

King and Cross || Jesus Loves Sinners

Group Notes

INTRODUCTION

In the book of Mark, we see Jesus, the friend of sinners, reaching out to the seemingly unlikely, the socially undesirable, and the spiritually unhealthy. Jesus did not call a “sinner” here and there, but a large part of his ministry was focused on these groups of social outcasts. It is important to remember that everyone is a sinner. By labeling groups of people as “sinners,” Mark is pointing out that their peers looked down on them as such. Culture accepted that these people were sinners while not recognizing that others (like the Jewish leaders) were as well.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Who did God use to bring you to the point where you knew you needed Jesus?
2. What do you value most in a friendship? In your relationship with Christ?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your message notes from this weekend’s teaching, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

WATCH THE VIDEO

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GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How does it make you feel that Jesus has called you personally to follow Him?
2. Read [Mark 2:14-17](#). In what ways do you identify with Levi (Matthew), the outcast tax collector? What do you appreciate about God’s grace?
3. What can we learn about the character and mission of Jesus from His calling of Levi?
4. What people do you think Jesus would hang out with today?
5. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus’ habit of associating with these types of people? What was Jesus’ explanation for this?
6. In what ways do some Christians today act like Pharisees, whether the good aspects or the bad? Have you ever found yourself doing these things?
7. What kind of “sinners” are you reluctant to befriend? What kind of weakness or fear keeps you from showing the love of Jesus to them?

PRAYER

Jesus sees in us what no one else can see and turns us into what were intended to be by His grace. Celebrate and thank God for his love and grace in our lives and ask that we would reflect His glory in all that we do. Thank Him for choosing to be the friend to sinners and die on a cross for our sins. As a group, spend time praying over each other. Ask God to give you courage to step out this week and share how Jesus has changed your life so others will come to meet, know, and follow Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Serve Day is coming up on February 18. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community together as a group/family. There are multiple projects to choose from across the East Valley. Serving together as a group is a great way to grow deeper in your friendships while supporting your local communities. For more information and to sign-up, go to serveday.sv.cc
- Summer Global Mission Trip registrations will be closing March 1. If you have been considering joining one of our teams in Nicaragua or South Africa, please be sure to secure your spot now with your \$100 deposit. For more information about our Global Mission Trip opportunities or to register, visit world.sv.cc or contact Ashley Smallwood at asmallwood@sunvalleycc.com
- Baptisms are coming up on March 4 & 5. If you have said Yes to Jesus but have not yet taken the next step of baptism, you can find out more information and register at baptism.sv.cc