



JESUS IS ____ .
Part 1: The Friend of Sinners
Sermon Small Group Questions
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Are we asking the wrong questions?

[Romans 5.6-8, NLT]

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

As sinners, we all "miss the mark." (by biblical definition)

[Matthew 9.9-13, NLT]

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Two categories of people (ONLY): those who know they are messed up and those who think they do not need a Savior

[Luke 19.1-10, NLT]

¹Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Jesus loved to encounter people one-on-one.

Favor is not fair; it is God's desire.

Time spent in Jesus' presence brings eternal life change.

How Jesus Operates:

- 1. Jesus was intentional (on a mission, sent by the Father).**
- 2. Jesus calls by name.**
- 3. In the presence of Jesus, lives are changed.**
- 4. Jesus responds in grace.**
- 5. Jesus speaks potential and inheritance out.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Fill in the blank: Jesus Is _____ .**
- 2. For what reasons did God prioritize messed up people?**
- 3. What is the significance of being called by name? What did that look like when Jesus did it for you?**
- 4. How do we spend time figuring out what the Father wants for us to do? How did Jesus model this?**
- 5. When was an "Ah-ha Moment" for you in the presence of God, where you were called out to a specific response of obedience?**