

MAY 10, 2026

**BANQUET OF
BELONGING**
meals with Jesus

The God Who Sits with Sinners

SERMON RESOURCE



OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.
And where the Spirit of the Lord is -
There is freedom!*

CONNECT

— 10 MINUTES

Luke 5:27-32

Share about a time when you felt welcomed by someone in a meaningful way. What made that invitation feel significant?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Key Idea:

Jesus calls us to leave behind what has held us, to open our lives to others, and to trust a holiness that heals instead of hides.

Read Together:

Luke 5:27-32

Romans 3:23

Ezekiel 11:19

John 1:5

1. Jesus Calls Levi

“Follow me.”

Luke 5:27

Jesus does not begin with a lecture, a warning, or a list of conditions. He sees Levi and calls him.

Discuss:

- What stands out to you about Jesus stopping at Levi's tax booth?
- Why would Levi have been such a surprising person for Jesus to call?



- What does this story reveal about the grace of Jesus?
- Where do you need to hear Jesus' invitation again: "Follow me"?

2. Leaving the Booth

Luke tells us that Levi "left everything and followed him."

Luke 5:28

Repentance is not just feeling bad or admitting something is wrong. Repentance is turning. It is movement. It is reorientation toward Jesus.

- What are some "booths" people can get stuck sitting at? (A habit, relationship, need for control, etc.)
- What have you been trusting instead of Jesus?
- What might Jesus be inviting you to leave behind so you can more fully follow him?

Reflect:

Repentance is not only about what we leave.

It is about who we are moving toward.

3. Grace Turns Followers Into Hosts

Luke 5:29

Levi does not follow Jesus into private spirituality. He throws a banquet. He opens his home, gathers his friends, and creates spaces for other to encounter Jesus.

Discuss:

- Why do you think Levi's first response was to invite others to the table?
- What does this teach us about the natural movement of grace?
- Where have you seen a simple meal, coffee, conversation, or invitation become spiritually significant?



Ask together:

- Who in your life may be “one meal away” from being seen?
- Who may be “one coffee away” from a holy conversation?
- Who may be “one invitation away” from encountering the love of Jesus?

4. Holiness That Heals

Luke 5:30–32

Jesus’ holiness is not fragile. He is not contaminated by the table. Instead, His presence transforms it.

Discuss:

- What kind of holiness did Jesus embody?
- How is Jesus’ holiness different from self-righteousness, fear, or image-management?
- Where do you need God to soften a hard heart?

Read and reflect on Ezekiel 11:19:

“I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Ask:

Where do I need a heart of flesh toward someone I have treated like a category, issue, or interruption?

APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

As a group:

Ask Jesus to bring one person to mind who does not yet know Him.

Pray for that person by name.

Ask Jesus for one simple step of invitation.

