

Luke 5:27-39

"Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple,' Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him." – Luke 5:27-28

- 1. Can you describe how tax collectors were viewed in biblical times?
- 2. How must have Levi viewed himself considering his job as a tax collector?
- 3. Can you describe the time when you recognized how God viewed you and your life?

"Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with such scum?' Jesus answered 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 and need to repent.'"

-Luke 5:29-32

4. How should Jesus followers live their lives to demonstrate and model the life of Jesus to those who are far from God?

"One day some people said to Jesus, 'John the Baptist's disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?' Jesus responded, 'Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.'"

-Luke 5:33-35

"Then Jesus gave them this illustration: 'No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn't even match the old garment. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine.

"The old is just fine," they say." -Luke 5:36-39

- 5. What does it mean when Jesus said "no one puts new wine into old wineskins"?
- 6. Is there any old wineskin that you're still holding on to? (an old, limited way of seeing and experiencing God that can keep you from the new wine, the new life of Jesus?)

Action Steps

- A. Identify where you are in the story!
- B. Identify what some of those old wineskins are for you.
- C. Think of what it might look like for you to throw a party for Jesus and whom would you invite? Who would be on your list?