Icebreaker:
Last week, Jerry referred to “Why” questions. Briefly answer one of these: Why do you come to church? Why do we do what we do at ZPC?

Read this week’s scripture and discuss:

1. In the Matthew passage, Jesus says to Matthew, “Follow me.” Do you find Matthew’s response realistic? Why or why not?
2. Based on this scene with Jesus in Matthew 9, with whom would you rather dine: the religious leaders or the tax collectors and sinners? Why?
3. Is there someone who you wouldn’t normally associate with that you have been called to sit around the table with? (Or has there been a time in the past when you have done that?)
4. It has been said, “The church will not be shaped as much by what happens on the stage as it does around the table.” Do you think this is true? Why or not?
5. Jesus’ words in John 3:16 are grand, “For God so loved the world…” Yet Jesus often loved with very simple human actions. How do his simple actions match up to such a grand vision for the world?
6. It was said by ZPC staff, “In small acts, love is revealed.” Can you list some small acts of love that make an impact to one other person and even to the world?
7. Please read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 on the card from worship on Sunday. Is there an example of this kind of love that you have experienced?

Prayer:
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

> Pray for the individuals and volunteers involved with IHN as we host homeless families at ZPC this week.
[The following are from ZPC’s prayer calendar, which is available at the Welcome Center or at zpc.org/prayer.]
> Pray for Noah’s Ark children, families, and staff to experience God’s love each day. May their lives be touched by the relationships built on Christ’s love.
> Pray for the guests and team of the Women’s Brazil Great Banquet #6 Sept 20-23 that the Brazilian women would experience God’s grace and love as they grow in their faith.