

# *the invitation*

## **The Invitation, Pt. 2: Invest**

Every person longs for meaningful friendships. We are wired for them. Yet far too many of us have grown to be adults with too little relational connection. What if we lived as a community of people who walked through our days with attentiveness to the opportunities we have to invest in the lives of others? What if, instead of just letting people pass us by, we actually took the time to invest in them.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus continually invested in relationships to help people find their way back to God.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is your favorite meal? If you could invite anyone to share that meal with you who would it be?
2. The Gospels say Jesus ate with “sinners” and tax collectors, who were the undesirables of their day, and by eating with them Jesus wasn’t just acting friendly, it was a symbol of inclusion in God’s Kingdom. What are the ways we demonstrate inclusion today?
3. **Read Matthew 9:9-13.** How do you think Matthew felt about Jesus’ invitation to have dinner with him? What do you think Jesus meant by “I desire mercy, not sacrifice”?
4. Jesus came to Matthew in the midst of his ordinary life; he met Matthew where he was, in a tax booth, ripping people off. What does that say about the nature of God? What does that mean for us today?
5. Tax collectors represented the people their society had decided were “not respectable”. They were social outcasts, not allowed to go to the temple or provide testimony at a trial. Who would you say the world has deemed “unrespectable” today? In what ways can you engage that population?
6. When Jesus calls, Matthew does not hesitate, or try to clean up his act; he gets up and follows Jesus. Why do you think it is so difficult for us to do the same? What about our past keeps us from trusting Jesus invitation of friendship?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?