moment. What might it have been like (felt like?) to be welcomed by Jesus?

Have you ever felt left out, on the outside? Jesus offers radical belonging to Matthew. Have you experience Jesus welcoming you with radical belonging?

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Pray

Turn to God and use the previous question as a springboard for prayer. What might God want to say to you about this? Listen carefully.

You belong! You are a member of God's family. Talk to God about what that means and what it might look like to bring your gifts, to share your gifts, in his family.

Ask God to bring to mind someone who is struggling to belong, who might feel on the outside. Pray for them and reach out to them in love this week.

Live It Out

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. This reminds us that you are a member of God's family—an important part of the body of Christ. Take a moment to reflect on how God has uniquely wired you with gifts, passions, and skills. How can you use them to bless and engage the church family you belong to? Ask God to give you a specific step to take and courage to follow where He is leading.