

**Discussion / Reflection Guide -- "Invite A Friend"**  
**Week of October 8, 2017**

**Read Luke 5:27-32**

- For Jews in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, tax collectors were considered the worst of the worst. They worked for "the enemy" (Rome) and took much needed money from poor citizens – often extorting more taxes than necessary to line their own pockets.
- We may not particularly like tax collectors today, but we don't hate them the way Jews did back in Bible days.
- Can you think of any example of types of people who might be a modern equivalent to the tax collectors of the N.T. days?
- Can you think of types of people that most Christians, or possibly even the Federated Church members, do not particularly want in their lives or in their church?
- Why do most Christians / Federated Church members not want to "reach out" to these types of people?
- Do you believe Jesus wants to reach out to them? Do you believe Jesus would have us reach out to them?
- What kinds of "problems" would it create if we were to reach out to these types of people?
- Luke 5:27 Levi had another name: Matthew. Matthew is the guy who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Imagine what the world would be missing if Jesus had not reached out to Matthew and Matthew, in turn, had not written the Gospel which bears his name.

- What kinds of blessings could “these people” possibly bring to the Church or bring to our lives?
- Look at Luke 5:28. Levi made an amazing decision. What did he do? What was he giving up in order to follow Jesus? Have you ever felt God might want you to give something up as a result of your faith? Did you give it up? How did that impact your life? How did that impact the lives of those around you?
- Look at Luke 5:29. What did Levi do once he made the decision to leave all and follow Jesus? Why is this significant? Have you ever hosted or been to a party where both Christian and non-Christian guests were invited in an attempt to open an opportunity for dialogue between them? How did it go?
- Do you make an effort to be a friend to “those people” who are generally not welcomed by most churches or church groups?
- If so, what kinds of challenges did you face when you did this?
- What were some of the benefits you experienced?
- Do you think you were a positive influence on them? Or were they a negative influence on you?
- What do you understand Jesus to be saying in Luke 5:31-32? Why did he say this (See Luke 5:30)? What is the lesson he wanted to share?
- How should we apply this lesson to our lives today? How can we (1) be a friend to people like Levi and, (2) invite those friends to “meet Jesus?”