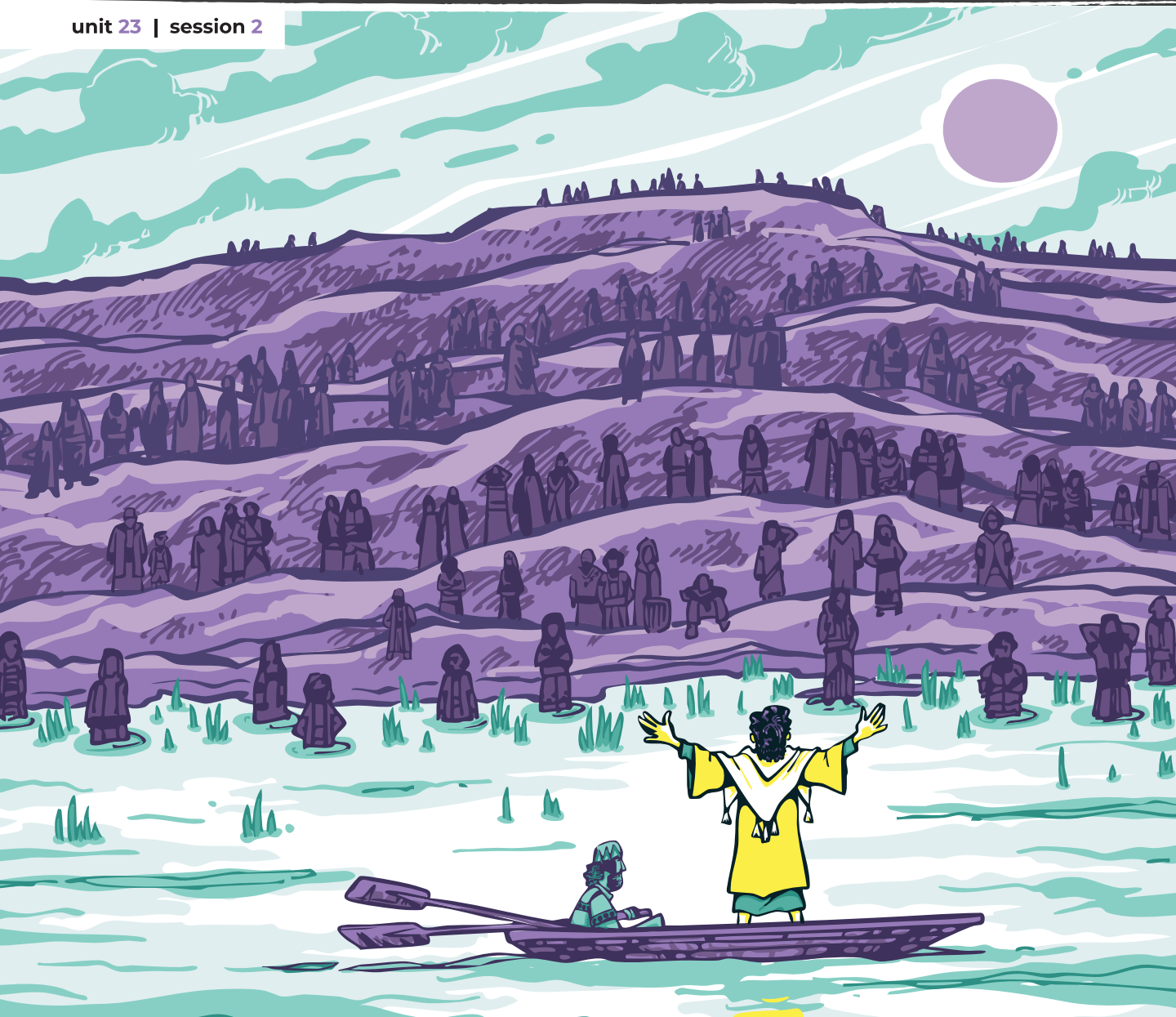


SEND THEM *OUT*

unit 23 | session 2



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came into the world to call sinners to repentance and to lay down His life on their behalf. Likewise, as His followers, we are to tell others about Jesus and call on them to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus.

