



Month 3: Eating with Sinners

Based on Matthew 9:9-13

This week we continued our “God-Lived Life” Stewardship Series with God’s reminders that a God-Lived Life is a life of hospitality (love of strangers).

Connect to Each Other

- The sermon talked about hospitality. Each person should tell about the person in your life who best exemplified (exemplifies) hospitality. What’s the most shockingly hospitable thing you remember them doing? (Remember hospitality is “love of strangers.”)
- (Optional) What’s the most extremely hospitable thing you’ve done?

Connect to the Word

- In Matthew 9:9-13, Jesus told the Pharisees “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” Define who he is talking about with “healthy” and “sick” here, and then later with “righteous” and “sinners.” Brainstorm other biblical examples of Jesus teaching this lesson. What can you learn about your purpose as Christians from this?
- In the Acts reading (2:42-47), we heard that the early Christians were “enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Review that reading. List the reasons it is likely they were “enjoying the favor” of the people in their community. How did God use that?

Connect to Life

- The Pharisees were always giving Jesus a hard time, as we see in our sermon text today. In truth, there is a “little Pharisee” that lives in each of our hearts. When do you find that Pharisee showing through in your life? How do you combat it?

- Brainstorm ways “a Christian” could show radical hospitality. Then go through the compiled list of ideas and discuss how you might be that “Christian.” Each share at least one that you can see yourself doing.

Leader Notes

Answers for the “Connect to Each other” section:

Answers will vary. Look for some common trends in the answers

Answer for the “Connect to the Word” section:

- He’s talking about their perception. Those who think they have no problem are not going to be accepting help. Those who think they are righteous don’t want what he gives because they don’t think they need it. See what examples the group comes up with and discuss through them. If they need some help, introduce one of these at a time...
 - **Luke 18:9-14 – Pharisee and tax collector at temple.** *The Pharisee thought he was serving God but was really just serving his own pride. The tax collector realized his sickness and looked to the doctor for the medicine “Lord, have MERCY on me, a sinner.” And while they are here—maybe point to next two accounts...*
 - **Luke 18:15-17 – The Little children have the kingdom of God, because they look to Jesus**
 - **Luke 18:18-27 – “All these I have kept since I was a boy.”** *He didn’t realize his need for Jesus, so it wasn’t worth it to give up his stuff to follow him.*
 - **Matthew 10:25-26 – Jesus praising God that he has hidden things from wise and learned but revealed to little children**
 - **Or how about Jesus’ mom?** **Luke 1:46-55 – Magnificat** – *all about lifting up humble and bringing down proud*
 - **Purpose as Christians** – *is not to look down on others or live so people see us and lift us up—like Jesus it is to serve, not concerned about image, but showing love*

Early Christians –

- *V. 42 – People could tell they were devoted. People respect people who live their convictions (even if they don’t agree with them at first)*
- *V. 43 – Apostles were doing miracles of healing and helping, so there’s that.*
- *V. 44 – you could tell they loved each other and got along (sharing everything)*
- *V. 45 – they sacrificed to help others too*
- *46-47 – They worshipped and learned—God’s Word was clearly a part of their life which leads others to wonder if the learning and living are connected and want that for themselves. There is a difference between just being a good neighbor and being a good neighbor that obviously worships God.*

Answer for the “Connect to Life” section:

- **Anytime** we look down on others because they aren’t doing what we are doing. Anytime we’d rather talk about someone than to them. Specific answers may vary.
- **Combat** it by looking to Jesus’ love. Remember the value Christ placed on all people—and how much we are like the tax collector—“Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.”
- *Answers may vary.*