

Sermon Discussion Guide

Love Your Neighbor: *Be Intentional, “You’ve got to meet my friend!”*

July 3, 2022

Big Idea

Jesus’ call of every man, woman, & child is “*Follow me*”. We, as followers of Jesus, are to mirror him at building relationships even with those currently far from God so they can meet him, Jesus, our friend.

Icebreaker

Describe a time when you felt ill-equipped or disqualified because of something you did in your past but where God, or godly people, showed you otherwise by investing in you or giving you a chance.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 5:17-26. -Currently who (man on the mat, one of the 4 friends, one watching in amazement, or a Pharisee) are you most like in this story and why? -What was at the core of all that these 4 friends did for their friend (a.k.a. what drove them to be so determined)? -How far are you willing to currently go to lead someone to Jesus & what is stopping you from going even just a little further?
2. In this scene, what was at the core of the Pharisees hearts in their response to what Jesus did? And in some ways can you understand, or relate to, their position? If so, how? -Because of their strong position and lack of willingness to consider a “new thing” happening, what did they miss seeing in this account? -When & how have you been guilty of something similar based upon your traditions or biases?
3. Read Luke 5:27-32. All throughout this account (Luke 5:17-32) Jesus is clearly completely secure in God’s love which breeds a healthy & Godly confidence in the face of criticism. We can live in an ever-increasing way like that as well. -Is there a time you can describe have faced criticism in how you live for God; who you invest time & energy in; what you invest time & energy in, where you have not displayed a similar confidence? -What needs to change for you to grow in this?
4. Both the瘫痪的 man & Levi had a story to share. And so do you! -In the safety of this group practice the final “S” (Share) in the BLESS Strategy by telling a story of how Jesus has helped you; changed you, etc.. With whom can you foresee eventually sharing this same story with though it seems a bit of a stretch right now? If you continue applying the entire BLESS Strategy while being patient can you foresee a door opening, why or why not?
5. Jesus calls us to spend time with and love others because we have been loved by Him and called to follow him. This can be scary because getting involved with people can be messy. This can be scary because people may not be interested and/or they may have questions we feel we cannot answer. What are some things you can do to combat these fears and answer His call of you to follow Him?

Concluding Question

Review the entire BLESS Strategy? Where are you in your journey of living it out? What step is next?

Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer

- Help us to be more aware of and able to share comfortably what God has done; is doing; will do.