

Our vision of Jesus shapes our faith.
People ____ talk ____ about other ____ people ____.
People talked about ____ Jesus ____.

“The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a **glutton** and a **drunkard**, and a **friend of tax collectors** and other **sinners!**’” *Matthew 11:19*

Jesus made it a ____ practice ____ to eat and drink with sinners.

“He was not only breaking the law; he was destroying the very structure of Jewish society.” — Brennan Manning

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was **associating** with such sinful people—even **eating** with them! *Luke 15:1-2*

There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the **chief tax collector** in the region, and he had become **very rich**. *Luke 19:2*

“Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your **home** today.” *Luke 19:5*

But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a **notorious sinner**,” they grumbled. *Luke 19:7*

“They overlooked the fact that coming into a world like ours, he was limited exclusively to such homes.” — William MacDonald

“For the Son of Man came to **seek** and **save** those who are **lost**.” *Luke 19:10*

Lost means ____ out ____ of ____ place ____.

For God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. *2 Corinthians 5:19*

Christ **suffered** for **our sins** once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring **you** safely **home** to **God**. *1 Peter 3:18*

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by **shedding** his **blood** for us. *Revelation 1:5*

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.” *Romans 10:13*

Group Prep
In preparation for group, read Matthew 9:9-13, listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction
Are you aware that 80% of our conversations are about other people? Gossip is an epidemic. It was no different in first-century Jewish culture, and a lot of the gossip was aimed at Jesus. Jesus hung out with tax collectors and other notorious sinners, even though He was a rabbi. It was actually against the law for rabbis to hang out with sinners! You wouldn’t have caught any other rabbi spending time with irreligious people, but Jesus was savage.

Discussion Questions
1. With whom do you spend most of your time? How much time do you spend with Christians, and how much time do you spend with non-Christians? When, where, and how do you divvy up your time spent with both types of people?

2. How did Jesus divvy up his time between Christians and non-Christians? Take a moment to recall some different instances of Jesus spending intentional time with people who were considered non-religious.

Read Matthew 9:9-13. Who is Jesus referring to when he says, “sick people? (NLT)” Who is Jesus referring to when he says, “healthy people? (NLT)” Why would Jesus prioritize spending time with “sick people” rather than those who are “healthy?”

Think about the differences between first-century Jewish culture vs. today’s American culture. What would make it easier or more difficult to prioritize spending time influencing other people for God’s Kingdom?

3. For you personally, what makes it challenging to discuss faith in Jesus Christ with others, and if you don’t find it difficult, what makes it easier?

Read Matthew 11:28-30. What does Jesus offer the people in your life who do not yet have a relationship with him? Who in your life could use a life-altering relationship with Jesus?

Action Step
Read Luke 19:10, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Matthew 9:37-38, Proverbs 11:30, and Mark 16:15-16. Which of these verses could help you prioritize spending time with those who don’t have a relationship with Jesus Christ and why? This coming week, how will you be savage like Jesus and invite others to experience life in relationship with him?

My action step is _____.
_____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.
_____.

My memory verse is _____.
_____.

This coming week, I’m praying for _____.
_____.

Outreach: Groups in Action
Serve at The Refuge: As a group, support Emmanuel’s local nonprofit partnership, The Refuge, by preparing a meal, stocking the pantry/clothing, mentoring a client, or encouraging the disheartened. Call 317-889-7338 and ask for Marcie to schedule your group to serve on a Thursday night.

Support a foster family: Emmanuel has multiple families who have recently brought foster children into their home. Preparing a meal, purchasing a gift card, mowing the lawn, providing childcare, or cleaning a house are just a few ways we can support them as they provide structure for a child in need. For more information, please contact Emmanuel’s Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.