INVITED AND WELCOMED

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Mark 2–3

JESUS CALLS THE LOWEST

MARK 2:13-17

13 Jesus went out again beside the sea. The whole crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 Then, passing by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, “Follow me,” and he got up and followed him. 15 While he was reclining at the table in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who were following him. 16 When the scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 When Jesus heard this, he told them, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

JESUS SENDS US

MARK 3:7-19

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea, 8 Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing. 9 Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn’t crush him. 10 Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him. 11 Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God!” 12 And he would strongly warn them not to make him known. 13 Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach, 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 He appointed the Twelve: To Simon, he gave the name Peter; 17 and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother John, he gave the name “Boanerges” (that is, “Sons of Thunder”); 18 Andrew; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

MAIN POINT.

Jesus invites us to serve Him.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CALLING

The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ (2 Tim. 1:8-10).

DISCUSSION

JESUS CALLS THE LOWEST

MARK 2:13-17



- How did religious leaders feel about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners? How did Jesus answer them (v. 17)?
- How did Levi respond to Jesus's invitation? Why do you think he responded this way?
- ✝ • Why did Levi's job make him a surprising pick for a disciple? What does that tell us about the kind of people Jesus calls?

JESUS SENDS US

MARK 3:7-19

- Why did such a large crowd come to Jesus?
- 🧠 • Why did Jesus call the twelve disciples to Him? What were they sent out to do? What about us?
- ♥ • How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus called them? What fears could they have felt? How does this encourage you?



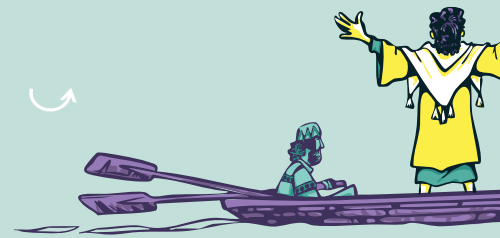
WHEN HAVE YOU FELT LIKE GOD COULDN'T USE YOU?
WHY DOES GOD USE ORDINARY, SINFUL PEOPLE?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Comparing ourselves to others has never been easier than it is now. We measure our worth against others, but in our culture of edited photos, filters, and highlight reels, insecurity runs deep. We may ask, "I'll never be as good as them, so why even try?" This insecurity comes from what some call "the comparison trap," and when left unchecked by the truth of the gospel, comparison leads to envy, lust, and even self-hatred. This distorted view of our value and worth infects our view of God's calling on our lives; insecurity convinces us that though we are saved, we still aren't worthy enough to participate in God's mission. But when Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, He invited them to join Him in reaching others (Mark 1:17; Matt. 10:5-8). When we fall into the comparison trap, we discredit the power of God to transform us! The gospel calls us out of comparison and into security because of who Jesus is and what He has done. God values us so much that He sent His Son for our salvation. And He chooses to use us for His glory, regardless of where He found us.



DAY ONE



1 CORINTHIANS 1:20-25

Well-meaning adults often say things like, “If you want something in life, you better earn it.” Sure, the world works this way to some degree. Nothing is free, and most success and rewards require our effort. But what about when it comes to our relationship with God? Remember, in this week’s lesson, Levi didn’t do anything that would make him deserving of Jesus calling him. In fact, Levi had done quite the opposite, proving he did not earn the right to follow Jesus. God calling or using us has nothing to do with how good we are or how deserving we are. The difficult truth is that none of us are good enough or deserving enough because we’ve all fallen short of God’s holy standards (Rom. 3:23). The gospel, instead, is the good news that Jesus is good enough for us and in our place. To cleanse us of our sins, He took the punishment He didn’t deserve so that He might give us the reward we don’t deserve. He died our death so that we may have life.

The gospel is upside down from how the world works! Paul reminds us that the gospel is foolishness to the world, but to Christians, it is the very power and wisdom of God. We are worthy only because Jesus is worthy. So, let us not be anxious or feel unqualified to be called by God. Your qualification never rested on your shoulders but on Jesus. Take joy in the fact that He is worthy enough; celebrate the truth that He is good enough. And because of Him, we are welcomed by God into His kingdom.

