



"As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew... He said to him, 'Follow me,' and he got up and followed him." – Matthew 9:9 (CEB)

**Jesus invites us** \_\_\_\_\_.

"But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'" – Matthew 9:11 (CEB)

**Jesus doesn't** \_\_\_\_\_.

Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners." – Matthew 9:13 (CEB)

**Following Jesus is about** \_\_\_\_\_.

My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart. - Matthew 18:35 (CEB)

**Following Jesus is about** \_\_\_\_\_.

**To follow Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

**What would following the invitation of Jesus look like in my life?**

### **Reflection Questions**

- † Where do I feel unseen, unqualified, or left out—and how might Jesus be inviting me anyway?
- † Who is at the edge of my circle that Jesus would welcome to the table?
- † What is one step I can take to follow Jesus more closely this week?

### **Daily Prayer**

Loving God, You call me just as I am, not with shame, but with compassion. Teach me to follow You with my heart, my words, and my actions. Help me to see others the way You see me, and to walk the path of grace every day. Amen.

## ReFocus Guide: The Way of Forgiveness

### Focus:

Jesus doesn't begin with demands; He begins with invitation. To follow Him is not to prove ourselves worthy, but to trust that we are seen, chosen, and loved. This week we explore what it means to say yes to Jesus' call, a call that reorients our identity, our relationships, and our way of life.

### Day 1: Jesus See and Calls

#### Scripture: Matthew 9:9 (CEB)

*As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, 'Follow me,' and he got up and followed him.*

#### Reflection:

Matthew wasn't seeking Jesus. He was simply doing his job, not expecting any interruption, and possibly resigned to the identity others had placed on him. As a tax collector, he was likely viewed with suspicion, even contempt, by his community. Yet Jesus saw him, right where he was, and offered a new path. The call came unexpectedly, but it changed everything. Jesus didn't wait for Matthew to be ready or to prove himself; He simply said, "Follow me." Following Jesus begins not with our qualifications, but with Christ's invitation.

#### Questions:

Where in your life do you need to be reminded that Jesus sees you? What might Jesus be inviting you to leave behind?

#### Prayer:

Jesus, You see me as I am, doing nothing other than living my life. Help me to hear Your call during my daily routine and respond with trust. Amen.

### Day 2: Sitting at the Table

#### Scripture: Matthew 18:28-30 (CEB)

*As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table. But when the*

*Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'*

**Reflection:**

Not only did Jesus call Matthew, He shared a meal with him and with others who were labeled sinners. Jesus didn't separate Himself from those on the margins; He moved toward them. Following Jesus means learning to sit at unexpected tables and welcome others with grace.

**Questions:**

Who are the people in your life that others might overlook? How might Jesus be inviting you to extend your table?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, You sit with those who are left out. Help me to welcome others as You welcome me. Amen

## Day 3: Mercy, Not Sacrifice

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:12-13 (CEB)

*When Jesus heard it, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners.'*

**Reflection:**

Jesus came not to affirm the self-righteous but to heal the broken. He desires mercy, not empty rituals. Following Jesus closely requires a softened heart and a willingness to change. Jesus' invitation always leads to transformation.

**Questions:**

What does it mean to you that Jesus desires mercy over sacrifice? Where is God calling you to show mercy this week?

**Prayer:**

God of compassion, shape my heart to reflect Yours. Let mercy guide my words and actions. Amen.

## Day 4: Seeking and Seen

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

*When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.' So Zacchaeus*

*came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus. – Luke 19:5–6 (CEB)*

### **Reflection:**

Unlike Matthew, Zacchaeus was the one seeking. He climbed a tree just to catch a glimpse of Jesus. What he didn't expect was for Jesus to stop, look up, and call him by name. Sometimes we go looking for Jesus and find that He has already been looking for us.

### **Questions:**

What are you hoping to see or hear from Jesus in this season? How have you experienced being "seen" by God?

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, when I reach for You, You are already reaching for me. Help me to seek You with openness and respond with joy. Amen.

## **Day 5: Grace for the Journey**

### **Scripture:** Ephesians 2:8—10 (CEB)

*You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It is not something you possessed. It is not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things.*

### **Reflection:**

We live in a world where worth often feels earned. But grace isn't earned; it is received. God gives us grace so we can live as His masterpiece, created for good works. Following Jesus isn't about measuring up, but about stepping into the purpose God prepared for us.

### **Questions:**

What are some ways you try to earn your worth? What would it look like to live today fully grounded in grace?

### **Prayer:**

Gracious God, remind me that I don't have to prove my value. I am Yours. Let me live as a reflection of Your grace. Amen.