Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

# Encounters with Jesus: The Doctor Will See You Now (Luke 5:27–32)

## Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

* Would you rather visit the doctor or the IRS?
* Did you like going to the doctor as a child? What about now?

## Dig

After reading Luke 5:27–32 together, discuss these questions.

1. In Jesus’ time and place, tax collectors were viewed as having forfeited their membership in the Jewish nation because they worked for the pagan Roman government. What would be some categories of people who might be similarly despised in our world.
2. How do you suppose Levi felt when Jesus told him, “Follow me” (verse 27)? Surprised? Uncertain? Confused?
3. Imagine yourself an invited guest at the party Levi gives. How would you react to the invitation? What do you think conversation was like?
4. The religious leaders wonder why Jesus and his followers associate with these outcasts. What does that suggest about them to you?
5. When Jesus speaks of those who are righteous who don’t need a doctor, who do you think he has in mind? Perfect people? People like the religious leaders who think they are righteous?

## Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

* What makes it hard for you to seek help from Jesus? What makes it appealing?
* Have you ever felt like an outcast, like the tax collector? Have you ever felt you were welcomed when you didn’t expect to be? What was that like?
* How can the church be more like Levi’s party? Less like the religious leaders complaint session?

## Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

* What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?
* What do you need Doctor Jesus to attend to right now?
* Are there people you notice who are or feel excluded from God’s people? How can we pray for them?