



BRING LIFE
WHERE IT'S RISKY

GET READY

The first few verses of Luke chapter 5 record the names of Jesus' first disciples. Simon Peter (and probably his brother Andrew), James and John were fishermen (a common profession along the Sea of Galilee). Later in chapter 5, Jesus invited a tax collector named Levi (AKA, Matthew) to follow him and "Levi got up, left everything, and followed him (Luke 5:28)."

Because they worked for the Roman government, tax collectors were seen as collaborators with the occupation and corrupt, often extorting far beyond what was due.

The story continues in Luke 5:29-32:

"Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:29-32

Q2: What do you think Peter, James and John were thinking about the banquet? What did they see that might have surprised them?

Q3: What do you think Jesus means when he says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick"?

The apostle Paul was a committed life-bringer who helped start many of the first century churches we know about. His letters to these churches make up much of the New Testament (i.e., Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, etc.).

In Romans, his letter to the church in Rome, he challenged them with these words:

"But how can they call on him (Jesus) to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14-15

Read the passage a second time, but try and put names and faces of people you know in place of they and them.

Q4: Did anyone come to mind as you heard Paul's words?

TAKE ACTION

1. What group of people who don't know Jesus are you able to engage for Jesus?
2. What place not focused on Jesus can you go together to paint a different picture of Jesus?
3. Who can go with you?
4. Make plans to go be a light in that place.
5. Who is someone who has been open to Jesus? What group of people are they connected to... maybe that's your people.

Finish this sentence: To be a friend of sinners, I will....

PRAY TOGETHER

One way we can be united is by committing to pray for one another. Take some time as a group to share your prayer requests. Be sure to record everyone's requests on the Prayer Notes on page 152.