



HOME GROUP STUDY 36th September 2026

Series: JESUS MOVES IN POWER:

Guess who's coming to dinner

Mark 2 v13-17

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

The following questions relate to the 8.30 and 10.30 services on Sunday 6th September 2026 (available on the church website).

Feel free to **pick and choose questions / sub-questions as appropriate** for your group's interest, preferred study style and time available. They are simply there to facilitate good discussion / reflection. Do **NOT** feel you need to go through them all.

(1) Icebreaker.

(a) To what extent do you categorise people into 'them and us' and then judge, consciously or sub-consciously?

(2) How we see ourselves and others. Levi is having a seemingly normal day at his tax collector's booth. Then has a sudden revelation when Jesus calls him (v14).

(a) What is it about Levi that the Pharisees so despise, and hence are so critical of Jesus for associating with him?

(b) What do you think makes Levi give up his lucrative career and instantly follow Jesus? What might he realise about himself and Jesus? Equally, what is it that the Pharisees don't realise about themselves?

(c) Are there things, attitudes, people, lifestyle etc that prevent you from following Jesus whole-heartedly?

(d) To what extent do you (like the Pharisees) cast yourself as better than others or downgrade your sins as not as bad as others? And what impact might this have on you?

(3) How Jesus sees us. Levi is the last person the Pharisees would have expected Jesus, who claimed to be a man of God, to call to follow him.

(a) What do we learn about Jesus from his calling of Levi?

(b) Why might this be such an encouragement for us, and those we care about and love? Who might we encourage in the light of this story?

(4) How we embrace others. Levi's response to giving up his tax collecting business and following Jesus is to throw a meal celebration for his fellow tax collectors, other sinners, and Jesus.

(a) What does this tell us about how Levi sees Jesus?

(b) How welcoming are you to those others look down upon? To what extent do you seek to avoid certain types of people? What could you do differently?

(c) Levi opening his home shows the depth of his conversion and joy in his faith. What demonstrates the depth of your faith?

(d) The Pharisees look at the celebration with scorn and seek to discredit and undermine Jesus in their question to the disciples. They are joyless. To what extent are you prone to criticising other Christians and the church (think of examples) and in the process lose the joy of your faith and be a poorer witness?

(e) The Pharisees, with their question (v16), seek to discredit and undermine Jesus's standing with the disciples and his whole ministry. How do you deal with criticism / disapproval of your ministry and what can we learn from how Jesus deals with it?