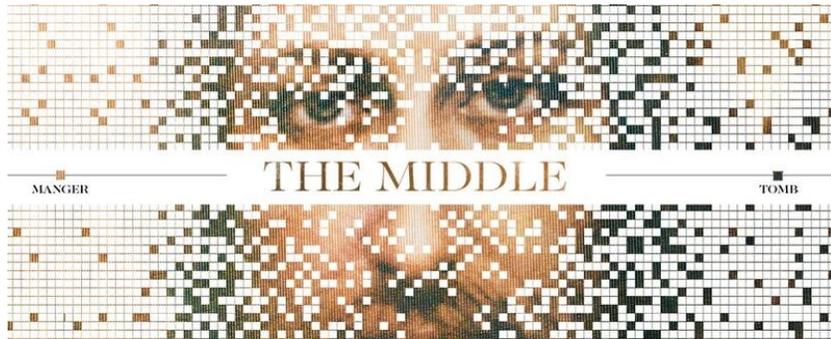


September 3, 2017



“Followship” 101

Luke 5:27-32 (NIV)

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

1. Followers leave something behind. (Hebrews 12:2)

The Gospel is a call *from* something *to* something.

Luke 5:11 (NIV)

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

1 John 2:9 (NIV)

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.

Luke 5:29 (NIV)

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

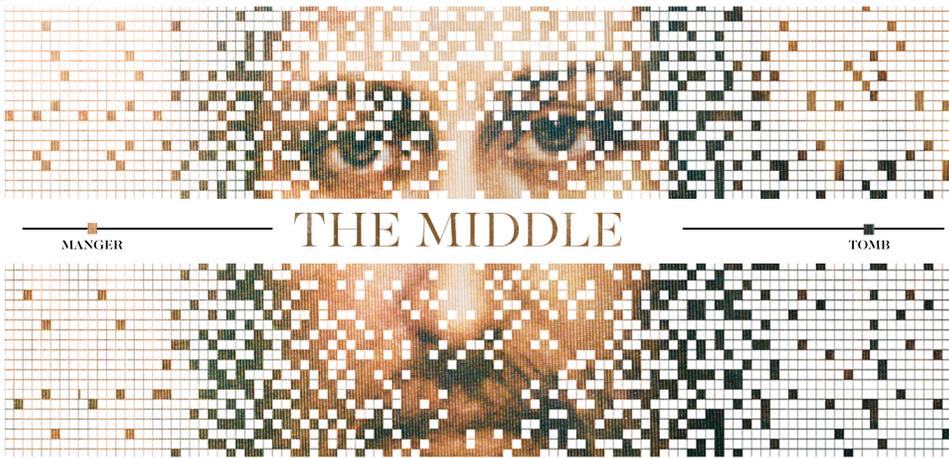
2. Followers prioritize introducing others to Jesus!

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV)

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

3. Followers realize they are sick.

Battlefield Campus: 1750 N. Thompson Ln. • Murfreesboro, TN • 37129
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THE CALLING OF MATTHEW LUKE 5:27-32 #NVSTORYSHARE

CONNECT THE STORY

What happened in our last story? What key principles or truths did we discover through the story of the temptation of Jesus? Can someone retell the story?

TELL THE STORY

Tell the story: as best as you can, do not stop and teach, try not to make points (Commentary), just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY

As a group: chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. Like – “What happened first?”, “What happened next?”, “Did we leave out anything?” Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

ASK QUESTIONS

- **Where do you see yourself in this story?**
- **What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?**
- **What do we learn about man in this story?**
- **What is Jesus teaching you personally through this story?**
- **What application/adjustment do you need to make in your life due to the truth discovered in this story?**

ADULTS

- How quickly did Matthew take to accept Christ’s invitation to follow him?
- In what ways are you eating and drinking with tax collectors ?
- How do we believe we are whole and therefore not seek healing ?
- What is significant about Matthew leaving “everything” to follow Christ?

