

## A Place to Belong: Application in Community

**Note:** You don't need to be a believer in Jesus to be welcomed here. You don't need to be a Christian to participate in a small group. All are welcome from all walks of life. Our goal is that we might introduce you to the living GOD who desires to fill you with the Spirit of GOD and bring you back to a relationship with your Heavenly Father by meeting Jesus.

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, please see Pastor Ryan or Tia Hanson, our Director of Connections:

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### Questions:

1. Have you ever been with a group of people and they discover that someone is a Christian and all of a sudden everyone is fascinated with what they believe and how it affects their morals and decisions? Talk about it...
2. Read Matthew 9:9-17, focus in on vv. 12-13, what was Jesus getting at and how does this relate to us? I.e., if GOD desires for us to create a place of belonging for non-Christians so they can meet Jesus, what do we need to do to make that happen?
3. How does the parable of New Wine in New Wineskins relate specifically to this group? How are we like an Old Wineskin that is inhospitable to "sinners & tax collectors" of Seattle?

**Go Do:** If we were not in the middle of a pandemic, we would encourage you to throw a dinner party and invite guests from all walks of life and create a place of belonging. Because of the pandemic how could we get creative with our neighbors and reach out with good will? There are a lot of hurting and lonely souls, how can we pour new wine into new methods of outreach in this Covid-season to meet real needs of those in our community? Discuss, plan, and encourage to follow-thru.

## The Parables of Jesus

How do we reach Seattle for Jesus when our methods no longer work?

### Today's Parables:

*Matthew 9:9* As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, **"Follow me."** And he rose and followed him.

*10* And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. *11* And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" *12* But when he heard it, he said, **"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. *13* Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."**

*14* Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" *15* And Jesus said to them, **"Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. *16* No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. *17* Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."**

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### Is one cultural version of Christianity better than another?

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1. Jesus' parable about the Bridegroom answers one aspect of this question.
2. Jesus' parables of new & old answers the other aspect of this question.
3. Context helps us understand **Theology** Drives **Methodology**, not the reverse.