

## MESSAGE NOTES

**Series:** Power - Discover How to Walk Deeply With God

**Message:** Relationships on Purpose

**Text:** The Gospels

**Speaker:** Brian Bolton, Pastor

- ⇒ Neighbors who don't know the Lord
  
  - ⇒ Work associates who don't know the Lord
  
  - ⇒ Acquaintances (mail carrier, mechanic, doctor, etc.) who don't know the Lord
  
  - ⇒ Parents where your kids participate in activities (band, sports, etc.) who don't know the Lord
  
  - ⇒ Choose 2 people from the lists above you feel the Lord would have you prioritize. What can you do in the next few weeks to deepen these relationships?
7. Why is it important for us, like Jesus, to have friendships with the lost? How do such relationships encourage our relationship with the Father to keep growing? (See Philemon v.6)

## Pray

Take time to pray for the people you listed above.

*Growth Groups are sermon-based small groups that meet primarily in homes.  
To join a group, visit [mycpointe.com/growthgroups](http://mycpointe.com/growthgroups)*

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your Growth Group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps. You can use this study guide with your Growth Group, your family, or on your own.

## Pray

Begin in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

## Open

1. Describe your best friend in high school? Why were you friends?

2. When it comes to friendships now, what's important to you? Why?

## Read, Hear, & Live the Word

On Sunday Brian talked about the need for us to have relationships with those who do not know or walk with Christ. If we are to "walk as Jesus walked" then we will do as Jesus did, and be a friend of sinners.

1. How is the phrase "friend of sinners" used in Matthew 11:18-19? What's this referring to?

2. In Matthew 9:10-13 Jesus is once again associated with "tax collectors and 'sinners.'" Why does Jesus say in this setting, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'"? What was Jesus modeling for us?

3. In Luke 14:34-35, Jesus warns His listeners, "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the manure pile; it is thrown out." In the next verses (15:1-2) Jesus models an answer to this rhetorical question. Look closely at the situation. How does Jesus respond relationally to "sinners"?

4. Why do you think tax collectors and sinners felt so safe with Jesus? What insight does John 3:16-17 give us?

5. Describe Jesus' attitude toward "tax collectors and 'sinners'" as it is presented in Luke 15:1-2. What type of attitude must you display so that lost people are eager to spend time with you?

6. Those who have been active in church for a long time often feel disconnected from the lost. Our problem is simply what Jesus described in John 4:35: we need to open our "eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Research suggest that the average churchgoer has more than 20 relationships with non-Christians. The lost are there in your world of relationships, if we just open our eyes to see them. Who are the "lost" friends the Lord has placed in your life? Make a list.

⇒ Family Members (immediate family) who don't know the Lord

⇒ Relatives (extended family) who don't know the Lord