

EPISODE 7 Invitations (38 minutes)

Group Gathering: Make a wide circle. The first person introduces themselves and shares their highs and lows of the past week. “Pass” the imaginary ball to the next person to invite them to share.

Opening Prayer: We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Scripture References

Matthew 9:9-13 9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, **“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”** But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Describe the 2 different worlds Matthew lives in

Group Discussion After Watching

WHO has the most power in the story?

WHAT would you change in this story?

WHERE do you see yourself in the story?

WHEN is the last time you’ve eaten a meal with someone you miss?

WHY do the disciples act so differently from one another?

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Share with a Partner

A for Amazed

B for Bothered

C for Confused

D for Delighted

Freewriting Prompts

Which character and their joys and struggles most speaks to you?

What is on your heart for the week ahead? How can you spend time in prayer this week?

Closing Worship

Compline in the Book of Common Prayer, Page 127

Closing Prayer

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*