

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series

“The Difference Jesus Makes – Luke 5:1-32

FELLOWSHIP

Some people have been in the same line of work their whole lives. They know the in's and out's of the job, the tools of the trade, the optimal conditions for success, and who to trust. If this is a family business, especially multiple generations deep, the phrase, “the way we've always done it,” carries even more weight. Those vested to this level in their trade are highly suspicious of anyone who tries to suggest new theories or mechanisms into their workflow. Unless the newcomer's resume comes close to matching the experience and knowledge that already exists in the vocational bank, veterans probably won't take the time to change their routine. They know that the odds of this new, bright idea working are pretty bleak under real world conditions. They've had too many, “I've told you so's,” over the years and they are safer continuing to get results by what's been tried and true. Jesus is the major disruptor to this line of thinking. Luke paints the story of the Lord's encounters as confrontations with history's claim, “You're not supposed to do it that way.” When God is part of our story, he is not only more efficient, but the results exceed our expectations. The reader can feel Peter say, “That's not how you catch more fish,” the medical world, “That's not how you handle patients,” the religious academics, “That's not how you resolve sin,” and the corporate world, “That's not how you change occupations.” All fail to realize that not only does Jesus bring a better resume of experience and knowledge to these situations, but his methods connect with the person's soul. When Jesus comes into our lives he not only makes our work and relationships better, he gives us a grand purpose in every endeavor. The call to discipleship is the call to follow Christ in every area of life, especially those we take the most ownership of.

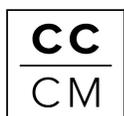
READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group Luke 5:1-32 and discuss any observations that would be applicable. Jesus challenged the norms of the day. Those who took steps of faith and engaged with his invitations had their lives changed. Those who insisted that their expectations and routines were unchangeable missed the opportunity to see God work for them. How can the verse below be applied personally:

And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. (Luke 5:29–32)

- Since Jesus is God incarnate, what can we learn about the Lord's personality from this chapter? What kinds of personal touches did Jesus put on each situation that would challenge the stereotypes of God? What views of God have you had in the past that still might keep you from experiencing the closeness and trust he is offering you? What trait of God have you found appeals to people the quickest even when they have other distorted views of him?
- Read Colossians 3:23-24. What are the areas of life have you already surrendered to Christ? How have they changed in light of his influence? Which areas are still hard to see God in light of a situation or person that frustrates you? What spiritual exercise or discipline could help you move closer to God and victory over those situations? Why should we view our work, family and recreation as a calling from God?
- Everyday we make moral decisions with either small or large consequences on the line. It's often in the little things where compromise disguises itself as pragmatics. The need of the moment, whether because of time or simplicity, can tempt us with shortcuts. Where have you found Jesus surprising you by making a difference in the small decisions of the day? When have others noticed, and how did it influence them?

PRAY



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor John Henry Corcoran's message on August 6, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/the-difference-jesus-makes/>