- **WHY SHOULD WE REGULARLY REMIND OURSELVES THAT WE ARE NOT SAVED BY WORKS BUT BY GRACE ALONE?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU DEPENDED ON BEING “GOOD” TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD? WHY DOESN’T THIS WORK?**

PRAY

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR NOT MAKING US WORK TO EARN YOUR LOVE. HELP US TO RELY ON YOU AND TO REMEMBER THAT YOU USE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. NONE OF US ARE TOO SINFUL FOR THE BLOOD OF JESUS TO WASH CLEAN.



DAY TWO

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

Pastor Alistair Begg once said that the only thing we could say if we were asked how we got into heaven is this: “The Man on the middle cross said I could come.” Often, we emphasize that no one is too sinful to come to Jesus. Praise God for that truth. We should also remind ourselves that no one is good enough to deserve coming to Jesus. There is no good thing in us that the Lord looks at and decides we make the team. In fact, God doesn’t show favoritism (Rom. 2:11). We have nothing in us to boast about and instead find our worth only in the fact that God created us and values us. He has called us because of grace and love.

When Paul wrote that we should boast only in Christ, he reminded his readers that worldly significance and importance don’t matter in God’s kingdom. Wealth and knowledge mean nothing. Paul wrote to very normal people—people who, like us, had done nothing special or deserving of God’s goodness toward them. God called them purely out of love and grace. Because Jesus came and lived the perfect life we could not live and died the death we deserved, we are able, based on His work alone, to be called children of God (1 John 3:1). So, let us realize that we have nothing to boast in other than Christ, and we have everything to boast in because of Christ! We have worth because Jesus shares His inheritance with us. We must guard our hearts against pride—against believing we worked our way to God. The truth is that Jesus accomplished the work for us. The cross reminds us that our sins nailed Jesus there, while Jesus’s love and obedience to the Father held Him there. Though we are unworthy, Jesus gives us unshakable worth through His sacrifice.

- **WHY DO WE SOMETIMES THINK WE ARE WORTHY ENOUGH ON OUR OWN? HOW CAN WE FIGHT AGAINST PRIDE?**
- **HOW CAN WE BALANCE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAVE TREMENDOUS WORTH IN CHRIST YET ALSO REMEMBER THAT WE ARE UNWORTHY APART FROM HIM?**

PRAY

FATHER, HELP US WHEN WE ARE PRIDEFUL. HELP US WHEN WE THINK THAT WE DESERVE WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US. THANK YOU FOR WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE AND FOR THE WORTH WE HAVE IN HIM.



DAY THREE

ROMANS 5:6-11

When you start looking for a future job one day, you will probably have to fill out an application or turn in a resume. Your resume will hopefully convince your future boss that you are the right person for the job and worth hiring. You may also have to answer questions related to whether or not you have ever committed a crime. Basically, when you want a job, you have to prove that you are the right person with the right skills and a good reputation.

Sometimes, we can be tempted to see our relationship with God in this way. We think we must prove ourselves to God and show Him that we are good enough before coming to Him. We generate a list in our heads of all the good things we've done, the ways we've helped others, the good decisions we've made. Thankfully, the Lord doesn't require this from us. Jesus spent time with sinners and offered forgiveness to them even while they were still a mess. He did this so often that the religious leaders often despised Him for it. Today's passage says that while we were sinners living in rebellion against God, even then, Christ died for us. We don't have to prove our worth to God. He sent Christ out of His love and His desire to restore sinners, so that in Christ, they may be counted worthy! Our sin creates our need for a Savior; Jesus came for this reason. We don't need to clean ourselves up before coming to Jesus. He is enough. His love covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8). Jesus came for sinners, not righteous people (Luke 5:32); there is no righteousness apart from Him! Christ sees poor and needy sinners and lovingly and mercifully comes for them, giving His life to reconcile them to God and make them new. And as we walk with Him, He works in us—cleaning up our mess, showing us our sin, and helping us live differently.

- **HAVE YOU EVER FELT UNWORTHY TO COME TO JESUS? DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEEDED TO CLEAN UP YOUR LIFE BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN? HOW DOES THE GOSPEL RESPOND TO THOSE FEARS?**
- **HOW CAN WE IMITATE JESUS'S EXAMPLE OF COMING TO THE LOST IN OUR DAILY LIVES—AT SCHOOL, ON OUR TEAM, IN OUR FAMILY?**

PRAY

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS. HELP US TO REMEMBER CHRIST'S SACRIFICE FOR US AND TO IMITATE HIS SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR SINNERS.



