



Ice Breaker:

In this series, Pastor Miles will be asking us to DO more than just come and attend church.

Many times God asks us to step out in faith. What is the most uncomfortable thing you have done as you obeyed God and stepped out in faith?

How did you feel after doing it? What helped get you to try it?

Encouragement:

Think about all the people you speak to each day.

What percent would you guess are non-believers?

What was your feeling or reaction upon accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Compare that to Levi giving a great feast after Jesus asked Levi to follow Him (Luke 5:29).

How can you transform the excitement of knowing you are going to heaven into action and reaching out to the non-believers and encouraging one another to do the same?

Scripture: READ LUKE 5:27-32

Background: Back then, Jews worked for the occupying Roman Empire, collecting taxes. Collectors bid to get a contract for each land section. The collector could keep whatever was brought in above the assessment. This made tax collectors some of the richest in the land and most despised. They were considered traitors and extortionist, so unclean they were not allowed in the Temple. Then Jesus said to Levi "Follow me".

(Suggest leader have everyone get into groups of 2 or 3 and discuss the questions below)

Levi could have been tempted to remain in his profession. Think about the best (most successful) day you ever had at work... Could you have left it to follow Jesus? What are the factors that would cause you to hesitate? What material possession would you have the hardest time letting go or giving away?

The scribes and Pharisees rejected Jesus, the great healer. Have you ever been sick and not want to see a doctor? What were your reasons? Share about a time when you did not want to follow Jesus. Jesus wants us "all in" - are there some factors that hold us back? Are there any Scriptures that help you in following Jesus more fully?

Prayer:

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and think of someone you see each day that is not saved. What can you do to establish a relationship that would lead to sharing the Good News of Jesus to that person?

Over and over, Pastor Miles emphasized asking the Holy Spirit to guide us, to lead us.

Take a few moments of quiet, prayerful reflection and ask the Holy Spirit: Am I using my time, talent, and treasure for God? Am I attending church faithfully? Is my attitude becoming more like Jesus? Am I treating people with more love moving out of a relationship? Have I surrendered all of my addiction and struggles to Jesus? Am I reading the Bible more faithfully?

Next Steps:

On November 12 the Rock will be taking a special year-end ALL IN offering to support Toys for Joy, outreach ministries, each of our campuses, and global evangelism. Begin asking God how He would like you to participate in this offering. There is reason we feel blessed when we give. It is because when we do we are being like God, the ultimate Giver.

Quotes:

From the panel of ministry leaders:

"Did God save me for me? or...

Did God transform me for me?

We are not saved just so we can attend church."

"It is like we are all tools in God's big toolbox.

We can be an unused, rusty one at the bottom of the toolbox,
or we can be used by God."

"Church has always been about souls..." Pastor Miles.

"If you are the only one receiving, you will die on the vine." Pastor Miles.