



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

ENCOUNTERS: WEEK 3

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

Jesus changed the world forever. What he did 2000 years ago in 3 years of ministry is impossible to ignore. What made Jesus so unique? What was it about him that led people to drop everything to follow him? Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking deeply at the book of Mark. We want to invite you and group to take a look at some of the most profound Jesus encounters recorded in Scripture. My prayer is that you would encounter Jesus in a new and fresh way.

GETTING STARTED

While you were growing up, what (if anything) did your parents tell you about choosing friends?

If you're a parent, what have you told your children about making friends with non-believers?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Mark 2:13-17

13 Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. **14** As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. **15** Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) **16** But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" **17** When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?

What can we learn about Matthew? (Levi)

How do you think the other disciples (Peter/Andrew/James/John) would have felt about Jesus inviting a tax collector into their inner circle?

Imagine what the disciples were most likely to be thinking and feeling while attending the party at Matthew's house

Why were the Pharisees so bent out of shape over Jesus' friendship with tax collectors and sinners?

Moving Forward

On Sunday, Kyle ended his talk by giving us four questions to consider. Which of these questions most stirred your thinking? Why?

1. Have you ever attended 'a Matthew party'?
2. What are some ways that your community group could engage with your yet-to-believe friends?

Prayer

After you look at these questions, pray for one another.