

**Sermon Series:** On Map, On Mission!

**Discipleship Phrase:** I Belong

**Big Idea for Series:** INVITING people into meaningful relationship with God and each other.

**Leading** *[leading your group more effectively]*

WOW, what an incredible KICKOFF to our new vision series: **ON MAP, ON MISSION!** The Church, which includes YOU and ME, has been called and commissioned to be the *channel of His grace and forgiveness* to the world. A world full of people who are *hurting, broken, shamed, and lost* without hope. We have an incredible opportunity RIGHT NOW to come together as ONE body to **invite** our friends, our families, and our communities into a meaningful relationship with God and with each other. This week, I want to encourage you to remain diligent and passionate in making **meaningful relationships** a major priority in your group. Your intentional efforts to lead them in this way will establish a culture within your group of **inviting** people who are waiting in the world, desperate for change, and desperate for relationships that matter!

**For the Apprentice** *[opportunities for the apprentice to shepherd the group throughout the week]*

This week empower your **apprentice** to invite 1 or 2 group members for some “meaningful relationship” time. Here are some practical suggestions that might be helpful:

- Apprentice can take group member out for lunch or coffee.
- Apprentice can set up a 30 min ZOOM call meeting with them.
- Apprentice can invite the group member(s) over for family dinner.

**Feedback** *[it is important to debrief in order to get better]*

Each week after group, block off a time with your apprentice to talk about group and share feedback. Discuss ways to promote healthy dynamics in your group time. Feedback questions to consider:

- What went well at group?
- What did not go well at group?
- What are some specific steps to that will make it better?

**God-Stories** *[each week you encourage to invite your group members to share God-Stories from the previous week]*

A God-Story is an undeniable encounter or experience with God that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person’s day to day life. These moments can be extraordinary, such as healing of cancer or they can be very humble, such as a family member who prayed for the very first time.

**BackgroundPLUS**® *[a deeper dive into this week’s story]*

- The Roman occupation of Israel involved more than just a military presence; the nation was also subject to Roman taxation. Tax collectors had a certain amount that they were required to collect, and whatever they collected beyond, they were permitted to keep. Taxes levied included people, income, land, produce, roads, bridges, mail, and anything else. Thugs were employed to “encourage” paying, and to “punish” those who refused.
- Tax collectors were the most despised members of society, ranked with prostitutes and murders.
- Levi was not a chief tax collector like Zacchaeus (a wee-little man) in Luke 19.
- **The Bible Project** [Luke 1-9](#) (Part 1); [Luke 10-24](#) (Part 2); [Luke 3-9](#)

**“Every group deserves a great group leader...”**

## Week 1 - Topic: INVITING

**Takeaway:** Jesus' call to us always begins with an invitation. Come, follow me, take up your cross, and follow me

### Welcome / Open in Prayer

**Introductions:** *[Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]*

- **Review from Last Week:** *[Build in accountability to living it out]*
- **God-Stories:** *[See Leader Page for description fo God-Stories]*
- **Review the Guidelines:** *[Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]*

**Ask a Hook Question:** *[A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]*

Describe a time that you were invited to something that you initially didn't want to go, but were glad that you did attend.

**Share Background for the Story:** *[Provide context to the story from the Bible]*

Luke 5 contain four stories illustrating how lives and souls of people are radically and eternally changed. Peter, James, and John's lives were transformed from fishing for fish to fishing for people. The banished life of a leprosy-diseased man was returned as Jesus restored him. A man paralyzed by disease and sin received forgiveness and physical restoration. Now, a man despised and stealing up treasure for himself is transformed by a simple invitation from Jesus.

**Share the Story:** [Luke 5:27-32](#) *[Volunteer from last week shares the story]*

**Rebuild the Story** *[Invites everyone to engage]*

**Read from Scripture** *[Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]*

**Discussion Questions:** *[Dive deeper, beyond the surface]*

1. Why was it important that Jesus meet Levi where he was?
2. In what ways did Levi respond to Jesus' invitation?
3. Describe a time when you felt Jesus inviting you to be on mission with Him.
4. Describe a time when Jesus was inviting you into something where you hesitated or even said "No!"
5. Finish this statement: "This week, I will reach out to \_\_\_\_\_ and will invite to \_\_\_\_\_."

**Assign Next Week's Story:** [John 4:4-42](#)

**Prayer Requests:** *[Record, share & follow up throughout the week]*

**Closing Prayer:** *[Ask openly for a volunteer]*

*Inviting people into meaningful relationship with God and each other.*