

Guest List**December 2, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- Think about your family genealogy. Do you have any famous ancestors? Do you have any family members that you conveniently forget to mention?
- What do you know about Jesus' genealogy? What surprises you about his ancestry?

Most people associate Christianity with religious living ... an attempt to live a life filled with godly morals and virtues. Some days, we're good at that. Some days we're not. Fortunately, Christmas reminds us that Christianity is not as much about what we do as it is about what has been done for us.

- Who are the most despised characters in modern society? Which ones do you think Jesus would not spend time with?

With your Bible or YouVersion read Matthew 9:9-13

- Jesus seems to be okay with mixing it up with sinners. How does Jesus model living a godly life without removing yourself from the company of sinners?
- Jesus makes a statement about the healthy and the sick. Would you consider yourself more "healthy" or "sickly"?
- What does it mean that we do not stand on what we have done but what Jesus had done for us? How does that change how you view your relationship with God or

change your view of others?

Think it Over

Jesus' lineage is filled with shady characters, people with less than stellar pasts . . . none of whom could have come to God on their own merits. But a relationship with God has never been based on our own goodness. So if you feel like things you've done (or haven't done) are keeping you from God . . . well, you can throw that thinking out the door. And conversely, if you feel like the things you've done are responsible for your relationship with God . . . well, you can throw that thinking out too. If there's anything that the Christmas season reminds us of it's that we are all in need of help . . . help that Jesus is willing and able to give.

- Are there things in your life - things you have done or that you haven't done - that you believe are keeping you from God? How does the good news of this study change that?
- What are some areas of your life where you need Jesus' help this Christmas season.

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Ask God to show you during this series that you matter no matter where you've been or what you've done.
- Spend time giving your past to God, asking him to bring healing for your hurts, habits and hang-ups.
- Thank God for the good news that Jesus has provided, in full, all that is needed for salvation.
- Ask God to lead you to a safe person who will guide and encourage you on your walk with Him.
- Be open to those - who are wounded, hurting and living in sin - whom God would bring into your life for you to minister too. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you with compassion and wisdom.