



Lesson Aim: To learn more about the heart of Jesus for people who are far from God.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you were chosen for something that surprised you.

1. **READ Luke 5:27-32.** Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what are some of the reasons that a tax collector like Levi (Matthew) would be despised among his fellow Jews? How do you think the other disciples felt about Jesus' choice to ask Levi to join their ranks?
2. How do you think you would have felt if you had been Levi in the moment when Jesus looked at Him and said: "Follow Me"?
3. One of the principles from Pastor Scott's teaching Sunday was to *focus on the future potential and not on the past* of a person (like Jesus did with Levi). What are some ways we can cultivate this attitude toward others?
4. What are some ways you have personally experienced Jesus calling you into relationship with Him and service for Him in spite of your shortcomings and sinfulness?
5. Look over the section in your teaching notes titled "Possible Attitudes Toward the Lost." Which of these four attitudes has most characterized your life in the past 6 months? How so?
6. The calling of Levi strongly illustrates the heart of Jesus for people who are far from God. How do the following stories also highlight this truth?

Luke 19:1-10:

John 8:1-11:

7. Another principle from Sunday's teaching was that *we would be shocked at all the people who would respond to God if we simply built a bridge of true concern into their lives.* Are there any examples you'd like to share with the group of opportunities God has given you in your life to build bridges with people who are far from God (whether long ago or recently)?
8. As you think about your life TODAY, are you in regular contact with people who are far from God? If your answer is NO, what is at least one thing you can do to begin to establish this contact?
9. If YES, what are some ways you can build bridges to share the life and love of Jesus Christ with those around you who are far from Him?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

LUKE 5:27-32

TAKING PROACTIVE MEASURES TO RECONNECT

- ▶ PRINCIPLE #1: You can't have impact without contact.

LEVI'S CALL (vv.27-28)

- ▶ PRINCIPLE #2: Focus on the future potential & not on the past.
- ▶ PRINCIPLE #3: People know when you really care about them. (1 Peter 4:8)
- ▶ PRINCIPLE #4: You would be shocked at all the people who would respond to God if you simply built a bridge of true concern into their lives.

LEVI'S PARTY (v.29)

- ▶ Possible Attitudes Toward the Lost

- ① Despise & avoid them
- ② View them with indifference
- ③ Receive them when they draw near
- ④ Actively seek them

OBJECTION & RESPONSE (vv.30-32)

- ▶ PRINCIPLE #5: You can't solve a problem until you recognize you have one!

Jesus Christ's Mission: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)