

## Stop Going to Church Week Two Discussion Questions

- 1.) Read Matthew 9:9-13. Contemplate Jesus asking a tax collector to be one of His disciples. How does Jesus' invitation to Matthew give us an understanding of who is invited into a relationship with Jesus? Have you put stipulations on who is invited into God's Kingdom? Why or why not?
- 2.) Mark 2:15-17 says, "And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." What do you think about when you read Jesus' words in these verses? Ponder how Jesus' purpose in talking about sin was restoration, not condemnation. Read John 3:16-17. How do we protect ourselves from becoming self-righteous and condemning of others?
- 3.) Read Luke 5:17-26. Here is a music video to go along with the reading: <https://youtu.be/WQA6fbSoq-g?si=r3NYRyLcIpbJB7nr>  
Pastor Aaron reminded us in his message that the friends in the story in Luke 5 did whatever it took for their friend to experience Jesus. Think of a time when you did whatever it took to help a family member, friend, or co-worker experience Jesus. What did you do? How did you help the person discover Jesus's compassion, mercy, kindness, and love? If you can't think of a time you worked passionately for another on behalf of Jesus, why do you think you have hesitated to do so?
- 4.) Pastor Aaron shared in his message that as followers of Jesus, we allow God to work in our hearts for who He wants us to help. The friends in the story in Luke 5 carried their friend to Jesus and, in doing so, helped carry their friend's burden. In addition, the friends broke some rules to get their paralytic friend to Jesus. What is an example of how a church rule might get in the way of bringing someone to Jesus? Are you hesitant to follow God above following a rule? How might it be a struggle for you to see how joyful obedience to God leads to a thriving relationship with the Father, while simply doing the right things does not transform a person or their heart?
- 5.) How is God leading you to be the church in the Stop Going to Church message series?