DAY FOUR

LUKE 15:1-7

What is your best friend's heart like? Your parents' hearts? When we ask what someone's heart is like, we are asking who this person is at the core—their truest self. What is Jesus's heart like? Maybe this question seems odd, but it is actually important that we seek to understand His heart. Jesus's heart reveals how He sees the poor, the sick, the ones ignored by society, lost sinners; His heart also reveals the lengths He was willing to go to save us.

Before Jesus called him, Levi was certainly a lost sheep, like the one in today's passage. In fact, all of us were once that one lost sheep that Jesus left the ninety-nine for to come and save us. The heart of our Lord is the heart of a loving shepherd, who will go to great lengths to save his lost sheep. Even more than a shepherd who leaves his flock, Jesus left heaven to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He emptied Himself and became human so that He could die for us and save us from our sins (Phil. 2:7). He came not just for those who were already serving God but also for those who were hopelessly lost and wandering without Him. Knowing that our Savior is humble, a Shepherd who lowered Himself to save the lost, should move us to live humbly as well. We can pray for God to give us a heart for the lost, a heart that cares deeply for the salvation of all people. We can easily say that we care, but we must also show that we care for the lost as much as Jesus cares for them. We must look for ways to serve others and lead them to our Shepherd. Do you care for others this way? Today, ask for God to break your heart for lost sheep. Then, look for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

- **SPEND SOME TIME REMEMBERING WHEN JESUS SAVED YOU. HOW WOULD YOUR LIFE BE DIFFERENT IF HE WERE NOT IN YOUR LIFE?**
- **ARE YOU DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR THE LOST? WHAT DOES IT REVEAL ABOUT OUR HEARTS WHEN WE AREN'T BROKEN FOR THE LOST?**

PRAY

FATHER, WE ARE HUMBLLED BY YOUR HUMILITY—THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE THE NINETY-NINE TO SEEK OUT ONE LOST SHEEP. GIVE US HEARTS THAT BREAK FOR THE LOST AND FEET THAT MOVE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.





DAY FIVE

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9

When missionaries leave for countries that are hostile to Christians, they often write letters to their families in case they never return. Following Jesus is worth more than life to them. Levi likely had a comfortable life collecting taxes for the Romans, but when Jesus called him, he left everything and became poor to follow Jesus.

In today's passage, Paul explained that nothing is worth more than knowing Jesus. In fact, compared to knowing Christ, everything else is like worthless garbage, or dung! Yep, you read that correctly! Coming from Paul, a man with great worldly and religious achievements, this says a lot! Many of us are fortunate enough to live in a place where Christianity is legal and, to some degree, even accepted by our culture. Many of us will never experience persecution for our faith. But for early Christians, and for Paul, persecution and death were very real threats. Still, they recognized that Jesus was worth any sacrifice they paid. Our biggest threats? Being left out. Being made fun of. Being misunderstood and labeled. And because living for Jesus is relatively easy for many of us, we take the honor for granted. We fall into spiritual laziness. We follow Christ half-heartedly, not wholly. We struggle with the idea of leaving behind friends, family, or our material possessions to follow Jesus. Following Jesus requires us to lay down our lives at the His feet. Following Jesus means that we deny ourselves—our selfish and sinful desires—take up our cross, and follow Him (Matt. 16:24). We can trust in Jesus alone for our righteousness, our contentment, and our joy. Nothing on earth can provide these things for us. So, let us pray that the Spirit helps us to love Christ so much that the things of this world become far less important to us. May we love Jesus so much that we count everything else as loss compared to knowing Him.

- **WHAT HAVE YOU LEFT BEHIND OR WALKED AWAY FROM TO FOLLOW JESUS?**
- **WHAT DO YOU STRUGGLE TO LEAVE BEHIND OR GIVE UP TO FOLLOW JESUS?**

PRAY

FATHER, HELP US TO SEE YOUR SON AS WORTH FAR MORE THAN ANYTHING THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER. HELP US TO FOLLOW YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY.