



People Always



BIG IDEA

When you find something that saves lives, you don't keep it to yourself, you share it. Jesus has changed our lives, and the most loving thing we can do is introduce the people God has already placed around us to Him.



**ICE
BREAKER**

1. What is something you discovered or experienced that you immediately wanted to tell someone else about?
2. Who first invited or encouraged you to take a step toward Jesus?
3. Who are the people God has already placed in your everyday circle?



**MAIN
POINTS**

Your past describes you, but it does not define you.

When Jesus met Levi at the tax collector's booth, everyone knew the labels attached to his life: tax collector, traitor, sinner. His name, Levi, means "joined or attached," which paints a picture of everything his life had become connected to.

But Matthew means "gift of the Lord." Jesus did not call Levi down to the description of his past—He called him up into a new future. In Christ, we are not permanently defined by the labels, failures, mistakes, or stories we have been attached to.

The most loving thing you can do is introduce someone to Jesus.

Matthew's response to meeting Jesus was immediate. He opened his home, threw a banquet, and invited his existing circle of tax collectors and sinners to meet the One who had changed his life.

Matthew did not leave his circle when he began following Jesus—he invited his circle to Jesus.

We naturally tell people about restaurants, movies, experiences, and opportunities we love. If Jesus has truly given us new life, then sharing Him should become a natural overflow of that life.

Your past is your platform, Matthew did not hide where he had come from. His past actually became the bridge connecting him to people who needed Jesus.

The same can be true for us. God does not waste our pain, failure, loss, addiction, broken relationships, illness, or mistakes. He can repurpose what once hurt us and use it to bring hope to someone walking through the same thing.

Your story may describe a difficult season, but it does not have to define your future.

God has already positioned you to make a difference.

Matthew did not need to search for a new mission field. God had already surrounded him with people who knew and trusted him.

	The same is true for us. Our workplace, neighborhood, school, team, gym, family, and friendships are not accidental. You do not need a bigger platform, you need to use the
 DISCUSS	1. Are there any labels or descriptions from your past that you still allow to define you? 2. What changes when you begin seeing yourself through Jesus' definition rather than someone else's description? 3. Why do Christians sometimes isolate themselves from people who do not yet follow Jesus? 4. Who is ONE person already in your circle that God may be inviting you to pray for and invite?
 NEXT STEP	Jesus First — Believe. Receive. Follow. Read Mark 2:13–17 this week and remember that Jesus called Matthew before his life was cleaned up. Ask God: “What old label am I still attached to that You are asking me to surrender?” Choose to live from the new identity Jesus has given you. People Always — Pray for ONE. Invite ONE. Identify one person in your circle who is disconnected from Jesus or church. Pray for them every day. Then invite them. Invite them to church, Group, coffee, dinner, or simply into a conversation about what Jesus has done in your life. Made for More — Use the Platform You Already Have. Look at where God has positioned you today, your job, family, neighborhood, school, team, or friendships. Ask: “How can God use my story here?” Do not wait for the perfect opportunity or a larger platform. Make a difference with the people already in front of you.
 SCRIPTURE	Mark 2:13–17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 9:10–13, Matthew 28:18–20
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as we continue The Life You're Chasing and move into our value Made for More, discovering how God has uniquely crafted you and your not an accident, the message brought by Pastor DJ Heyward.