







**SERIES: Reflections on the Life of Christ**

<b>Week 3: Luke 5:27-31</b>	
<p><b>Connect</b></p>  <p><b>5 – 10 min</b></p>	<p>Icebreaker question: “What type of party do you like best?”</p>
<p><b>Gratitude</b></p>  <p><b>10 – 15 min</b></p>	<p>Share the Lord’s Supper together. Think about what it means to be invited to “the wedding supper of the Lamb” (Rev 19:9), and what Jesus has done to make that possible. (You might like to read Revelation 19:4-10 as part of this time.)</p>
<p><b>Discover</b></p>  <p><b>25 min</b></p>	<p>Read Luke 5:27-31</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When you heard this passage read, what word or phrase particularly jumped out at you? Why?</li> <li>2. What do we learn about who Jesus and what he is like from this passage?</li> <li>3. Read the attached article. What did you find particularly interesting? Why?</li> <li>4. If Jesus was walking the streets of Sydney today and was calling people to follow him who might he choose?</li> <li>5. Been to any “sinners” parties lately?? (Note: Jesus was <u>invited</u>. Why?). How do we connect with people outside the church without that environment shaping us?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Act</b></p>  <p><b>10 min</b></p>	<p>What action is God asking of you or your house church in response to what you have discovered in God’s Word today/tonight?</p>

### **Digging Deeper (based on commentary by John Martin)**

The call of Levi (named Matthew in Matt. 9:9.) was the culmination of the previous two miracles. Jesus had shown that He 1) had the authority to make a person ceremonially clean and 2) to forgive sins. Now those two authorities were brought to bear on one who was to become His disciple.

Levi's duties as a tax collector would have alienated him from the religious community of his day. He was seen as one who betrayed his nation for material gain, for tax collectors gathered money from the Jews to give to the Romans, who were Gentiles, who then did not have to work (cf. 3:12-13). Seemingly Levi would be an unlikely candidate for a disciple of the One who claimed to be the Messiah.

Luke, in his gospel, gives particular attention to the so-called "sinners"; that is, those who were marginalized from religious life in Israel because of some reason that made them ceremonially unclean.

Luke's point would have been clear even if he had stopped with the account of Levi's decision to follow Jesus. But in order to drive the point home Luke related events which occurred at a reception which Levi, Jesus' new follower, gave for Jesus. Levi must have been a wealthy man, for a great banquet was prepared at his house and many guests were invited, including a large crowd of tax collectors. The same group of religious leaders who had previously questioned Jesus' authority (v. 21) questioned the propriety of Jesus' association with tax collectors and "sinners." Not only was Jesus associating with people to whom the Pharisees objected, but He also was eating and drinking with them. Eating and drinking with others denotes fellowship with them. Though the religious leaders complained to Jesus' disciples ... Jesus answered their objections (vv. 31-32). He noted that it was not His purpose to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Here Jesus was not concerned about discussing who were "the righteous." His point was simply that His mission was to those in need of "repentance"—a change of heart and a change of life. The Pharisees sensed no need for such a change. Because He had shown authority in the two healings that preceded this account, the implication is that He was also able to fulfill His mission to sinners.

Jesus' acceptance of "sinners" is a point of contention in much of his dealings with the Pharisees. See to Luke 15:1-2, which led to the telling of three famous parables.