



Icebreaker Questions:

What's the best underdog story that you've ever heard of or seen? Why?

When is a time that you unfairly wrote someone off? What would you do differently?

Discussion Questions:

What stood out to you the most about this message this week?

The big idea for the message is: While we often feel led to center our faith and action on those in the church, Jesus points us to mission and ministry in the margins.

- How does the church often focus on serving those "on the inside?"
- Who in your world today would you consider to be "in the margins" of life? As a group or family, create a list of at least 10 groups of people or individuals.
- For each one on your list, think of at least one way the local church (especially Northlawn) can serve them and meet them where they are.

Read Matthew 9:9.

- Why were the tax collectors despised by the Jewish people?

Jesus saw in a person not only who they were, but also who they could be.

- How did Jesus do this with Matthew?
- When have you ever been the recipient of this grace from someone else before?

Prayer and Next Step:

Write down or track prayer requests. Be sure to follow up on previous requests.

Pray for the world in the midst of the COVID-19 situation. Pray for creative and effective ways to connect with one another and "meet people where they are" today.

Create a list by having each person in your group come up with at least one way that we can connect with others in spite of the Social Distancing we are living in.

Close in prayer.

- Who in your life do you see something special in, despite where they may be right now? How can you share that with them and walk with them?
- When have you seen Jesus pursue you because He saw who you could be and were meant to be?

Read Matthew 9:10-11.

- Why are the Pharisees upset with Jesus?
- Why would they not do the same thing that Jesus is doing?

Read Matthew 9:12-13.

- Where is the need the greatest in your community?
- Where is the need the greatest right now because of COVID-19?
- What does it mean to you when Jesus says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice?"
 - How have you lived into the sacrifice that Jesus does not desire?
 - How do you live into the mercy that he calls us to show?