COLLEGE

- Why do you think Jesus chose a dishonest tax collector to follow him?
- How can you make a difference/be a light in a different crowd that other people may be quick to judge?
- Matthew left behind his fortunes to follow Jesus. Is there something you need to let go of to experience the fullness of Christ?

STUDENT

- What kind of person do you think would be most likely to follow Jesus?
- What does it say about Jesus that he would call a tax collector to be his disciple?
- After Matthew became a follower of Jesus he had a party for all of his friends to meet Jesus. What would it look like for you to have a party like this?

CHILDREN

- Older Child– What did the Pharisees complain to the disciples about?
- Older Child – How does Jesus respond? Who is Jesus here to save?
- Younger Child – What kind of people did Jesus hang out with?
- Young Child – Who in the world needs Jesus’s healing?

KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL

- What was Matthew’s job?
- Why didn’t people like Matthew and tax collectors?
- What did Matthew do?
- What did the Pharisees say to the disciples?
- What did Jesus say to the Pharisees?
- What is something you can do this week to show love and kindness to someone?

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

MONDAY

READ LUKE 5:12-16

What did the leper believe to be true about Jesus (v. 12)?

Based on what you know about leprosy, why is it worth nothing that Jesus “reached out his hand and touched the man” (v. 13)? Read Leviticus 13:1-2,45-46 for insight. What do you think Jesus’ touch meant to the leper?

TUESDAY

READ LUKE 5:17-26

What’s the biggest miracle in the story of the paralyzed man? Explain. Why did Jesus forgive the man’s sins before healing his physical paralysis? How have you seen God’s miraculous work of forgiveness in your life? If we’re honest, we’d probably be more astonished by the miracle of a lame man walking, but a much greater price has been paid for the restoration of our souls. Through the physical and spiritual healing of the paralyzed man, Jesus established His authority to forgive sins, a power reserved for God alone. What can we learn about compassion from the paralytic man’s friends? The paralyzed man’s friends showed great determination in bringing their friend to Jesus. How far would you go to meet people’s needs?

WEDNESDAY

READ LUKE 4:32-36

What kind of authority Jesus had already demonstrated. What new realm of authority did Jesus now reveal? How did the Pharisees respond to this authoritative act (v. 21)? Do you find it harder to address someone’s spiritual needs or physical needs? Why? How might we, like the Pharisees, paralyze ourselves by determining what Jesus can and cannot do? What’s the cure for that paralysis? Luke’s description of Jesus’ healing a leper and restoring a paralyzed man illustrates the relationship of Jesus’ spiritual power to His authority in people’s lives. The leper acknowledged Jesus as Lord and left his request for healing up to Christ. Similarly, Jesus’ response to the silent confession of His lordship by the paralytic man’s friends demonstrated both His power over the physical, as well as His authority in spiritual areas. Jesus alone can forgive sins. No other person has the authority to take our sins away.

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

THURSDAY

READ LUKE 5:27-32

What did Jesus do to upset the Pharisees? Why did they react the way they did? What truth did Jesus teach the Pharisees? What might He say to you because of this truth? Who do you relate to more in this story—the tax collectors and sinners or the Pharisees? Why? We see in the story of the feast of Levi that Jesus valued those times when He connected with sinful people. He had an open-handed philosophy when it came to meeting people where they were on their life journey and walking with them. This gives us an unmistakable glimpse of Jesus’ heart for people who don’t have it all together. He wants to win the hearts of those looking for a second chance at life.

FRIDAY

REREAD LUKE 5:12-36

In light of all that you have studied this week, take time to ask yourself these application questions: Why is it a struggle for us to look beyond ourselves to the helpless and hopeless? What could our group do together to meet people’s needs and bring them to Jesus, like the paralytic man’s friends? How can the church do better at reaching those on the fringe of society? What role can you play in helping it improve? Is your home open to the unchurched, de-churched, or unsaved, like Levi’s was? If not, what can you do to change that? How can we follow Jesus’ example of associating with the “sick”? What might we have to sacrifice to do so?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:31-32