



Group Leader Guide - Week 2

Sermon Recap

Josh discusses the feelings of inadequacy and "imposter syndrome" that can arise in our lives, particularly in spiritual contexts, where individuals may feel they don't belong. He emphasizes that this feeling can lead to hiding our struggles and isolation from community, but it's important to recognize that such feelings are common and not unique to any one person. Josh uses the example of Matthew, a tax collector who was rejected by society, to illustrate how Jesus invites those who feel like outsiders to follow Him—transforming their identity and worth. He concludes with an invitation to embrace one's roughness and to understand that God can and does use flawed people, highlighting that everyone's journey with Jesus begins with the call to "Follow me."

Ice Breaker

When was one time in your life when you felt completely out of place?

Read Scripture

Matthew 9:9-13 NIV

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Discussion Questions

▼ How does the story of Matthew being called by Jesus challenge our understanding of who is qualified to follow Him?

- *Callback to sermon:* Josh explained that Matthew was rejected by society and was a tax collector, yet Jesus invited him to follow despite his past.
- *Application:* Are there people in your life who you think might feel unworthy or unqualified to seek God? How can you support them?

▼ What is "Imposter Syndrome," and why do you think so many people experience it, even in a church setting?

- *Callback to sermon:* Josh talked about Imposter Syndrome as a feeling of being unqualified or pretending, and how it affects people in different areas of life, including church.
- *Application:* Can you think of a time when you felt like an imposter? How did that impact your actions?

▼ Why do you think it's important for Jesus to invite people like Matthew into a relationship with Him?

- *Callback to sermon:* Josh emphasized that Jesus came for people who felt rough or rejected, showcasing His love and acceptance.
- *Application:* How can you reflect that same love and acceptance toward others in your community?

▼ How does the genealogy of Jesus, which included people with rough backgrounds, relate to the idea that everyone is welcomed by God?

- *Callback to sermon:* Josh pointed out that Matthew included many outsiders and imperfect people (*mumzers: people born of an unapproved or illegitimate birth*) in Jesus' family tree to show God's acceptance. Jesus himself was considered a *mumzer*.

- Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,.. Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,.. and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. - *Matthew 1:3, 5-6, 16 NIV*
- *Application:* How can understanding that God's love is for everyone affect how you view your own past or the past of others? How does understanding Jesus' association with the "rough crowd" and His own experience of societal rejection impact our view of His ministry and mission? In what ways can this understanding shape our approach to welcoming and loving those who feel like outsiders or unqualified in our own communities?

▼ What does the term *talmidim* mean, and how does it differ from our view today?

- *Callback to sermon:* Josh explains the term "talmidim" is used to describe disciples who not only learn from their Rabbi but strive to become like him in every aspect of their lives.
- *Application:* How does the concept challenge our modern understanding of discipleship? What practical steps can we take to move from merely acquiring knowledge about Jesus to truly embodying His character and mission in our daily lives?

Application Challenge

▼ Josh issued a new challenge for Jesus followers this week. How can we apply this to our lives and live out the message?

- What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus?
 - Josh challenges us to not delay and identify it.
 - Matthew didn't just leave behind a job or lifestyle, but left behind shame, guilt, and an identity that kept him trapped.
 - "Follow me," [Jesus] told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. - *Matthew 9:9*
- Identify what is holding you back from exploring Jesus.
 - What is stopping you from connecting and learning more about Jesus?
 - In the Bible, the rough crowd loved Jesus and Jesus loved the rough crowd.

Remember: **We are the rough crowd.**

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests within the group.
- Pray for God to help everyone recognize their worth regardless of feelings of inadequacy.
- Ask God to encourage each person to engage with the church community despite their struggles.
- Seek God's guidance to embrace His love and forgiveness in our lives.

Rewatch the sermon

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