

# simple

finding and connecting  
with the God who loves you



WEEK 4

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### DISCUSS



FOCUS VERSES:  
MATT. 9:9-13

- Matthew was a tax collector, and considered the worst type of person in Jewish culture. Why do you think Jesus asked him, of all people, to "follow him?"

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



CLICK HERE TO  
WATCH A SHORT  
VIDEO ABOUT  
'SACRIFICE AND  
ATONEMENT' IN THE  
BIBLE

In Matthew 9:12-13, Jesus says it isn't the healthy who need a doctor but the sick, and that he 'desires mercy and not sacrifice'. What do you think that means?

Jesus is quoting Hosea 6:6 in this section, which is when Israel had put all of their faith in their own ability to provide for themselves. Why do you think it's important we understand our need for Jesus?

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## Read + Reflect

### Read Matt. 9:9-13

- When Jesus "saw" Matthew he was sitting in the tax collectors booth doing an unjust and oppressive job. But the moment Jesus called him, he left that life behind and followed. Why do you think Matthew responded that way?
- Many of us are called by God out of our "tax booths", but we don't respond as quickly or at all. Would you say you are following Jesus right now? If not, who are you following?

### FROM THE NIV VERSION

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

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## Go and Learn

Matt 9:12-13

2 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

### R.E.A.P

1. Read this verse aloud.
2. *Examine* the text. Why do you think Jesus uses words like "go" and "learn" in regards to the idea of mercy? Why do you think he assumes they haven't learned it yet?
3. Would you consider yourself someone who is healthy or sick? Or put another way, someone who is in need of healing or is doing just fine?
4. Close your time in prayer.