



## Week 0 – An introduction

In this introductory week I hope that you and your LifeGroup are reconnecting and catching up on the adventure God has led you on over the summer. This week is mostly about eating, talking, and praying, but I thought I'd leave a few questions for the keeners.

Let's get to know the author of the gospel himself just a little bit by looking at the few verses his name appears and we have some description of his interaction with Jesus.

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Read Matthew 9:9-10 and Luke 5:27-29.

Discussion:

What profession did Matthew have prior to meeting Jesus?

Compare Matthew's description of his response to Jesus to Luke's account. What consequence of Matthew's choice does Luke highlight?

What does Matthew do right after following Jesus?

Imagine for a moment this sequence of events taking place over a day or two. What is Matthew's life like leading up to meeting Jesus. What happens to cause his response? What makes him want to hold a feast for Jesus and invite his friends?



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Apart from his calling, and mention in the list of the 12 disciples, we learn very little about Matthew. But he is named with the faithful followers who were gathered praying in the upper room immediately following the ascension of Jesus. (Read Acts 1:13-14)

How does this brief description of Matthew help us understand a bit about who he was as a man and follower of Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:19

What might the banquet for his friends tell us about his motivation for writing this gospel, and for concluding it the way that he did?

What theme is important to Matthew?

Reflection:

How did you respond to Jesus when you really “met” Him for the first time?

What can you take from Matthew’s response and apply in your own life?

We are pretty good at holding feasts. How could your LifeGroup follow Matthew’s example this year?

Prayer

Thank God for the book of Matthew and it’s special revelation of Jesus.

Pray for me (Pastor Paul) as God shows me what He wants us to learn as a church in the weeks ahead from what Matthew has written for us.

Pray for each other that everyone in your group would see Jesus more clearly in the words of Matthew and in your discussion times to come.

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